

Psalms at Midnight  
and The Maundy  
Day Sermon



By: David Ellinger

**EASTER Sunday April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018**

Greetings,

If this manuscript is a blessing to you, please consider a small donation of 5, 10, 20 dollars to:

Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest

10201 South 51<sup>st</sup> Street, Suite #180

Phoenix, Arizona, 85044

To help those in need. God Bless.

## 1. Sacred Heart of Joy

Psalms at Midnight,  
As a sacred soul  
On bended knees  
of sacred prayer.

The Holy Mother, Mary  
Holding a heart of thorns  
And passion.

The Maiden Mother of our Lord,  
Outstretched arms of forgiveness and  
Unconditional love of God.

Rest and sleep, and fear not what tomorrow will bring,  
Until the dawn arises from the darkness  
Into the blessed day.

Blessed it be,  
my child of Spirit,  
Justice, Kindness,  
and Eternal Love.

Sleep now my child,  
until the light of Day  
arrives again.

## 2. Rose Petals

Our tears of Humanity,  
Gracefully falling like Rose Petals  
Upon the reflected pools of flowered Starlight.

A chorus of Cherubim's and Seraphim's  
Singing "Glory to God in the highest above".

Strength be to those  
who only falters in wisdom,  
But not of grace.

For our Faith will carry us forward,  
Through the inner struggles  
of our hidden turmoil and  
Inner troubles of the heart.

Blessed be, blessed be,  
Within the Holy Trinity,  
Trust in the Lord, Our God,  
with all of your heart and soul.

### 3. Kingdom of God

Pride has no place in the Kingdom of our Lord.

The answer is in the simple process  
Of letting go of the self  
and into the golden sacredness of  
Time and the Universe itself.

The Ego has no meaning  
within the true realization and manifestation  
of the eternal grace of kindness, mercy, and love.

#### 4. Within Our Fates

Some say our True fates,  
Are found within  
the position of the Stars.

Other say within the living  
Pulsations of our beating Hearts.

It is truly neither,  
for we are simply born,  
From the Spirit, and then transform back  
Into the grace of where we all began.

Our journey from within the hands of God.  
Life, Death, and Rebirth.

The Eternal and the Sacred Cycle of our lives,  
are not so unlike a feather of the Dove,  
falling upon the Wind of Holiness and sacredness  
of Love.

## 5. Remembrance

Always embrace  
the hidden sacredness  
Of the Unknown.

Children of God.  
Light from Light.  
Love from Love.

The sacrifice of the Lamb,  
The remembrance of the tears,  
Of the passion and the mercy  
Within each of our Baptismal grace,  
Upon the alter of our Lord and God.

Children of God.  
Light from Light.  
Love from Love.

## 6. The Peacemakers

May there be an abundance of  
Peace, joy and love, to all who  
Reads and reflect on these words.

May all your needs,  
Known and unknown be fulfilled and  
All your worries be lifted within pure happiness.

Let God be your source,  
your strength, your grace,  
and may all Angelic miracles  
be given to you for you journey and protection.

Become the Peacemaker,  
Heal and mend the broken hearted,  
And provide justice to those in need  
And to those who thirst for Rightness and Peace.

## 7. The sword of light

The pixies and the fairies  
Will bow down their heads  
Upon the moonstone of clarity  
Of our Lord.

A sword of Light  
Stands guard  
And forever  
Guards the blessed  
tree of Life.

The eternal Angels  
heals the Seeker's strife,  
With no more weariness or harm  
To behold.

Praise be to God,  
Forevermore.

## 8. Moonlight

Truth fades and disappears upon  
The Moonlight of our lives.

Within the night,  
A Peaceful rest restores the soul  
Upon the inner desires of our hidden dreams.

The Holy Spirit fills us within our empty vessels,  
And Overflow us with your mighty abundance and love.

Forever Embrace us and simply hold us  
within your strength and make your desire known to us,  
Within the true justice and image of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

## 9. Blessings

Blessing of the Angels from above.

Blessing of the Creator of our Universe.

Blessings of the Trinity:

The Father, The Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Blessed be, blessed be,

Abundance and Goodwill

To all those who walk

upon the earth that we call home.

The Earth,

Spinning, and dancing through the

Galaxy of endless starlight.

## 10. The Phoenix

Blessed are the keepers of the Keys of the Kingdom.

Blessed are the souls of the eternal.

Forever lovingly cradled by our Holy Father.

Blessed is the Trinity,

That forever forms the sacred union

That bonds the divine spirit.

Our Comforter and Our Joy.

The Phoenix shall rise from the ashes,

The golden staff of our lord

protects us from the serpent's grasp.

May peace be given to all of our Brothers and Sisters,

And Peace to our world.

Amen.

## 11. The Void

The Beauty of God  
transcends the ordinary  
and the sublime.

The ordinary is turned inside out.  
As our days are turned into weeks,  
And then into months.

We laugh, we cry as we embrace our sacredness  
within our immortality from our youth and into old age,  
and then gentle into the sacred void  
of eternal holiness itself.

## 12. The Gates of Heaven

Upon the steps of God's throne,  
within the unity of Heaven above.

Flags of all Nations torn by unpatriotic deeds.

Justice for all.

Justice for those who can't see or care for themselves.

The Long Horns blown by the Mighty Archangels.  
The Mighty guardians of Spirit and Truth.

As shepherd's guide their sheep  
in harmony and peace  
Through the open gates  
of Glory and Compassion.

### 13. The Rebel Prayer

The Rebel stands alone,  
Between the earthly oppression  
And the unyielding righteousness of God.

Do not listen to the fake news from the serpent's tongue.

Jesus was crucified by the nails of injustice,  
Hateful lies, and inner mistrust.

We must all rise up from the darken entombment of darkness.

We must not falter,  
We must not lose our faith  
in our steadfast resolution  
Of our belief of higher purpose  
Within ourselves, within mankind,  
and for the entire whole world itself.

## 14. Common Ground

Be like the small child  
In wonder gaze  
Within the pure innocence  
Of the unfolding  
of a new day.

Be forever grateful  
For the given blessings  
That are offer to you  
By all you meet,  
All you encounter,  
and all that you serve.

Do not fear the unknown,  
But be the beacon of light  
From the very essence  
And being  
Of your Spirit and Soul.

**15. Beautiful:**

Beautiful Mountains.

Beautiful Rivers of Streams.

Beautiful snow-covered Aspens

Underneath Moonlight Dreams.

May you rest without worry of the dark,  
And refresh by the early dawn.

May abundance and mercy be your guides  
As your travels are lighten with Joyfulness and Love.

Beautiful Savior,  
Beautiful God,  
Of Calvary.

## **16. Our Works**

Blessed are the works  
Of the daily plow,  
And of the daily chores.

May your days be strengthened  
By your Faith and Spirit  
As each day unfolds.

All Gifts are given for a reason,  
For a purpose to help within the Acts  
Of God between each other's lives.

Do not be discourage by your lessons learned,  
But always build upon the wisdom created  
From within the depths of your soul.

## 17. The Balancing

Roses always have their thorns.  
Babies will have their birth marks.  
Beauty always have its flaws,  
So, understand that character  
can always be transformed.

Once we are born, the clock begins,  
Until it is our time to return to our origins.

We all are paintings that are mosaics with  
Oils so deep and rich in color  
That shows our lessons learned,  
and our given achievements  
along our paths.

So do not focus on the thorn,  
but on the beauty of the Rose.

Amen.

## 18. The Grace of Gloria

The grace of Gloria of the Angel's in flight.

Gloria, Gloria in the Highest.

The mighty Seraphim and Cherubim.

The glorious wings of Justice,  
wings of Mercy and of eternal Strength.

The True defenders of the Holy Realm,  
we pray and give honor to thee.

The Chapel of the Sacred Rose of Peace, Serenity, and Love.

The Garden of Compassion,

As a crown of thorns is gently held

By the holy eternal Grace of the Holy Mother, Mary.

We forever bow down to you in honor and humility  
for your enduring wisdom, guidance, and beauty  
is forever.

As rose petals fall like rain  
from a clear blue sky of Grace.

## **19. Cherish**

Cherish the Animals that are your companions  
Who judge us least and love us more  
For they are God's instruments of love and peace.

The cat, the dog, the horse, all furry beasts,  
And feathered friends,  
for even though they are silent in speech  
they are compassionate  
In their walk with us in our journey.

Bless all creatures big or small  
May they have long lives  
And when our sorrows are many  
May they be the instrument of lifting our spirits  
And lighten our load.

Amen.

## 20. Foot Prints

The forever shining star of David  
Rising above the City  
That they called Jerusalem.

A Shephard's Staff and Angel's Voice.

Bethlehem calling,  
Within the nativity  
Of the gifted lamb.

A Morning Dove  
Stretches its wings  
Above the sea of Galilee.

Tears of Heaven  
Falls from the sacred realm.

The solemn remembrance  
Of the footprints,  
Left upon the still waters  
Within the quieting of a storm.

## 21. The Steeples of St. Patrick

The mosaic stain glass of the Saints  
The Garden chapel of the Holy Mother  
A serenity oasis within the vibrant city  
Of New York,  
That never slows down.

Who's hearts beats throughs the inner streets  
And walkways of Queens, Brooklyn, and the Bronx  
That lights the way to the stages of Broadway  
To the money boards of Wall street,  
To the beacon of the Freedom tower  
and to symbol of the eternal torch  
Of Lady Liberty.

The freedom to believe.

Thank you, Lord for all of our freedoms,  
And may we never take them for granted,  
But to always defend them and to protect them,  
So that no child will know  
the fear of Injustice or intolerance  
within our Great nation.

Amen.

## **22. Hold Me Close**

Time goes by,  
As our bones  
Grow weary  
And cold inside.

By only our faith alone,  
We acknowledge our weakness  
And our fears unknown.

Release me, guide me, and deliver me,  
From our earthly transgressions.

Hold me close in your arms,  
And never let me go recklessly,  
Into the emptiness void of our Pride.

In Jesus Christ, Our Lord, Our God, Our Friend.

Amen.

### **23. Unscripted**

The graceful movement of the dance,  
The writers pen on a piece of paper,  
Creativity unscripted.

May the Spirit fill you with inspiration,  
And nourish you with thanksgiving,  
May you be fruitful in all your endeavors  
And be forever kind.

May your questions lead to wisdom,  
And then your wisdom to grace eternal.

Be the beacon of compassion,  
The brave heart of strength itself,  
The childlike curiosity to discover,  
And the courage to believe  
That all things are possible  
Under the passion of the son.

## 24. Open Heart

My dear lord,  
Open my Heart,  
And let me feel again.

Release me from the binds  
That hold me back  
From my given path.

Destroy all my enemies,  
And keep those who put fear  
before love at bay.

May gratitude and mindfulness  
Lead me as your abundance be given  
By all your mercy, charity, and grace.

Amen.

**25. Great thou Art:**

Be our Happiness in our Births,  
And be our Serenity in our Deaths.

May our sorrow be ever greeted  
By our joy, and may our troubles fade  
From within the history of our pasts.

Let our voices rise  
In chorus and union  
Honoring how great thou art,  
How great though art.

Amen.

**26. In the Silence:**

Imagination running dry,  
Running on empty,  
Under the vast blue sky.

Heart Break, Broken Dreams,  
An American Wasteland  
Misunderstood unfolds.

Searching, Seeking, within the Tribulations.

The hoof beats of the four horsemen.

Lost, Forgotten, until you took my hand  
And in Silence we stand united as one.

Amen.

**27. Enough:**

There is enough love  
In Heaven  
For all of us.

The Rich or the Poor,  
The White or the Black,  
The Latino or the Irish.

The great equalizer  
Of Death  
Is captured  
And upon us,  
within our first breath  
Upon this Earth.

So simple be  
able to be  
Who you are,  
What you are,  
And where you are.

Have the compassion  
To see God's love  
In all others  
and lack nothing  
In what you desire.

## **28. To Rise Again:**

Blue Demin Prayers  
Of an Industrial Revolution  
With cosmic spaces for Justice.

Tribal Wars,  
Fires Burning,  
Children starving,  
and dying.

Unbelief within the World.  
Greed over Compassion,  
Hate over Love,  
Oppression over Liberation and Truth.

We wait for the darkness to be over,  
A world torn in pieces waiting for our Savior,  
Waiting for our Lord.

So, light your candles, Enlighten your souls,  
And rise your voices in prayers  
of Spirit and of Hope.

Be the ones  
that makes all the difference  
In the world and rise up again.

## **29. Children of Light**

We pray for new beginnings,  
We pray for the ability  
To reach new and interesting heights.

We ask for forgiveness,  
And we ask for grace.

Once born,  
We are forever God's Children,

No less than one,  
And no more than many.

Cradled by our Angels,  
Touched by Mother, Mary,  
And the Twelve Apostles,  
And healed by Our Lord.

Amen

### **30. The Wedding Prayer:**

Kindred Souls, that are we,  
Our pasts united us  
But they do not define us.

In sacred ceremony,  
We do pledge,  
The melting of our souls  
Together as one.

Our Karma is blended,  
as we walk hand in hand,  
in the flower garden  
of the Temple of our Lord.

We will journey forward together,  
We will respect each other,  
We will cherish each other,  
And if one falls, we will lift each other up  
Until we reach the promise land together.

Be always filled of anticipation  
Within this new Life together,  
In Love, Mercy, Forgiveness, and Hope.

Amen.

### 31. Winter Slumbers:

Falling leaves,  
Turn into Blossoms,  
As the Season change,  
And Winter Slumbers.

Pools of water  
Gathered as gentle rains  
Have fallen,  
While the city lights are  
Reflected upon them.

The Sun rises  
On the horizon,  
As a flock of birds  
Take flight,  
And people awaken,  
Within an Early Christmas Morning  
Of Evergreen and Garland.

### **32. Open Arms:**

Death,  
The unwelcome Guest,  
That will come to everyone's door.

Will you be ready,  
Will you be open,  
And will you be grateful,  
For the time you had on  
Planet Earth?

Serenity come only by knowing  
One's self within the Journey's End.

No one is Perfect,  
No one leave unblemished,  
But all will be greeted  
With open arms by the Angels,  
of our Blessed Lord.

Amen.

### 33. The Raven's Prayer

Let there be no more Wars,  
Death, or Destruction.

Let Mother Earth heal  
Her wounds,  
As the Wolf howls  
To Sister Moon  
Through clouds of rain and thunder.

By the morning light,  
The ravens will soar  
upon the blue skies  
and into the eternal depths  
of Heaven itself  
to be touch and sanctified  
by the mighty hand  
Of God.

Let there be an end to all suffering,  
And let there be joy once again  
Upon all of the lands.

### **34. Guiding Light:**

We pray to all the Angels  
Above and below Heaven's gate  
For the true wisdom to see  
The errors our given days.

The knowledge and understanding,  
To Teach, To Learn, and to Forgive.

The Strength and Courage  
To carrier all of our burdens,  
Known and yet unknown  
Before us.

The simple love's embrace  
With the kindness and warmth  
Of a smile,  
To dry  
all our tears away.

Forever Enlighten,  
Forever Blessed,  
Forever Joyful,  
Along our given way.

### **35. The County City Prayer**

So, they say  
You are at County,  
Trying to see the errors  
Of your ways.

They say Justice is blind,  
As you stare silently  
At the rusty cell bar walls.

But the Truth will always  
Set you free,  
As you ponder the blessed words  
Within the Good Book,  
Of the old and of the new.

The County City Prayer.

### **36. For Every Breath**

Do you remember me my Lord?

When we said goodbye

As I left for the other side.

Were there any tears of sorrow

Or regret as I left for the great unknown.

Mercy and Grace upon us all,

As we walk our given chosen path

Alone.

But have No Fear,

Nor have any worries,

But be forever grateful

For every breath we take.

### 37. Kitchen Window:

Through the kitchen window,  
Snowflakes began  
To gently fall.

Cleaning the Evening dishes,  
The Seasons come and the seasons go,  
Within the meaningful reflections  
Of the mind.

Children grow older,  
Job lost, and Job Gain,  
Grandparents passing,  
Spring time long forgotten

For winter snows  
Will always turn,  
into summer flowers,  
And then back again  
As the early frost sparkle  
Like diamonds  
Upon the glass of  
A wooden window stile  
Of long ago,  
As I prayed.

**38. Embrace:**

The Christ Candle  
Burns with the eternal  
Hope for all mankind.

We ask for comfort,  
We ask for grace,  
In all of our most darken hour  
Within the depths of hidden sorrow  
And grief.

For heal the cripple,  
Heal the blind,  
And break the binds  
That hold us back  
From our destiny of love.

Arise then from Death itself,  
And embrace your Resurrection  
And become alive in the Spirit  
Of our true compassion.

Arise and Live.

### 39. Ribbons and Bows:

Red Berries

Upon a green wreath

Of Holly.

The Wind of Spirit

Blowing through evergreen branches,

By a frozen river paradise.

An Ice Skater

Balancing on Ice

Within a ballerina's Dream

Of Ribbon and Bows

As Tiny Christmas lights

Glow nearby.

A young couple smiles

At each other,

As they walk hand in hand

Within a winter wonderland.

#### 40. Oh My Israel:

Have you lost your Salt of Sacredness?

Have you chosen Wisely?

Have you found your Way?

Temples Built.

Temples Torn.

Tablets Written.

Golden Scrolls.

Manna Fallen from Heaven above.

Much has been given,

And Much Expected,

Of a Chosen People,

From a Promise Land.

May God carry you softly,

Through the Good

And Through the Bad,

From the Old

And into the New.

May you always be Faithful,

And Forever True.

#### 41. Within:

They say that you are not real.

They say that you have forgotten us long ago.

They say that you tell lies and untruths.

So why do so many tears fall

And turn into blood

Within our eyes.

Why do we only feel the coldness?

And the loneliness

upon the darkness of Winter,

And not the warmth of light Divine.

So, come to us my Lord,

we beg of thee

And be the inner spark,

Be the catalysis of Truth,

And be the Glory within.

May Peace and Love

Be given to all of us to heal

Our wounds of pain

Upon the grounds

of our given Earth.

## **42. The Old Time Story:**

You read the old time Story.

You Cherish the Hand Maiden of Glory.

You saw the bright star in the East above,  
And heard the Shephard's greetings  
From within the Songs of Angels  
that were given from Heaven above.

The ancient Kings of Three  
From distant kingdoms from afar  
Bowing to the tiny Baby.

The chimes of the First Christmas  
Ringing clearly and echoing through Bethlehem.

### **43. The Psychedelic Haze:**

Through the psychedelic haze,  
Through the hedonistic raves,  
Human choices are all made.

Balance of the past  
And tend to the future.

Comfort those in spirit  
And lift the masses to their feet.

The Freedom to Speak,  
The ability to assemble,  
The right to protest:  
The injustice and the hateful.

Lord Jesus, please help us  
And set us all free  
From any given tyranny.

#### **44. Works:**

Work for the poor  
And build towards a better tomorrow,  
Where Equality is the standard,  
And not the given exception to the rule.

May the eternal fire and spirit  
Lift us all up as one.

A oneness in courage,  
Of inspiration,  
And thoughtfulness.

Never forgotten,  
Never in need,  
And never alone.

Be the Works of Change  
And Mercy itself.

Amen.

#### **45. The Spirit among us:**

Where do we go from here?

The empty avenues,  
So much human pain  
All around us and from within.

Passion destroyed from unfulfilled dreams.

Is it the beginning of time or the end?

Cycles upon Cycles,  
Within the gravity of our Times.

Lessons learned, Lessons forgotten,

Do not wait,  
please send us your Spirit God  
From your Guides and Angels above.

Anoint us and heal us from our errors and evil prideful ways  
And lift us up from our bended knees to walk faithfully again.

#### 46. A Holy Path

A faded Irish Rose,  
As fall leaves began to fall.

Hope renewed by a child's outreach hand.

Symmetry in motion through generations of time.

We pray for the old, we pray for the youth.

Tomorrow is dawning within our rebirths.

So, let the past be forgiven  
and set your sight on your holy path,  
and be the child of God  
that you were always meant to be.

#### **47. The Prayer Circle:**

The gathering of Elders,  
The Flute and Drum.  
Dance of the Eagles,  
Dance of the Dove.

The talking stick pass around the outer glow of Fire.  
The coyotes howl to the distant moon above.

The caretakers of Mother Earth,  
Of Father Raven, and Sister Sun,  
Within the many colors  
of the feathers worn in battle  
and in the hidden mystery  
of the tribal Song.

A prayer circle of Angels,  
A prayer circle of God.

48. **Simply be:**

Arise and become beauty itself,  
Within the eternal flame of the Phoenix  
Within the Holy Spirit.

Across the surface of the waters  
Transform the elements of the old  
Into the new.

With grace alone,  
We are lifted and embrace  
The truth and love of who  
We truly are.

As beings  
of Light.  
As beings  
of oneness  
With God.

Our beauty simply unfolds  
In Pure Love.

#### **49. Why me?**

Why me Lord?

For I am not strong

Nor special in any way.

Why me Lord?

For I am weak

And failed in

so many given ways.

Why me Lord?

Have you chosen me,

And lifted me up,

While cleansing my soul,

And showing me

The Gospel Ways.

Why me Lord?

## **The Maundy Day Sermon 03/29/2018 Lutheran Bethany Church, Scottsdale, AZ.**

### **Introduction:**

Upon the throne of God,  
May my words,  
Magnify the Glory  
Of the Lord,  
And all the Angels  
In Heaven above.

### **Trust, Forgiveness, and Mercy**

The Lord is my shepherd,  
I shall not want,  
But the darkness of the night  
is getting long.  
Do you not hear the distant pounding?  
Of the nails of Calvary?  
Do you not hear the faded voices of the given past?  
The Regrets and the sorrows of the hungry ghosts that surround you.  
The Trust, The Forgiveness, and The Mercy,  
Within the Bread and of the Wine.  
Judas the betrayer, Peter the denier, Thomas the doubter.  
The salt within the tears of Mary and of the Apostles,  
Of Luke, Peter, and John,  
upon the coming of the Passion  
of the Cross.

So, let us begin the story. I am not a legalist but a spiritualist. A spiritualist that finds one's truth by Spirit and not by Law. I was born on Easter Sunday, there were complications. I didn't talk until I was the age of five. I had speech therapy until high school. But this story that I am about to tell you tonight, is not about my birth, nor about myself. But about events that surrounded me when I was only eight years old.

I lived in Michigan with two older brothers, and we truly fought like Cain and Able. Our house was a white farm house on the outskirts of town of Grand Rapids, Michigan. My Father was a Veterinarian and he worked at the Green Dale Animal Hospital next to our Farm house. We had three large Walnut trees that stood guard around the house, with purple lilac bushes, a willow tree, and green pine trees that edged the clinic parking lot.

A large cemetery was across the street. On Memorial Day and the Fourth of July, there would be hundreds of American Flags blowing in the breeze by veteran's graves. We had a family dog that was a black standard poodle that I use to play with in the back yard next to tulips and daffodils.

From the outside, we may have looked very much like the Walton's, with John Boy saying goodnight after writing in his journal, but that was far from being the honest truth.

So, the events I am about to share to you took place in the mid-sixties. It was a time of social unrest, and cultural revolution. A time of war, and a time of free love. It was the middle of Summer. It was hot and it was very humid. No air conditioning, just stand-alone fans to cool down from the evening heat.

Every Summer for a week, we use to rent a cabin next to Stony Lake, that had a narrow channel that connected to Lake Michigan. Seagulls would fly above as we played on the golden sandy beach and made castles in the sand.

My father used to send us with our Mother, and he would stay behind to take care of the sick animals at the clinic, and then come up to the cabin on the weekend.

Now I have to bring up the Judas of my story. He was our family dentist. He was handsome, tall, with dark hair. As a child, you always look up to your healthcare providers as individual that you could trust and put your faith into. This simple childhood faith and belief would soon to be tested for all to see.

It was a week night. My family dentist drove his car at midnight into the empty parking lot in front of our clinic and farm house, while my father slept upstairs in the master bedroom. My mother, my brothers, and I were all up at the cabin on Stony lake miles away.

He put on a pair of leather gloves, took a lead pipe, and a small can of gasoline from the back of the trunk of his car. Quietly, in the night, he broke the window to the side door of our farm house and opened the door from the inside out. He first went into the basement and pour the gasoline on to the basement floor and stairs. He then took a match and toss it, flames immediately started to appear though the darkness below.

He then quietly walked up the stairs to where my father slept, and attacked my father, hitting him in the head with the lead pipe. A struggle of life and death began, and my father was able to fight him off with a gun that was kept at the side of his bed.

My dentist ran off down the stairs and into his car in flight and went into the eternal depths of the night. My father staggered down the flight of stairs while smoke and flames engulfing him. With blood running down his face, he fell onto the grass below the shadows of the three Walnut trees in front of our house, and a good Samaritan stopped his car and called for Fire and Police.

And not unlike Judas, my dentist fled into the darkness, and later took his own life that very night.

My father went to the hospital for care and recovery.

Later in life, I was told that my dentist and mother had a romantic affair, and when she cut it off, it triggered the dentist in having a mental breakdown and violent behavior.

It was a night of such broken trust, a night of simple betrayal, but also a night that sparked the glowing ambers of forgiveness and mercy.

Why Forgiveness and Mercy do you ask?

Forgiveness for my dentist and his actions that forever affected our family, Forgiveness for my Mother for her unwise choices, and forgiveness for my father, for this event truly changed his life and affected how he raised his children and how he reflected the world around him.

So Tonight, I simply ask, each and every one of you to think of your own life,

What trust has been broken? What forgiveness needs to be made?

And finally, what mercy needs to be received?

Trust, Forgiveness, and Mercy.

During the last supper with his disciples, Jesus stated: Do this in remembrance of me.

Remembrance of his ministry, of his betrayal, of his crucifixion, death, and the eternal glory within his resurrection.

The night is almost over my friends, but our journey of forgiveness into grace has only just begun.

Amen and God Bless each and every one, and Good night.

