

Why the death of Christ on the Cross is called "Divine Mercy Hour"

"Third Hour" is an hour of Mercy. (Mt. 27, 45-50) This point is essential in the Message of Divine Mercy. In October 1937 Jesus told S. Faustina, **D. 1320**:

"At three o'clock, implore My mercy, especially for sinners; if only for a brief moment, immerse yourself in My Passion, particularly in My abandonment at the moment of agony. This is the hour of great mercy for the whole world. I will allow you to enter into My mortal sorrow. In this hour, I will refuse nothing to the soul that makes a request of Me in virtue of My Passion..."

The testimony of St. John about the moment of Death of Jesus is compatible to this one of St. Faustina:

St. John was with Mary under the Cross, and said: *"He who saw this has testified so that you also may believe. His testimony is true, and he knows that he tells the truth."* (J.19,35)

Central narration of the Hour of Mercy by John, describe the "piercing of Jesus side with a spear" J.19,34.

We can interpret **the description of death of Jesus** on 3 levels: **Past** - fulfillment of old prophecies; **Present time** - final logic of Jesus` work; **Future** - as a begin of life of the Church.

For John this shows that **Jesus` Death** was a death of a **Paschal Lamb** who deliver the mankind from sin and the death.

Past Perspective - the fulfillment of the prophecy of Old Testament in the death of Christ

1) The fulfillment of paschal offering in the Image of Bones: Wj.12,46 *"you shall not break any of its bones."*

2) The Blood from His side - **J.19,34** - *"at once blood and water came out."* (Joh.19:34) is like the blood of the lamb to protect people from evil

3) **Piercing and looking at Jesus on the Cross** - *"And I will pour out a spirit of compassion and supplication on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that, when they look on the one whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn."* (Zec 12:10)- **looking at Jesus` open heart shows the first persons at the Well of Living Water:** *"On that day a fountain shall be opened for the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, to cleanse them from sin and impurity."* (Zec 13:1)

Divine Mercy Hour like "now" of God`s action

In Christ, the Mercy of God became eternally present! *"When Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfill the scripture), "I am thirsty." (Joh 19:28)*
What was now finished? What he thirst for? The answer is the Will of the Father.
"For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me." (Joh 6:38)

Divine Mercy Hour is an hour of Obedience!

Love which dies - gives a new Life: *"unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit." (Joh 12:24)*

"He bowed his head and gave up his spirit." (Joh 19:30) - through His Spirit, Life of Jesus will be actual in all who believe in Him.

Divine Mercy Hour as a "future" of the Church

Blood and Water from the Side of Christ **create the Church**. People get new life being purified and sanctified. The **open Heart of Jesus** is a Well of Living Water!

Sacramental meaning of the rays explain Jesus alone to St. Faustina: D. 299

"The two rays denote Blood and Water. The pale ray stands for the Water which makes souls righteous. The red ray stands for the Blood which is the life of souls... These two rays issued forth from the very depths of My tender mercy when My agonized Heart was opened by a lance on the Cross. These rays shield souls from the wrath of My Father."

This mean that in the Church we find the means for our protection against all our enemies. This Church is born under the Cross of Jesus!

The Life of Christ is given to the Church in all times through the Holy Spirit!

Jesus asked St. Faustina to *"implore His mercy, especially for sinners"* D. 1320

"In this hour, He said, I will refuse nothing to the soul that makes a request of Me in virtue of My Passion..."