

**Harmonized History of the Suffering & Death of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the Four Evangelists ✠ by Dr. Johannes Bugenhagen**

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**7<sup>TH</sup> (FINAL) ✠✠✠✠✠✠ READING  
Jesus' Death & Burial**

And now when evening had come, because it was the Preparation Day, that is, the day before the Sabbath, Joseph of Arimathea a city of the Jews, a prominent council member, a good and just man, who had not consented to their counsel and deed, who himself was waiting for the Kingdom of God, for he was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews, coming and taking courage, went in to Pilate and asked that he might take away the Body of Jesus.

And Pilate marveled that He was already dead; and calling the centurion to him, he asked him if He had been dead for some time. And when he found out from the centurion, he commanded the body to be given to him. And Joseph bought fine linen. And Nicodemus, who at first came to Jesus by night, also came; and he brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a hundred pounds. Then they took the body of Jesus, which had been taken down, and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth and bound it in strips of linen with the spices, as the custom of the Jews is to bury.

Now in the place where He was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb which was Joseph's, which was

hewn out of the rock, in which no one had ever been laid. So there they laid Jesus, because of the Jews' Preparation Day, and the Sabbath drew near, for the tomb was nearby. And they rolled a large stone against the door of the tomb and departed. And Mary Magdalene was there, and Mary the mother of Joses, sitting opposite the tomb, also other women, who had followed Jesus from Galilee, and they observed how His body was laid. And they returned and prepared spices and fragrant oils, and rested on the Sabbath according to the commandment.

Now the next day, which followed the Day of Preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees gathered together to Pilate, saying: Sir, we remember while He was alive, how that deceiver said: After three days I will rise. Therefore command that the tomb be made secure until the third day, lest His disciples come by night, steal Him away, and say to the people: He has risen from the dead. So the last deception will be worse than the first. Pilate said to them: You have a guard; go your way, make it as secure as you know how. So they went and made the tomb secure, sealing the stone, and setting the guard.

***(End of the Entire Passion History)***



Our Savior Lutheran Church  Lakeland, FL  ELS  
Good Friday ✠ *Crucifixion and Death of Our Savior*  
April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019 ✠ 7:00 PM



**April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019 ✠ Good Friday** (Crucifixion & Burial)

**WELCOME to Our Savior!** We are so happy to have you worship with us today. If you are visiting us for the first time (or in a long time), we ask that you please fill out a visitor card found in the pew cardholder and place it in the offering plate. Come and worship with us again! **God bless your week.**

**OUR ORDER OF WORSHIP** is a **Special Order** for Good Friday. (printed here)

Service		
Opening Hymn	149 (4v)	Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain
Gloria Hymn Verse	151 (7v)	<i>Sing verse 1 Christ, the Life of all the Living</i>
Hymn of the Day	154 (5v)	Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed
Offertory Verse	179 (1v)	<i>On My Heart Imprint Thine Image</i>
Third Hymn	175 (4v)	When I Survey the Wondrous Cross
Final Hymn	159 (4v)	<i>(By Candlelight) Go to Dark Gethsemane</i>

**Suggested Bible readings for the weekdays after Palm Sunday = Holy Week**

Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday  
 Jere. 7:1-15 Isaiah50:4-11 Jer11:18-23 Zech3:1-10 Lam.2:8-15 Isa.52:13-15  
John18:1-18 John 18:19-40 John 19:1-12 Jo.19:13-24 Jo.19:25-37 Jo. 19:38-42

**PROPERs for GOOD FRIDAY**  **APRIL 19<sup>TH</sup>, 2019**

**INTROIT** Surely He has borne our griefs and carried out sorrows. He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities. All we like sheep have gone astray; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. Hear my prayer, O Lord, and let my cry come to You. from **Isaiah 52**

**COLLECT** Almighty God, we beseech You graciously to behold this Your family, for which our Lord Jesus Christ was contented to be betrayed and given up into the hands of wicked men and to suffer death upon the cross; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever, **C: Amen.**

**GRADUAL** Reproach has broken My heart, and I am full of heaviness. And I looked for some to take pity, but there was none, and for comforters, but I found none. Is it nothing to you, all you that pass by? Behold and see if there is any sorrow like My sorrow, which is done to Me, with which the Lord has afflicted Me in the day of His fierce anger. He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was upon Him, and with His stripes we are healed. ...from **Isaiah 52**

**SCRIPTURE LESSONS:**

O.T.	<b>Isaiah 52:13-53:12</b>	The <b>Servant</b> suffers punishment for <b>our</b> sins.
Epi.	<b>Hebrews 10:16-25</b>	Jesus is our <b>High Priest</b> & our <b>Sacrifice</b> .
Gos.	<b>John 18:1-19:42</b>	Jesus <b>Suffers</b> , is <b>Crucified, Dead &amp; Buried</b> .

**PASSION HISTORY: FINAL READING** ✠ *Crucifixion, Death and Burial of Jesus.*

(Printed on outside back page 7 ↗ of bulletin. Listen and follow along in dim lighting.)

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**FINAL GOOD FRIDAY HYMN** Go to Dark Gethsemane TLH #159 (4 verses)

1. Go to dark Gethsemane,  
 Ye that feel the Tempter's power;  
 Your Redeemer's conflict see,  
 Watch with Him one bitter hour;  
 Turn not from His griefs away,  
 Learn of Jesus Christ to pray.
2. Follow to the Judgment-hall,  
 View the Lord of Life arraigned;  
 Oh, the wormwood and the gall!  
 Oh, the pangs His Soul sustained!  
 Shun not suffering, shame, or loss;  
 Learn of Him to bear the cross.
3. Calvary's mournful mountain climb;  
 There, adoring at His feet,  
 Mark that miracle of time,  
 God's own sacrifice complete.  
**"IT IS FINISHED!"** hear Him cry;  
Learn of Jesus Christ to die.

*We will wait to sing verse 4 of the hymn until Easter Sunday.*

~~4. Early hasten to the tomb  
 Where they laid His breathless clay;  
 All is solitude and gloom,  
 Who hath taken Him away?  
 Christ is Ris'n! He meets our eyes.  
 Savior, teach us so to rise. A-men.~~

**Please leave tonight's service and sanctuary quietly (in silence) and in relative darkness – to return joyfully on Easter Sunday.**

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We hope all will return for the Festival of the RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD,

EASTER DAY, APRIL 21<sup>ST</sup>! Our Festival Worship is at 10:00AM!

Easter Breakfast will be served starting at 8:30am in the fellowship hall.

**SERMON HYMN *Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed* #154 (5 verses) MARTYRDOM**

1. Alas! and did my Savior bleed, - And did my Sovereign die?  
Would He devote that sacred head - For such a worm as I?
2. Was it for crimes that I had done - He groaned upon the tree?  
Amazing pity, grace unknown, - And love beyond degree!
3. Well might the sun in darkness hide - And shut his glories in  
When God, the mighty Maker, died For man, the creature's sin.
4. Thus might I hide my blushing face - While His dear cross appears,  
Dissolve my heart in thankfulness, - And melt mine eyes to tears.
5. But drops of grief can ne'er repay - The debt of love I owe;  
Here, Lord, I give myself away, - 'Tis all that I can do. A-men.

(After the SERMONETTE) The OFFERING

**OFFERTORY VERSE *On My Heart Imprint Thine Image* TLH #179 (1 verse)**

**On my heart imprint Thine image, Blessed Jesus, King of Grace.  
That life's riches, cares and pleasures Have no pow'r Thee to efface.  
This the superscription be:  
'Jesus, Crucified for me Is my Life, my Hope's Foundation  
And my Glory and Salvation.' A-men.**

7<sup>th</sup> & Final Passion History Reading: **JESUS DEATH AND BURIAL**

The LORD'S PRAYER (Congregation prays together)

**C: Our Father, Who art in Heaven, Hallowed be Thy Name;  
Thy Kingdom come, Thy Will be done on earth as it is in Heaven;  
Give us this day our daily bread,**

**And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us  
And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil;  
For Thine is the Kingdom and the Power and the Glory forever and ever. Amen**

**THIRD HYMN *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross* #175 (4 verses) HAMBURG**

1. When I survey the wondrous Cross On which the Prince of glory died,  
My richest gain I count but loss And pour contempt on all my pride.
2. Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast Save in the death of Christ, my God;  
All the vain things that harm me most, I sacrifice them to His Blood.
3. See, from His Head, His Hands, His Feet, Sorrow and love flow mingled down.  
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet Or thorns compose so rich a crown?
4. Were the whole realm of nature mine That were a tribute far too small;  
Love so amazing, so divine, Demands my soul, my life, my all. A-men.

🕯🕯🕯 Ushers will now hand out and you may light the handheld candles for the final reading of the Passion History and final Hymn. We will listen and sing in dim light.

**✠ The Divine Service on Good Friday ☩ April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019 ✠**

**OPENING HYMN *Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain* TLH #149 (4 verses)**

1. Come to Calv'ry's Holy Mountain, - Sinners, ruined by the Fall;  
Here a pure and healing fountain - Flows to you, to me, to all,  
In a full, perpetual tide, - Opened when our Savior died.
2. Come in poverty and meanness, - Come defiled, without, within;  
From infection and uncleanness, - From the leprosy of sin,  
Wash your robes and make them white; - Ye shall walk with God in light.
3. Come in sorrow and contrition, - Wounded, impotent, and blind;  
Here the guilty free remission, - Here the troubled peace, may find.  
Health this fountain will restore; - He that drinks shall thirst no more.
4. He that drinks shall live forever; - Tis a soul--renewing flood.  
God is faithful; God will never - Break His Covenant of Blood,  
SIGNED WHEN OUR REDEEMER DIED, SEALED WHEN HE WAS GLORIFIED. A-MEN.

The INVOCATION (Congregation please rise.)

P: ♪ In the Name of the Father, and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Ghost. C: ♪ A- -men.

**The CONFESSION of SINS**

P: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with true hearts and confess our sins unto God our Father, asking Him in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness. ♪ Our help is in the Name of the Lord.

**C: ♪ Who made heaven and earth.**

P: ♪ I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord.

**C: ♪ And Thou forgavest the iniquity of- my- sin.**

P: Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess to Thee that we are by nature sinful and unclean, and that we have sinned against Thee by thought, word, and deed. Therefore we flee for refuge to Thine infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Thy grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**C: O most merciful God, who hast given Thine only begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Thy Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of Thee and of Thy Will and true obedience to Thy Word, to the End, that by Thy grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

P: Almighty God our Heavenly Father, hath had mercy upon us and hath given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgiveth us all our sins. To all who believe on His Name He giveth the power to become the children of God and hath promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

**C: ♪ A- -men.**

The INTROIT (Pastor speaks or chants. Words on page 1)

The GLORIA PATRI (*Glory be to God*)

**C:** ♪ **Glory- be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning; is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

KYRIE ELEISON (*Lord Have Mercy*)

**C:** ♪ **Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.**

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS (*Omitted in Lent*) **SUBSTITUTE GLORIA HYMN VERSE**

GLORIA HYMN VERSE *Christ, the Life of all the Living TLH #151, verse 1*

**1. Christ, the Life of all the Living, - Christ, the death of Death, our foe, Who, Thyself for me once giving - To the darkest depths of woe -- Through Thy suff'rings, death and merit - I Eternal Life inherit: Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, - Dearest Jesus, unto Thee! A-men.**

**SALUTATION** (*Greeting*) *P:* ♪ *The Lord be with you.* **C:** ♪ **And with thy spir-it.**

**COLLECT** (*Prayer for this Good Friday, prayed by Congregation – words here*)

**C:** *Almighty God, we pray that You would graciously behold this, Your family, for which our Lord Jesus Christ was content to be betrayed into the hands of wicked men and to suffer death upon the Cross; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One True God, now and forever. Amen.*



**II. The Service of The Word**

**Good Friday PSALMODY: Psalm 130** (*responsively by Pastor & Congregation*)

**PSALMODY** Penitential Psalm 130 *A Song of Ascents* ✕ Please read responsively

*P:* <sup>1</sup> *Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD;*

**C:** <sup>2</sup> **O LORD, hear my voice. Let Your ears be attentive to my cry for mercy**

<sup>3</sup> *If you, O LORD, kept a record of sins, O LORD, who could stand?*

<sup>4</sup> **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

<sup>5</sup> *I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in His Word I put my hope.*

<sup>6</sup> **My soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the morning, more than watchmen wait for the morning.**

<sup>7</sup> *O Israel, put your hope in the LORD, for with the LORD is unfailing love and with Him is full Redemption.*

<sup>8</sup> **He Himself will redeem Israel from all their sins.**

*(All)* **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost, One True God, now and forever. Amen.**

**PASSION HISTORY** (6<sup>th</sup> *Passion Reading*) **JESUS CRUCIFIED, 7 WORDS & DIES.**

**Seven Words (Statements) of Jesus on the Cross:**

1. And Jesus said: *Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do.*

2. He said to His mother: *Woman, behold your son!* Then He said to the disciple: *Behold your mother!*

3. Jesus said to him: *Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise.*

4. And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying: *Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?*, that is, *My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?*

5. After this, Jesus, knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said: *I thirst.*

6. So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said: *It is finished!*

7. And again He cried out with a loud voice, saying:  
*Father, into Your Hands I commend My spirit.*

**GRADUAL** (*Congregation speaks Gradual with Pastor; words here*)

**C:** **Reproach has broken My heart, and I am full of heaviness. And I looked for some to take pity, but there was none, and for comforters, but I found none. Is it nothing to you, all you that pass by? Behold and see if there is any sorrow like My sorrow, which is done to Me, with which the Lord has afflicted Me in the day of His fierce anger. He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was upon Him, and with His stripes we are healed.** ...from **Isaiah 52**

**2<sup>ND</sup> ARTICLE** of the **APOSTLES' CREED** (*Our Confession of Faith*) **All say:**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary; Suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the Third Day He Rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven; And sitteth on the Right Hand of God the Father Almighty; From thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.** *What does this mean?*

**I believe that Jesus Christ is True God, begotten of the Father from Eternity, and also True Man, born of the virgin Mary; and that He is my Lord, Who has Redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sins, from death and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious Blood, and with His innocent Suffering and Death; in order that I might be His own, live under Him in His Kingdom, and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence and blessedness; even as He is Risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.** (*Congregation may be seated.*)

**SERMON HYMN** *Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed #154* (*words on p.5 ↗*)

**GOOD FRIDAY DEVOTIONAL HOMILY** ✕ John 19:30 & Luke 23:46

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**6<sup>TH</sup> READING: Jesus' Crucifixion**

Then the soldiers took Jesus, they took the robe off Him, put His own clothes on Him, and led Him away to crucify Him and He carried His Cross. And as they came out, they found a man, who was coming out of the country, Simon of Cyrene by name, who was the father of Alexander and Rufus; they compelled him to carry the Cross for Him, and laid the Cross on him that he might bear it after Jesus.

And a great multitude of the people followed Him, and women who also mourned and lamented Him. But Jesus, turning to them, said: *Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for Me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For, indeed, the days are coming in which they will say: Blessed are the barren, the wombs that never bore, and the breasts which never nursed. Then they will begin to say to the mountains: Fall on us! and to the hills: Cover us! For if they do these things in the green wood, what will be done in the dry?*

And there were also two others, criminals, led with Him to be put to death. And they brought Him to the place, which is called in Hebrew Golgotha, that is to say, the Place of a Skull, and they gave Him sour wine mingled with myrrh to drink. And when He had tasted it, He would not drink.

And they crucified Him at the place Golgotha and the two criminals with Him, one on the right hand and the other on the left, and Jesus in the center. And the Scripture was fulfilled, which says: And He was numbered with the transgressors. And it was the third hour, when they crucified Him.

And Jesus said: **Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do.**

And Pilate wrote a title, the accusation against Him, the reason for His death, and they put in on the

Cross over His Head. And the writing was: JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS. Then many Jews read this title, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, Greek, and Latin. Then the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate: Do not write The King of the Jews, but He said: I am King of the Jews. Pilate answered: What I have written, I have written.

The soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took His garments and made four parts, to each soldier a part, and also His tunic. Now the tunic was without seam, woven from the top in one piece. They said therefore among themselves: Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it, whose it shall be, that the Scripture might be fulfilled which says: They divided My garments among them, and for My clothing they cast lots. And sitting down, they kept watch over Him there.

Now there stood by the cross of Jesus His mother, and His mother's sister Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus therefore saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing by, He said to His mother: **Woman, behold your son!** Then He said to the disciple: **Behold your mother!** And from that hour that disciple took her to his own home.

And those who passed by blasphemed Him, wagging their heads and saying: You who destroy the Temple and build it in three days, save Yourself! If You are the Son of God, come down from the Cross. Likewise the chief priests also, mocking with the scribes and elders along with the people, said: He saved others; Himself He cannot save. If He is the king of Israel, the chosen of God, let Him save Himself and now come down from the Cross, that we may see and believe Him. He trusted in God; let Him deliver Him now if He will have Him; for He said: I am the Son of God. Even the robbers who were crucified with Him reviled Him with

Our Savior Lutheran Church  Lakeland, FL  ELS  
Good Friday ✠ *Jesus' Crucifixion and Death*  
**Friday ✠ 7:00 PM**

the same thing. And the soldiers also mocked Him, coming and offering Him sour wine, saying: If You are the King of the Jews, save Yourself.

And one of the criminals who were hanged blasphemed Him, saying: If You are the Christ, save Yourself and us. But the other, answering, rebuked him, saying: Do you not fear God, seeing you are under the same condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we receive the due reward of our deeds; but this Man has done nothing wrong. And he said to Jesus: LORD, remember me when You come into Your Kingdom. And Jesus said to him: **Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise.**

And it was about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over all the earth until the ninth hour. And the sun was darkened. And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying: **Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?**, that is, **My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?** Some of those who stood there, when they heard that, said: This Man is calling for Elijah! After this, Jesus, knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said: **I thirst.** Now a vessel full of sour wine was sitting there; and immediately one of them ran, took a sponge and filled it with sour wine, put it on hyssop, and put it to His mouth for Him to drink. But the others said: Let Him alone; let us see if Elijah will come and take Him down.

So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said: **It is finished!** And again He cried out with a loud voice, saying: **Father, into Your hands I commend My spirit.** And when He had said that, He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.

And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two from the top to the bottom; and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split, and the graves were opened; and many

bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised; and coming out of the graves after His Resurrection, they went into the holy city and appeared to many.

Now when the centurion, who stood opposite Him, and those with him, who were guarding Jesus, saw that He cried out like this and saw the earthquake and the things that had happened, they feared greatly and praised God, saying: Certainly this was a righteous Man! Truly this was the Son of God! And all the multitude who came together to that sight, seeing the things which were done, beat their breasts and returned.

And all His acquaintances, and the women who followed Him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things, among whom were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and Salome the mother of Zebedee's sons, who followed Him when He was in Galilee, ministering to Him, and many other women who came up with Him to Jerusalem.

Therefore, because it was the Preparation Day, that the bodies should not remain on the Cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away. Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who was crucified with Him. But when they came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs, but one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out.

And he who saw it bore witness, and his witness is true; and he knows that he is telling the truth, that you may believe. For these things were done that the Scripture should be fulfilled: Not one of His bones shall be broken. And again another Scripture says: They will look on Him whom they pierced. *(End of Passion)*

GOOD FRIDAY John 19:30 & Luke 23:46 "LAACHE: GOOD FRIDAY-1" 4.19.19

**John 19:30** When He had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is FINISHED." With that, He bowed His Head and gave up His Spirit.

**Luke 23:46** Jesus called out with a loud Voice, "FATHER, INTO YOUR HANDS I COMMIT MY SPIRIT." When He had said this, He breathed His last.

ALL IS DONE All that is predicted of the Messiah's Work and Suffering in His state of Humiliation is now finished. All that the Law demands of us Jesus has now fulfilled. He has fulfilled it perfectly for us all.

"IT IS FINISHED" This truth is what I need more than anything else in the world. "Because He has done this" - as it says finally in **Psalm 22** - the Kingdom is His, and there is Salvation for Jews and Gentiles, for high and low, from the first sinner on earth to the last, **for all**, all from one end of the world to the other (**Psalm 22:28-31**). All is finished for me and for all. The Law condemns me because I have not kept it. But Christ makes me free, because He has **kept it for me and suffered** what I deserved, **released** me, and **purchased** me. The Kingdom is His, and I am His. The work of Christ embraces every work necessary for our Justification. **All is Finished, so there is no more room for any of our works to attain righteousness.** He has done this, so in His Kingdom there is no question about the merit of our works for salvation or the power of the Law to save and to condemn. For what He has done is truly done, and is not still to be done. Therefore it says: "*Come, for all things are now ready!*" (**Luke 7:59**) This I will shout - O that it may be heard over all the earth! This I will confess, as long as I live, and when my time comes, I will leave, bow my head in death, and commend my soul to God with the words: "*IT IS FINISHED.*"

BEGIN AND END... The LORD **began His Words on the Cross with prayer** to the Father, and **He ended with prayer** to the Father. What He said between the First and Last Words, we have heard. What He endured, none of us can say or imagine. But it was all for us. Because He did this for me and has Baptized me into His death, He is with me and in me. And therefore through all

my suffering and in my last hour I can say: "*Heavenly Father, hear my prayer, and save me!*" So **Stephen** in death could pray: "*LORD Jesus, receive my spirit*" (**Acts 7:59**), and **Luther**: "*Into Your Hand I commit my spirit; You have redeemed me, O LORD God of truth*" (**Psalm 31:5**). Yes, everyone who believes in Jesus, enters into Communion of life with Him, the LORD victorious over death, shall go with Him from earth into Paradise.

LIVE & DIE BY JESUS' WORDS Live and suffer each day with faith in these Victorious Words of Jesus: "*IT IS FINISHED,*" "*FATHER, INTO YOUR HANDS I COMMEND MY SPIRIT,*" and you are freed from the Law and dead to sin, and in your dying hour the faithful Holy Spirit shall whisper these words into your soul. Then you cannot be lost, but **as surely as God lives, enter into Eternal Salvation.**

HYMN VERSE

*"May my soul be calm and fearless As I lie expecting death;  
May Thy love so great and peerless Lauded be, with my last breath.  
When at last I fall asleep, Dearest Jesus, may I keep  
Firm the faith that life and Heaven By Thy death to me were given."  
Amen.*

PRAYER I thank You, LORD Jesus, for Your death, for the Blood and the Water from Your Side, for the full and certain Atonement, and for the holy Means of Grace, through which You make me a partaker in Your salvation. You know I fervently long for You. You know I pray to You heartily for a place among the poor sinners who stand beneath Your Cross and are cleansed by Your Holy Blood. You know how precious these fountains of life are for my soul. You know how happy I am to live in Your Church on earth, and to be nourished there. But O LORD Jesus, sin and unbelief are still so strong in me! O precious, faithful Savior, increase my faith, and let me die daily with You and live in You. LORD Jesus, be my life. Sanctify me, and wash me, and kindle the fire of Your love in my poor soul. O how blessed I would be if I could from the heart live for You! Grant me grace, O grant all of us grace, kindest, sweetest Savior. Amen.

SDG