

The Seven Last Words of Christ

The Seven Last Words of Christ (also called the Seven Last Words from the Cross) are seven expressions traditionally attributed to Jesus during his crucifixion, gathered from the four Canonical Gospels. Three of the sayings appear exclusively in the Gospel of Luke and three appear exclusively in the Gospel of John. The other saying appears both in the Gospel of Mark and the Gospel of Matthew. In Mark and Matthew, Jesus cries out to God. In Luke, he forgives his killers, reassures the good thief, and commends his spirit to the Father. In John, he speaks to his mother, says he thirsts, and declares the end of his earthly life. Since the 16th century these sayings have been widely used in the preaching on Good Friday.

The First Word

"Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do." (Luke 23:34)

Reflection: Jim Gambini, RCIA Candidate for Full Communion

The Second Word

"Amen I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise." (Luke 23:43)

Reflection: Jim White, RCIA Sponsor

The Third Word

"Woman, behold your son." ... "Behold your mother." (John 19:26-27)

Reflection: Angie White, RCIA Elect

The Fourth Word

"My God, my God why have you forsaken me?" (Mark 15:34)

Reflection: Sid Stephens, RCIA Candidate for Full Communion

The Fifth Word

"I thirst." (John 19:28)

Reflection: Nathan Thompson, RCIA Candidate for Full Communion

The Sixth Word

"It is finished." (John 19:30)

Reflection: Daniel Jackson, RCIA Catholic Candidate for Confirmation

The Seventh Word

"Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." (Luke 23:46)

Reflection: Steve Fellows, RCIA Elect