

THE SEVEN LAST WORDS OF JESUS CHRIST FROM THE CROSS

(as recorded by the Four Gospels
provided here in English and Latin)



The **Seven Last "Words" of Jesus Christ** from the cross are actually 7 short phrases that Jesus utters on Calvary. To find all of the seven last words of Christ, one must read all the gospels since none of the evangelists records all 7 sayings. The sayings would have been originally uttered in the Aramaic language, but only one of the last seven words of Jesus is preserved for us in the original Aramaic, namely "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani" or "My God, My God, why have you forsaken me," which is actually a direct quote of the opening verse of Ps 22. The rest of the seven last words of Jesus are found in the gospels after having been translated into Greek by the four Evangelists. We reproduce them here in Latin as well as English, since the Latin version of the Seven Last Words of Christ have been used so extensively in sacred music notably by composers such as Franz Josef Hayden. For centuries these seven last words of Jesus have been also used as meditation points for spiritual conferences, retreats, and Lenten missions. They are particularly wonderful to use for prayer during Holy Week, especially on Good Friday. For more food for prayer during Lent and Holy Week, visit the **Lenten/Holy Week on-line resource library** of the Crossroads Initiative.

1. "Father, forgive them, they know not what they do."
Pater, dimitte illis, quia nesciunt, quid faciunt.
Lk. 23: 34
2. "This day thou shalt be with me in Paradise."
Hodie mecum eris in Paradiso.
Lk. 23: 43
3. "Woman, behold thy son."
Mulier, ecce filius tuus.
Jn. 19: 26-7
4. "My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken me?"
Deus meus, Deus meus, utquid dereliquisti me?
Mk. 15: 34 (Mt. 27: 46)
5. "I thirst."
Sitio.
Jn. 19: 28.
6. "It is finished."
Consummatum est.
Jn 19: 30
7. "Into thine hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit."
In manus tuas, Domine, commendo spiritum meum.
Lk. 23:46

