



Midweek Meditation



"Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, 'Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit!' And having said this, He breathed His last." Luke 23:46

I read, with sadness, about a nurse in Michigan who died alone in her home last week. We realize that death is separation – the separation of body and soul. It also separates us from those we love. But to be separated from our loved ones while dying is almost unthinkable.

Jesus died, His body and soul separated from each other, and His death is the death of separation. In His death we who are separated by sin and death are brought together as one family in Holy Baptism. This means that we will never die alone. Even if no one is physically present with us as we die, we are, nonetheless, joined as one in Christ Jesus. Even more, by faith we understand that our Lord and Savior is always by our side, and that in death He is there to carry us in His arms to our heavenly home. The same loving Father who received Jesus in death, receives us for His sake.

Almighty and everlasting God. You willed that Your Son should bear for us the pains of the cross and so remove from us the power of the adversary. Help us so to remember and give thanks for our Lord's passion that we may receive forgiveness of sin and redemption from everlasting death; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.