

Saint Timothy Lutheran – Edmonds, WA

March 17, 2010 – Lent V

Rev. Craig A. Patterson (Based upon the sermon series
“Words of Life from the Cross,” CPH, 2010.)

“The Suffering Word”

(Text: John 19:28-29)

Context: As Jesus hung on the cross dying, He fulfilled, exactly, all that the Scriptures had foretold about the way the Messiah would live and would die. Now, with all things completed, with all things fulfilled, Jesus makes a request for moisture for His dry and parched lips and mouth. He says to the soldiers at His feet, “I thirst.” It was a request for something to wet His dry mouth so that He could fulfill the Scriptures even to the point of His final shout of victory. Even as David wrote in his messianic prophecy hundreds of years before the coming of the Savior that “...for my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink.” Weak and on the verge of unconsciousness, Jesus asks for something to wet His mouth. The soldier heard His request and hoisted up on a reed a sponge full of some sour wine.

- I. **The Suffering Of Jesus Was Real and Thorough, Exhausting All Strength In His Body.**
 - A. We now witness the irony of it all:
 1. The One who refreshed the Wedding at Cana with new wine,
 2. The One who promised living water to the Samaritan woman at the well,
 3. The One who invited others saying, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. Whoever believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water’” (John 7:37-38), is so exhausted by beating and piercing to His body that He now states, “I am thirsty.”
 - B. The Supplier of living water thirsts on the cross for us.
 1. In our place, He thirsts for us.
 2. In our place, He suffers to the full extent that any human can suffer and beyond.
 3. In our place, He has paid the ransom price to a righteous God.
 4. In our place, He faces sin, death, and the devil, head on, and captures the victory for us.
 - C. The helplessness of our Lord reveals the depth of the payment required for our sin.
 1. Sin, the breaking of trust between the Creator and mankind is serious.
 2. The effects of sin have wreaked havoc on the community of mankind.
 3. The payment required was exacting and full, demanded by a holy God.
 4. Jesus intentionally and willingly paid the full payment needed in order to secure our salvation.
- II. **His Thirst Quenches Ours.**
 - A. As Jesus went the distance in suffering for us, He accomplished all that the Scriptures had prophesied regarding the Savior, the Messiah, even to the last detail.
 1. David, under inspiration, wrote these words regarding the suffering Savior to come, “They also gave me gall for my food, and for my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink” (Psalm 69:21).
 - B. Because Jesus suffered to the last for us, we are given the following blessings, “living water,” in connection with Him:
 1. We have full forgiveness of our sins (for the thirst for peace with others).
 2. We have peace with God (for the thirst for peace with God).
 3. We are promised the Lord’s presence and help when we suffer, when we thirst, in this life (for the thirst for security and protection).
 4. We are given courage and hope to face any circumstance because Jesus has overcome the worst of all circumstances (for the thirst for bravery and confidence in times of trial).
 5. We are given the promise of eternal life and thus we know that an everlasting life of joy, love, and peace is awaiting us in our heavenly home (for the thirst for eternal purpose).
 6. We are equipped with the same compassion for sinners that Jesus demonstrated on the cross. (Strength beyond our selves to love others.)
 7. We are given a mission and purpose, beyond ourselves, for the rest of our time on earth (for the thirst for temporal purpose).