

THE SEVEN LAST WORDS OF CHRIST: THE FOURTH WORD, “MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME?”

†Prayers

PSALM 23/GOOD NEWS

The LORD is my shepherd;

I have everything I need.

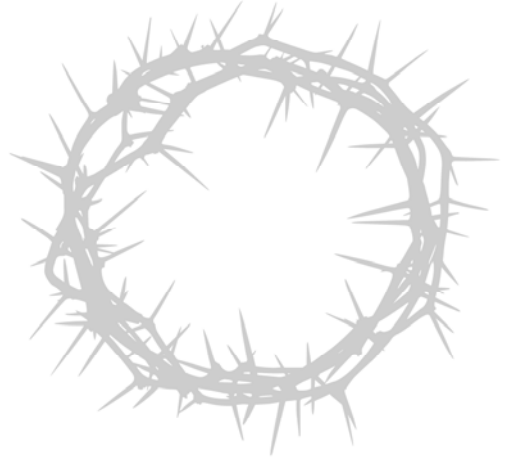
² He lets me rest in fields of green grass
and leads me to quiet pools of fresh water.

³ He gives me new strength.
He guides me in the right paths,
as he has promised.

⁴ Even if I go through the deepest darkness,
I will not be afraid, LORD,
for you are with me.
Your shepherd's rod and staff protect me.

⁵ You prepare a banquet for me,
where all my enemies can see me;
you welcome me as an honoured guest
and fill my cup to the brim.

⁶ I know that your goodness and love will be
with me all my life;
and your house will be my home
as long as I live.



AMEN.

†Questions

- ◆How are the readings helping? What have you gleaned?
- ◆What have you gathered from the 7 Words that is nourishing or convicting for your soul?
- ◆What are you hoping to hear or see in these final sessions?

†Key Words

Forgiveness, presence, family, endurance, witnesses

†The Readings and Loose Ends

THE FIRST WORD: *The basis of everything is found in the forgiveness of God.*

THE SECOND WORD: *The abiding presence of Christ makes possible the life we live now and in eternity.*

THE THIRD WORD: *We are made the family of God based on God's actions not our own.*

THE FOURTH WORD: *In the midst of agony and suffering, endurance reveals God's hidden presence that shepherds and sustains to make us deeper, stronger.*

†Seven Last Words Cross Reference and Implications for the Family of Christ

Word	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
“Father, Forgive Them.”			Luke 23:32–34	
“Today, with Me... in Paradise.”	Matthew 27:38 Then two bandits were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left.	Mark 15:27 And with him they crucified two bandits, one on his right and one on his left.	Luke 23:39–43 [43] He replied, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.”	John 19:18 There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them.
“Woman, Behold Your Son...Behold Your Mother.”				John 19:23–27
“My God, My God, Why Have You Forsaken Me?”	Matthew 27:38–46	Mark 15:33–39		
“I Thirst.”				John 19:28–29
“It Is Finished.”				John 19:30–37
“O God, Into Your Hands”			Luke 23:46–49	

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