

# Seven Last Words of Jesus

As Jesus hung on the cross, scripture tells us he spoke these words to those around him.

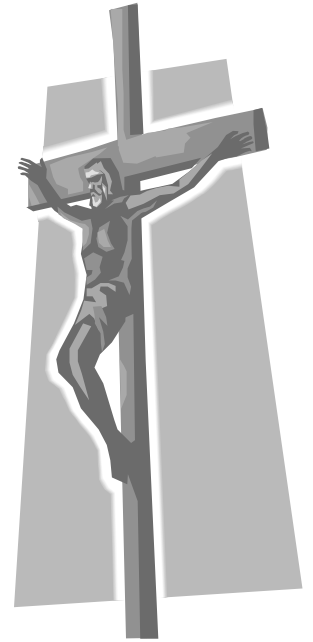
**The first word:** When they came to the place called “The Skull,” they nailed Jesus to the cross there, and the two criminals, one on his right and one on his left.

Jesus said, “*Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.*” Luke: 23:33, 34

**The second word:** Standing close to Jesus’ cross were his mother, his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. Jesus said to his mother and the disciple he loved standing there; to his mother, “*Woman, here is your son...*”

Then he said to his disciple, “*Here is your mother.*” John 19:25-27

**The third word:** After this Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said “*I am thirsty.*” John 19:28



**The fourth word:** One of the criminals hanging there threw insults at him: “Aren’t you the messiah? Save yourself and us!” The other one, however, rebuked him, saying: “Don’t you fear God? Here we are all under the same sentence. Ours, however, is only right, for we are getting what we deserve for what we did; but he has done no wrong.” And he said to Jesus, “Remember me, Jesus, when you come as King!”

Jesus said to him, “*I tell you this: Today you will be with me in Paradise.*” Luke 23:39,43

**The fifth word:** And when the sixth hour had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. And at the ninth hour

Jesus cried with a loud voice, “*Eloi, eloi, lama sabach-thani?*” which means, “*My God, my God why hast thou forsaken me?*” Mark 15:34

**The sixth word:** A bowl was there, full of cheap wine mixed with vinegar, so a sponge was soaked in it, put on hyssop and lifted up to his lips. When Jesus had received the wine he said, “*It is finished.*” John 19:30

**The seventh word:** Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, “*Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit.*” Luke 23:46  
And having said this he breathed his last.

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In the Library...



# The Passion of Jesus

- “Agony in the Garden: Understanding the Passion of Jesus,” by Ronald Rolheiser  
This Catholic Update attempts to open the meaning behind the scripture passages that describe Jesus in the garden before his journey to the Cross. The author hopes to show how Jesus’ encounter with this sacred space can be a key for our own encounter with the sacred.
- “Our Holiest Week: A Practical Guide to the Liturgies of Holy Week,” by Thomas Richstatter, O.F.M.  
This Catholic Update will help you to understand what goes on during the Easter Triduum (Holy Thursday through Easter Sunday) and why. This will help you to participate in these liturgies with a renewed appreciation of their meaning.
- Rembrandt’s Jesus: Meditations on the Life of Christ, by Tony Maan  
Chapters 9-11 of this book uses the artistic genius of Rembrandt to bring the biblical texts of the passion of Jesus to life so that we not only hear their call to discipleship, but also see it.
- “The Way of the Cross: Stations on Our Journey of Faith,” published by St. Anthony Messenger Press  
This video offers different approaches to the traditional Catholic Lenten observance of the Stations of the Cross: Spirituality, social justice, history, video meditation on the stations.
- “The Stations of the Cross,” James Killgallon  
This prayerful video brings special sacredness and meaning to the Way of the Cross by skillfully combining the spoken work, music, and visual images.
- The Passion and Resurrection Narratives of Jesus / A Commentary, by Stephen J. Binz  
This commentary explains the scenes of the four Gospels as they depict the Passion and Resurrection of Jesus and also gives reasons for differences in the four accounts. This book will enrich the reader’s understanding of the heart of the Christian faith.
- “The Passion and Resurrection Narratives of Jesus: A Video Presentation,” by Little Rock Scripture Study  
This video accompanies the commentary above, but can also be viewed without reading the commentary.
- DVDs: “Jesus of Nazareth”, “The Greatest Story Ever Told”  
These DVDs begin with the nativity and extend through the Crucifixion and Resurrection. Both do a superb job of depicting the life of Jesus Christ and all those who knew him. There are also other videos available on Jesus on the library shelf.