I. Introduction

A. **Brutality of the cross**

1. This form of execution was reserved for non-Roman citizens and criminals of the state.

2. This form of execution degraded the human person with flogging and torture to carrying a wooden beam in public to the place of execution. The person was stripped and affixed alive to an already standing post with ropes and nails.

3. Crucifixion was slow because no major organs were damaged. This would be slow, painful and long (even days) death.

4. The public character of the crucifixion sent a message to deter others who challenged Rome’s power.

B. Jesus underwent the brutality of crucifixion to take on himself the sin of the human race. The guiltless one took on our guilt. The sinless one took on our sin.

“***In suffering and death his humanity became the free and perfect instrument of his divine love which desires the salvation of men. Indeed, out of love for his Father and for men, whom the Father wants to save, Jesus freely accepted his Passion and death: ‘No one takes my life from me, but I lay it down of my own accord.’***” (John 10:18).

II. **It is Finished**. John 19:25-29, 31-37

A. “ When I am lifted up….” Jesus’ death would have the effect of gathering people to himself. In a real way, it is the gathering of the Church.

B. The mother of the Lord takes on the role of “mother of the Church”. She is symbol of the faithful people. She is the “new Eve” who is mother of those who are re-created by the Holy Spirit.

C. Jesus uses the “see and say” sayings that are revelation of a person’s role in God’s plan.

The “mother of the Lord” takes on a new role and John, symbol of the disciples takes on a new role.

D. John 19:28-29: “finished” –fulfilled; the Father’s plan is accomplished through the laying down of Jesus’ life for this disciples. He “Thirsts” is reference to the living water, The Holy Spirit he gives and pours out through his death and resurrection.

E. John 19:31-37: blood and water. No broken bones for Jesus. He fulfills the Passover Lamb of Exodus 12;10, 46. His blood saves from the slavery of sin and death. The pierced side of Jesus, blood and water, sacraments of baptism and Eucharist. Jesus’ death is the source of spiritual life for all those who are in darkness. The prophets, Ezekiel, Joel and Zechariah prophesied the life-giving water of mercy that regenerates us. We are born to new life by water and the Spirit John 3:5. The eye witness accounts to the truth of what happen to Jesus (vv. 35-37). He personally experiences the spiritual and life-changing meaning of what happen at the cross.

III. **The problem: man’s need for salvation**.

We underestimate our need for a Savior because we underestimate who God is.

God is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

God cannot tolerate evil. God is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

The nature of man is: Our nature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Our choice \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Our condition\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Three central truths about salvation: “***From the first moment of his Incarnation the Son embraces the Father’s plan of divine salvation in his redemptive mission: ‘My food is to do the will of him who sent me, and to accomplish his work.’”*** (John 4:34).

1. The *initial* beginnings of salvation is not by works but by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

2. Salvation is not initiated by us, but by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

3. Salvation is not an afterthought with God; it is his \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

IV. **Six Descriptions of Salvation**

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_by taking my guilt. ***“Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures.” 1Cor. 15: 3***

2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Jesus made peace with God possible.

3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Jesus made me part of God’s family.

4. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Jesus purchased my salvation with his blood.

5. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Jesus gave back to God all I should have given. ***“In particular Jesus’ redemptive death fulfills Isaiah’s prophecy of the suffering Servant.*** “ (Catechism of the Church #601)

6. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Jesus sends my sins away from me. “***By sending his own Son in the form of a slave, in the form of a fallen humanity, on the account of sin, God ‘made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.’***” 2Cor. 5:21

V. **The Sealing work of the Holy Spiri**t. John 16:7-9. Three key works of the Holy Spirit to convince the world of:

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_because they do not believe

2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ because I go to the Father

3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ because the ruler of this world is judged.

VI. **Our response to the Father’s loving plan of salvation**:

1. **Repentance**: I acknowledge my need for this work of the Lord in my life.

2. **Acceptance** of this plan by a commitment to the Lord Jesus as Savior and Lord.

3**. Surrender** to the Holy Spirit for transformation of my life.

“When I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw all people to myself,” Jesus prophesied before his passion (John 12:32). I will champion every person’s cause, I will bear the whole burden of human guilt, I will restore fallen human nature to its original integrity. In me all sickness will be cured and all wounds healed.” (St. Leo the Great).

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Questions for reflection and discussion:

1. Why was the crucifixion necessary?

2. How is the whole of the Old Testament fulfilled in the Crucifixion?

3. Describe the work of the Holy Spirit in bringing us to greater conviction of salvation?

4. Why is our response to the Father’s plan necessary?

5. Of the six descriptions of salvation, which one appeals to you? Why does it?