Tre Ore Service
St. Paul's, Mt. Prospect
1968

Rev. Carl F. Thrun

IN NOMINE JESU

St. John 19: 26,27 WOMAN, BEHOLD THY SON! BEHOLD THY MOTHER!

The WORDS FROM THE CROSS cover the whole span of our human life and existence - and beyond that they reach into the very vestibule of heaven itself and into the open door of eternity. So great is the LOVE OF GOD for us - so rich is HIS COMPASSION - so complete is the SAVIOR'S SUFFERING! Nothing is left out. Everything is done to bring us back to God - to make our lives full and complete NOW and FOREVER.

This THIRD WORD reaches down to us here on earth, and it remains with us. It is especially meaningful for all those sons and daughters who want nothing more than to divorce themselves as quickly as possible from their parents. For all practical purposes they couldn't care less what happens to mom or dad. They simply want to be left on their own.

Jesus did not forget the mother who bore Him. This THIRD WORD FROM THE CROSS was probably spoken quietly. The Head crowned with thorns was bowed down to the earth where we must live. The feverish eyes of our Lord have searched the crowd for some familiar face. Suddenly He sees a few figures who are near and dear to Him. All except One are women.

For a moment His eyes rest on them - and here, at the very center of the world's history, the Son of God becomes once more the Son of Mary. Suspended between earth which had openly rejected Him and heaven which has seemingly forsaken Him, He REMEMBERS HIS MOTHER - Mary of Nazareth. He bends His Head down to her: WOMAN, BEHOLD THY SON! BEHOLD THY MOTHER!

All Christian mothers will understand these words better than I. Perhaps Mary's thoughts went back to that silent and holy night when she had first held her Child in her arms. Perhaps she remembered the golden days of His childhood when He GREW IN GRACE AND WISDOM BEFORE GOD AND MAN. Perhaps she remembered Simeon's dark and ominous words: YEA, A SWORD SHALL PIERCE THROUGH THY OWN SOUL ALSO. Now she began to understand what he meant. The thorns areund the brow of her Son were a circle of flame around her heart. The pain of her motherhood was a sword in her heart.

All this Jesus, ~~her Son~~, sees from the Cross! He sees the dark and lonely years which lie before her. His whisper comes to her: WOMAN, BEHOLD THY SON! + BEHOLD THY MOTHER!

John

There are some important lessons for us in this THIRD WORD from the Cross. Here our Savior reaches down into the small and ordinary things of life. Here on Calvary - with the winds of God's anger sweeping over His soul and all the sorrow of the world centered in His broken heart - He remembers His mother.

If this WORD had never been spoken, we should not have missed it. And yet there it is! In a flash we see the wondrous inclusiveness of the love of God. It reaches down into all the problems of our daily life and existence. The Christian religion is not only a religion of great churches, chanting choirs, and soaring cathedrals. It is a religion of the home and kitchen, of the little things of life. There is nothing on earth which it does not touch.

On the Cross our Savior remembered His mother. And so He remembers us too. We can cast all of our troubles and anxieties upon Him, for He cares for us! He remembers today the husband in his concerns about his business and family - the housewife who is worried and anxious - the child who holds up a cut finger. There is nothing that escapes His eye. His love streams down from the Cross and pours itself into every nook and corner of life.

Here is our great and lasting comfort! Many of us have come into this church today worried and anxious about the happenings of this past week, - about the future of our nation and our world. We may have a personal problem which does not appear important to the world - a problem which affects us alone. All of these things - all of our unnumbered cares and worries - we can bring to Him who on Calvary REMEMBERED HIS MOTHER. He will ~~remember~~ also remember us forever!

His death has provided an eternal home!