

## THE FOURTH STOP: FOR HIS VESTURE THEY CAST LOTS

*"...but the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top down."*



The Soldiers Casting Lots  
for Christ's Garments  
by William Blake

When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four shares, a share for each soldier. They also took his tunic, but the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top down. So they said to one another, "Let's not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it will be," in order that the passage of scripture might be fulfilled:

"They divided my garments among them,  
and for my vesture they cast lots."

This is what the soldiers did.

(John 19:23-25)

**Reflect** Already salvation in Christ is apparent. Jesus has prayed, "...that they may be brought to perfection *as one*..." The soldiers' custom and privilege was to divide the possessions of those they had executed. Jesus' tunic, "woven in one piece from the top down," was recognized by these worldly men as something to be treasured. There, on Golgotha, the Place of the Skull, that place of worldly death, this seamless garment stood – and stands – in mute witness of the integrity of the fabric into which believers are woven, the fabric that enfolds and moves all believers together toward Eternal Life. How fortunate, how blessed is each of us to be woven into that fabric of unity with the Father.

**Pray** **Lord, help me to live my life so that I am ever a strong and beautiful thread in the fabric of salvation, that Jesus has woven around me. Help me to mend other threads that may have broken, and to submit to mending when it becomes necessary. This I ask in Jesus' name. Amen.**

**Sing** *Jesus, the fabric of life. Jesus, the fabric of life.  
Jesus, our strength; Jesus, our beauty.  
Jesus, our God and our all.*