

St. John's Lutheran Church (LCMS)
8948 N 1900 Ave Geneseo, IL 61254
309-949-2516

April 15, 2022

Good Friday

All enter and are seated in the sanctuary in reverent silence.

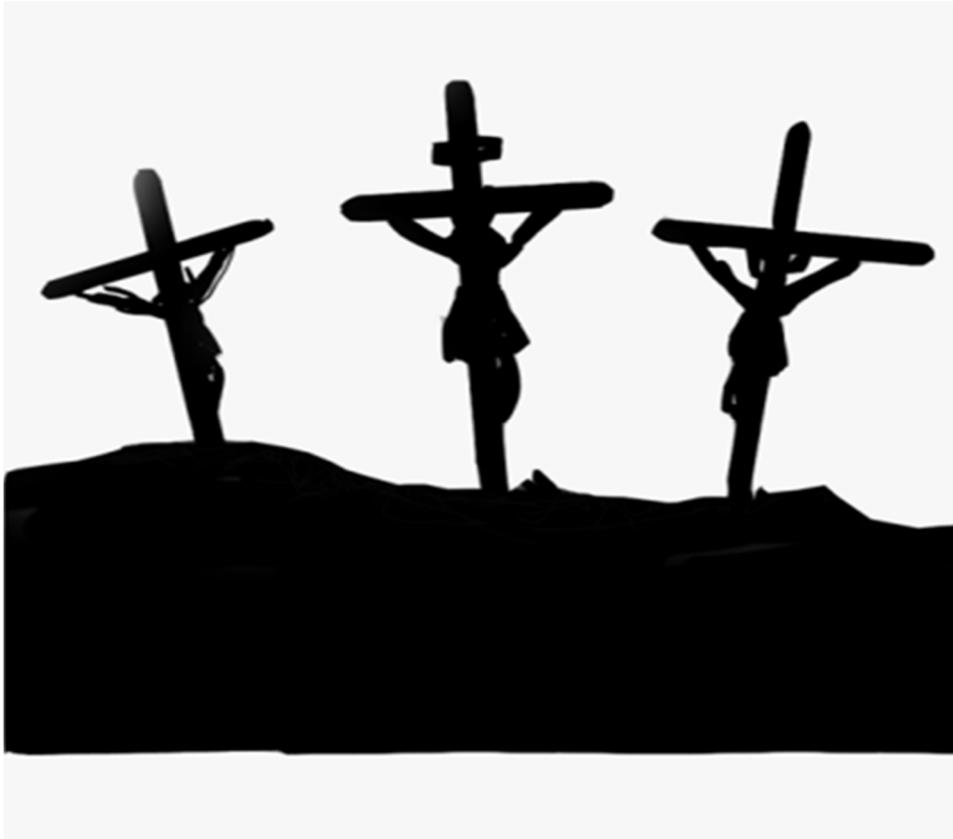
Stand

- ☐ Behold, the life-giving cross on which was hung the salvation of the world.
- ☑ **O come, let us worship Him.**

Service of the Word

Psalm 22

- ¹My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?
Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning?
- ²**O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer,
and by night, but I find no rest.**
- ³Yet you are holy,
enthroned on the praises of Israel.
- ⁴**In you our fathers trusted;
they trusted, and you delivered them.**
- ⁵To you they cried and were rescued;
in you they trusted and were not put to shame.
- ⁶**But I am a worm and not a man,
scorned by mankind and despised by the people.**
- ⁷All who see me mock me;
they make mouths at me; they wag their heads;
- ⁸**“He trusts in the LORD; let him deliver him;
let him rescue him, for he delights in him!”**
- ⁹Yet you are he who took me from the womb;
you made me trust you at my mother's breasts.
- ¹⁰**On you was I cast from my birth,
and from my mother's womb you have been my God.**
- ¹¹Be not far from me,
for trouble is near,
and there is none to help.
- ¹²**Many bulls encompass me;
strong bulls of Bashan surround me;**



Service of Good Friday

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2022

¹³they open wide their mouths at me,
like a ravening and roaring lion.
¹⁴**I am poured out like water,
and all my bones are out of joint;
my heart is like wax;
it is melted within my breast;**
¹⁵my strength is dried up like a potsherd,
and my tongue sticks to my jaws;
you lay me in the dust of death.
¹⁶**For dogs encompass me;
a company of evildoers encircles me;
they have pierced my hands and feet—**
¹⁷I can count all my bones—
they stare and gloat over me;
¹⁸**they divide my garments among them,
and for my clothing they cast lots.**
¹⁹But you, O LORD, do not be far off!
O you my help, come quickly to my aid!
²⁰**Deliver my soul from the sword,
my precious life from the power of the dog!**
²¹Save me from the mouth of the lion!
You have rescued me from the horns of the wild oxen!
²²**I will tell of your name to my brothers;
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you:**
²³You who fear the LORD, praise him!
All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him,
and stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!
²⁴**For he has not despised or abhorred
the affliction of the afflicted,
and he has not hidden his face from him,
but has heard, when he cried to him.**
²⁵From you comes my praise in the great congregation;
my vows I will perform before those who fear him.
²⁶**The afflicted shall eat and be satisfied;
those who seek him shall praise the LORD!
May your hearts live forever!**
²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember
and turn to the LORD,
and all the families of the nations
shall worship before you.

²⁸**For kingship belongs to the LORD,
and he rules over the nations.**

²⁹All the prosperous of the earth eat and worship;
before him shall bow all who go down to the dust,
even the one who could not keep himself alive.

³⁰**Posterity shall serve him;
it shall be told of the Lord to the coming generation;**

³¹they shall come and proclaim his righteousness to a people yet
unborn, that he has done it.

P Let us pray.

Lord Jesus, because your hands and feet were pierced for us,
because you were surrounded by taunting enemies, and be-
cause you were abandoned even by your heavenly Father, we
are rescued from the lion's mouth. Be with us when we must
face our own crosses, and instill in us the confidence to say,
"My Savior has won the victory for me."

C Amen.

Special Music: Pieta

Refrain:

Come and see what I have done:
I've given my only Son.
He lived for you; and He died for you.
Come and see.

Collect of the Day

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, graciously behold this Your family for whom
our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed and deliv-
ered into the hands of sinful men 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 God,
now and forever.

C Amen.

Sit

The Seven Words of Christ from the Cross

First Word

Reading: Luke 23:34

Meditation

Hymn 447 Jesus, in Your Dying Woes vv. 1-3

Second Word

Reading: Luke 23:43

Meditation

Hymn 447 Jesus, in Your Dying Woes vv. 4-6

Third Word

Reading: John 19:26-27

Meditation

Hymn 447 Jesus, in Your Dying Woes vv. 7-9

Fourth Word

Reading: Matthew 27:46; Mark 15:34

Meditation

Hymn 447 Jesus, in Your Dying Woes vv. 10-12

Fifth Word

Reading: John 19:28

Meditation

Hymn 447 Jesus, in Your Dying Woes vv. 13-15

Sixth Word

Reading: John 19:30

Meditation

Hymn 447 Jesus, in Your Dying Woes vv. 16-18

Seventh Word

Reading: Luke 23:46

Meditation

Hymn 447 Jesus, in Your Dying Woes vv. 19-21

Reproaches

- P** Thus says the Lord: What have I done to you, O My people, and wherein have I offended you? Answer Me. For I have raised you up out of the prison house of sin and death, and you have delivered up your Redeemer to be scourged. For I have redeemed you from the house of bondage, and you have nailed your Savior to the cross. O My people.
- C** **Holy Lord God, holy and mighty God, holy and most merciful Redeemer; God eternal, leave us not to bitter death. O Lord, have mercy.**
- P** Thus says the Lord: What have I done to you, O My people, and wherein have I offended you? Answer Me. For I have conquered all your foes, and you have given Me over and delivered Me to those who persecute Me. For I have fed you with My Word and refreshed you with living water, and you have given Me gall and vinegar to drink. O My people.

- C** **Holy Lord God, holy and mighty God, holy and most merciful Redeemer; God eternal, allow us not to lose hope in the face of death and hell. O Lord, have mercy.**
- P** Thus says the Lord: What have I done to you, O My people, and wherein have I offended you? Answer Me. What more could have been done for My vineyard than I have done for it? When I looked for good grapes, why did it yield only bad? My people, is this how you thank your God? O My people.
- C** **Holy Lord God, holy and mighty God, holy and most merciful Redeemer; God eternal, keep us steadfast in the true faith. O Lord, have mercy.**

Hymn 451 Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted

Prayer of the Church

The individual petitions conclude:

- P** ...through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C** **Amen.**
- P** Lord, remember us in Your kingdom, and teach us to pray:
- 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.**

The Adoration of Christ

- P** We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You.
- C** **We adore You, O Lord, and we praise and glorify Your holy resurrection. For behold, by the wood of Your cross joy has come into all the world.**
- P** We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You.
- C** **God be merciful to us and bless us, and cause His face to shine upon us, and have mercy upon us.**
- P** We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You.
- C** **By Your holy cross You have redeemed the world.**

Hymn to Depart: 455 The Royal Banners Forward Go

The lights are dimmed and the candles are extinguished in recognition of the death of the Light of the World. Please use this time for silent prayer. The processional cross is carried out of the sanctuary in remembrance of our Lord's body being carried to the tomb. In reverent silence, we follow the cross out just as the faithful women followed the Lord's body to where it was laid. We retire to our homes in contemplation of the meaning of Christ's death for us and in the certain hope of the Easter victory soon to be celebrated.

About tonight's service:

The worship services of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday compose the Triduum ("Three days"), having a unified character. Good Friday, which may have originally been *God's Friday*, stands at the heart and center of the Triduum even as Christ's death on the cross, which it commemorates and celebrates, stands at the heart and center of the Christian faith and life.

Acknowledgements

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Good Friday
April 15, 2022

Text: The Seven Words of Jesus from the Cross

First Word: Luke 23:34

[From the cross Jesus said,] “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.”

It seemed as if they knew what they were doing. The rulers knew they were condemning an innocent man. The soldiers knew they were brutally beating, scourging, and pounding nails into Him. The passersby knew that they were mocking a man dying in agony who had helped so many. The criminals knew that they were joining in with such mocking even though they themselves were under the same condemnation. No, their ignorance wasn't in the actions themselves, but as to *whom* they were committing the actions against, for they didn't realize that they were fulfilling the prophetsⁱ by condemning and killing the Lord of Glory, the very Author of Life.ⁱⁱ

But ignorance is no excuse. And so the Son prays to His Father, asking Him not for justice, but for forgiveness for His persecutors. But He does not pray for them alone. “All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.”ⁱⁱⁱ His prayer reaches out through time and space to include all His enemies. And since we, according to the flesh inherited from our fallen father Adam, are also His enemies,^{iv} His intercession to the Father also includes each one of us. Each one of us who has broken God's Law, proving that *our* sin was as much a reason that God put His Son on the cross as any other person's sin. Thus the soldiers' hands become ours as they beat, whip and drive nails into the Lord of Glory. The crowds mocking tongues cry out our own mocking at the Author of Life. The religious leaders' disdain and hatred towards Jesus is also ours towards our Messiah who doesn't fit our expectations, our desires.

Yes, Jesus' intercession for forgiveness is for us too. And the Father heard His prayer, for He laid all of mankind's sins, including yours and mine, upon the Sinless One. Jesus becomes our scapegoat, taking the blame and the bullet in our stead, because our sins were placed on Him. And He took them and left them behind in an empty tomb. And so God delayed His justice so that we, and all the world, are given time to hear His Word and be brought to repentance and faith in Jesus as our Savior from God's righteous wrath upon us. Yes, Jesus' prayer has been heard for each of us as well.

God keep us from passing by the cross with indifference. Keep us from spiritually sleeping through this holy week, being careless towards our Savior and His sacrifice. Keep us from leaving here this evening and quickly forgetting what we have once again heard about our Savior doing for us. Keep us from letting sin reign once again. Yes dear Father, keep us from such sins, for to commit them is to crucify Your Son again,^v except this time, we *will* know what we are doing. O Jesus, we beg You, continue to plead for us before Your Father's throne!^{vi}

Hymn: #447 “Jesus, in Your Dying Woes” vv. 1-3

Second Word: Luke 23:43

[From the cross Jesus said,] “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

The same criminal who before was joining the crowd and the other robber in mocking Jesus has had a change of heart. Through hearing what the crowd says of Jesus, their mocking of His Messiahship and being their King, the robber has learned about Jesus, no doubt building upon previous, though likely, second-hand knowledge. But even more, it is Jesus’ words that astound Him.

Where are His cries of innocence, the curses upon His enemies, even the simple begging to end His misery? None of these come from Jesus’ lips. Instead He uses His tongue to pray that His Father would forgive the sins of those who are killing Him. And so, by the gracious working of God’s Spirit through hearing Christ’s Word, this criminal comes to repent of his sins and believe in Jesus as *his* Savior.

The criminal’s repentance is obvious. He stops his ridiculing of Jesus, even rebuking his fellow robber who continued his mocking. More, he confesses his own deserving of the death sentence for his crimes thus his cry is no longer one of earthly rescue, since he rightly deserved his condemnation. Instead, in newly formed faith, he humbly requests that Jesus remember him in His kingdom, trusting that Jesus’ prayer for forgiveness included him as well.

And his faith was not misplaced. Jesus turns to him and says, “Today you will be with me in paradise.” And so here is the first of many who would benefit from His prayer asking His Father to forgive those who are trapped in the ignorance of sin, for with these words He proclaims to this repentant man the very Absolution. For only one who is *forgiven* can enter the Paradise of God and be with Christ, and Jesus promised the criminal that *will be* there soon, that very day. A man rightly condemned on earth for his crimes, receiving execution. Yet now rightly forgiven in God’s eyes through repentance and faith in Jesus, receiving salvation, eternal life with God.

God keep us from not recognizing our sins, hating them, and turning away from them like the other robber who, even in such great pain, died in impenitent unbelief and so went from agony and death on earth to the greater agony of eternal death in hell. So also, God keep us from Satan’s lie that our sins are too great, or that it is too late for us to repent and turn to Jesus. O Jesus, we beg You, keep speaking Your forgiveness to us, so that we may hear and believe that Your words to the repentant robber are also Your words to us, “*you* will be with *Me* in paradise.”

Hymn: #447 “Jesus, in Your Dying Woes” vv. 4-6

Third Word: John 19:26, 27

[From the cross Jesus said,] “Woman, behold, your son! Behold, your mother!”

At the presentation of Jesus in the Temple, Simeon prophesied to Mary, “and a sword will pierce through your own soul also.”^{vii} And now that sword is truly piercing deep into her soul as she watches her beloved Son die in agony due to the greatest injustice imaginable. Yet Jesus, in the midst of the most terrible torments of body, mind and soul, has not become self-absorbed, caught up in His own suffering, though who would knock Him if He had.

He looks down from the cross, sees His mother, and His heart, though it is struggling to pump His thickening blood, is still filled with nothing but compassion. In this final act of obedience to the Fourth Commandment, Jesus makes certain that His mother will be taken care of by one whom He can trust to carry out the task, not just now, but also for the years yet ahead. Even on the cross, Jesus is perfectly obedient, once more perfectly fulfilling the Law in our place, not out of duty, but out of true love for others which springs from true faith in God. A love that, while caring for her eternal needs yet still saw to providing for her physical, earthly ones as well. A love that He has for each of us as He brings our prayer to the Father, “Give us this day our daily bread.”

God forgive us our failures to love others as Jesus has loved us. Keep us from looking at fellow Christians and not seeing them as *our* family for whom Christ died and whom we are to love and care for at all times, especially in their time of need. O Jesus, we beg You to work in us such Christian love and, we pray, continue to care for us in body and soul during our earthly life of struggle, for we live not only in a fallen world, but one which hates us because it hates You.

Hymn: #447 “Jesus, in Your Dying Woes” vv. 7-9

Fourth Word: Matthew 27:46; Mark 15:34

[From the cross Jesus said,] “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”

It is becoming more and more difficult to breath as fluid fills Jesus’ lungs. His muscles are cramping and knotting due to lack of oxygen. His pushing up with His legs to catch a small breath causes terrible agony as His ripped open back rubs against the rough, splintered wood and as His nerves are jammed against the nails pounded through His hands and feet. Yet, as horrible as the agony of His body certainly is, His spiritual suffering was far greater still as He was abandoned by His Father.

God the Son forsaken by God the Father. The mystery of God forsaking God, bound up in the mystery of God’s triune nature, is beyond us. We only know that the mystery of the Incarnation, where the Son became true man, allowed this to occur in some way. Previously, when Jesus was tempted by Satan in the wilderness, angels came and ministered to Him.^{viii} Again, when He struggled in the Garden of Gethsemane, an angel came and strengthened Him.^{ix} But not this time.

During those six hours on the cross, He who had no sin was made sin for us as the world’s sins were placed upon Him.^x During those six hours of suffering, Jesus was made a curse for us, for “Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree.”^{xi} He calls out to His God, He keeps His faith through it all. Yet He no longer uses the endearing word “Father” since the Father, who had previously called Jesus His “beloved Son,”^{xii} has turned His back on Him. Turned His back on Him because how can a holy God look in love on the greatest sinner of all time, for *that* is what Jesus had become when He was made sin for us.

And so we look at Jesus on the cross and see *hell*. As darkness covered the land, so the darkness enveloped Jesus, the outer darkness of damnation where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth.^{xiii} He endures a state of drawn out death. Horrific suffering of body and mind that is only exceeded by the pain of the soul that knows that there is no second chance, no hope of either relief or rescue, for there is no longer a loving God. Those who forsake Him for sin in this life will be forsaken by Him in the next. And Jesus faces it all, what each and every person has earned by their sins. Another mystery of the incarnation of God’s Son is that His three hours on the cross saved sinners from eternity in hell. Let us simply hold up that God suffering hell for three hours *has paid the price* and, instead of questioning it, simply rejoice that it is true!

God keep us from thinking of our own sins as small, not worth considering much less repenting over, that only the sins of others are worthy of His notice. Keep us from thinking and acting as if His wrath and hell are but a myth or a joke. Keep us from thinking that our own earthy struggles, pains, and tragedies are God forsaking us, as they are nothing compared to what Christ endured as our substitute, who suffered hell itself to save us from it. O Jesus, we beg You, strengthen our faith in times of struggle, reminding us that You have suffered complete forsakenness by God so that we can have confidence that, no matter what we face here on earth, He will never forsake us who place our trust in You as our God and Savior.

Hymn: #447 “Jesus, in Your Dying Woes” vv. 10-12

Fifth Word: John 19:28

[From the cross Jesus said,] “I thirst.”

No drink for over twelve hours, compounded greatly by the heat, the sweat, and the great amount of blood that has drained from His body has led to dehydration. *God* is thirsty. Impossible. Yet not when God becomes man. Here we again see the mystery of Christmas shining forth, that God should so condescend as to become a true man and, even more, to humble Himself by taking the form of a servant. Yet here the mystery of Christmas, the Incarnation of God’s Son, shines forth not in brilliant white and gold, but in blood red, with the ripped and bloody body of God’s eternal Son hanging on the cross.

And so Jesus, as a true man, truly thirsts. But even here His need for a drink is not so much for Him as for us. He knows His death is near; He knows the sacrifice is complete. It only must be declared for all to hear. So He requests a drink to wet His parched tongue and throat so that His triumphant cry may come forth.

God keep us from so hungering and thirsting after the things of this world that we lose our hunger and thirst righteousness,^{xiv} for He who is the bread of life^{xv} and the source of living water.^{xvi} O Jesus, though You no longer thirst with physical need, we beg You to continue to thirst for us in mercy by working in us through Your Word and Spirit a strong thirst for Your righteousness so that we may receive the water of life, the new life founded on the forgiveness of sins You have won on the cross and created by the giving of Your Holy Spirit.

Hymn: #447 “Jesus, in Your Dying Woes” vv. 13-15

Sixth Word: John 19:30

[From the cross Jesus said,] “It is finished.”

His mouth now wetted, He cries out with a loud voice. But it is not that His suffering beyond measure has finally come to an end that causes Him to cry out. This cry is His cry of victory; the Messiah declares that His mission of salvation has been fully accomplished. He proclaims this both to His Father who sent Him on the mission, and to us for whom He was sent to save.

He is both our perfect High Priest and our perfect sacrificial Lamb, sacrificing Himself on the altar of the cross. Now the three hours of darkness is gone, the sun is once again giving its full light. A visible act of the creation to proclaim that the Creator has acted once again, beginning a new and greater creation. The price for the world’s sins is paid in full, the head of the enemy, the devilish serpent, has been crushed. The atonement is completed, declared with the temple’s curtain being torn in two from top to bottom. We are no longer separated from God by our sins, but are brought into His presence through the blood of Jesus, the true temple that though seemingly destroyed, would be raised in three days.^{xvii}

God keep us from rejecting His sacrifice in our place by committing the idolatry of putting our trust in our own goodness, thinking because we are pretty honest people, dedicated parents, hard working at our jobs, active members at church, and patriotic citizens that we somehow deserve heaven. O Jesus, You who suffered so much for us, we beg You to not let Your suffering be in vain; so strengthen our faith in Your finished work and fill us with Your Spirit that we may produce good works that are truly pleasing to our heavenly Father because they come from trust placed *in You*, and *not* in them.

Hymn: #447 “Jesus, in Your Dying Woes” vv. 16-18

Seventh Word: Luke 23:46

[From the cross Jesus said,] “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!”

Jesus’ first words from the cross were addressed to His Father, and so too are His last words. With His work completed, He again calls God His *Father*. The term of endearment is back, because His mission is completed. Mankind’s ransom had been paid. Jesus, never out of control of the situation, confidently places His human soul into His Father’s hands even as His body will now take its Sabbath rest in the tomb. And so the Father, fully pleased with His Son and His work, waits in heaven with His arms outstretched, ready to receive His beloved Son’s soul.

But while the soul of the repentant criminal would remain in paradise, the Father would only be holding His Son’s soul for a short three day rest. For Jesus had prophesied, “No one takes [my life] from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, *and I have authority to take it up again.*”^{xviii} The Messiah has fulfilled the prophecies of His death and burial. In three short days He will fulfill the prophecies of His resurrection.

Thus Jesus doesn’t lead His people from a dead book as a dead teacher of wisdom, or a noble martyr for a cause. Instead, He leads us as the risen and victorious King of kings and Lord of lords who overcame sin, death, and the devil, and who continues to lead, feed, and protect us on our journey to heaven through His Word. A living Word from a living Lord!

Jesus has carried our sins to the cross and paid their price to the last penny, leaving no debt of sin left for us to pay. Jesus has cast down the ruler of this world, giving us the eternal victory over him, freeing us even now from his tyranny that we might resist his temptations in our new life as God’s redeemed people. Jesus was forsaken on the cross, assuring that we who believe in Him will be forsaken neither in this world nor the next. Because of Jesus, during the uncertainties, trials, and suffering of this life, yes, finally even in the face of death itself, we too can pray with confidence, “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!” And so after we close our eyes in the darkness of death, we shall open them again in the light of the kingdom of God, seeing the conquering Lord of Life, our dear crucified and risen Savior. Amen!

Hymn: #447 “Jesus, in Your Dying Woes” vv. 19-21

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- ⁱ Acts 13:27.
ⁱⁱ 1 Corinthians 2:8; Acts 3:15.
ⁱⁱⁱ Isaiah 53:6. All quotes are from *The Holy Bible, English Standard Version* (ESV) unless otherwise noted.
^{iv} Romans 5:8, 10; 8:7.
^v Hebrews 6:6.
^{vi} Romans 8:34.
^{vii} Luke 2:35a.
^{viii} Matthew 4:11.
^{ix} Luke 22:43.
^x 2 Corinthians 5:21.
^{xi} Galatians 3:13.
^{xii} At Jesus' Baptism and Transfiguration.
^{xiii} Matthew 25:30.
^{xiv} Matthew 5:6.
^{xv} John 6:35.
^{xvi} John 4:10.
^{xvii} John 2:19-22.
^{xviii} John 10:18.