

THE SEVEN LAST WORDS OF CHRIST: INTRODUCTION AND THE FIRST WORD

† Introductions

† The Readings

Judith Mattison, *The Seven Last Words of Christ: The Message of the Cross for Today* (85 pages)
Optional:

*Morton T. Kelsey, *The Cross: Meditations on the Seven Last Words of Christ* (117 pages)

*Richard John Neuhaus, *Death on a Friday Afternoon: Meditations on the Last Words of Jesus from the Cross* (304 pages)

*Fleming Rutledge, *The Seven Last Words from the Cross* (81 pages)

*Walter Wangerin, *Reliving the Passion: Meditations on the Suffering, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus as Recorded in the Gospel of Mark* (176 pages)

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Meditations on the Cross* (94 pages)

† Vocabulary

a. The Seven Last Words of Christ

b. Crosses and Crucifixion



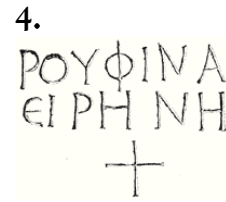
Tau
St. Francis



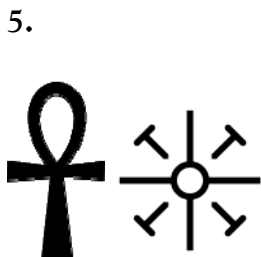
Iota-eta-sigma
Ιησοῦς
Jesus Hominem Salvator



Chi-rho
xristos
Constantine (A.D. 312)/labarum
In hoc signo vinces ("In this sign you shall conquer.")



Simple Cross (3rd Century)



From Ankh to Coptic Cross



Crucifix (6th century)

c. Mystery and the Cross of Christ: Did Jesus have to die? If so, why like this?

† **THE FIRST WORD:** “*Father, Forgive Them for They Know Not What They Do.*”
(Luke 23:32–34; Matt 6:14f; Matt 18:35; Mark 11:25)

† Questions (p. 18)

† Prayers at the Cross and Reading the 23rd Psalm

PSALM 23/NRSV

¹ The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.

² He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;

³ he restores my soul.

He leads me in right paths
for his name’s sake.

⁴ Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil;

for you are with me;
your rod and your staff—
they comfort me.

⁵ You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD
my whole life long.

The basis of everything is found in the forgiveness of God.

