

Good Friday  
St. John 18:1—19:42  
April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019  
Sts. Peter & Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, UAC  
Simpsonville, SC  
Pastor Jerald Dulas

It Is Finished!

*In Nomine Iesu!*

In the Name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

**Prayer in Pulpit before Sermon:**

O Lord, send out Thy Light and Thy Truth, let them lead us. O Lord, open Thou my lips, that my mouth may show forth Thy praise. O Lord, graciously preserve me, lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be rejected. Amen.

Grace, mercy, and peace be to you from God our Father and from our Lord and Savior + Jesus Christ. Amen.

We all have a particular sin or sins which plague us every day. No matter how much we try to stop doing that sin, we always seem to keep on doing it. In our contrition, our sorrow, over our sins, it is easy to look at the cross of our Lord + Jesus Christ and find comfort that that sin that troubles us has been paid for by His suffering and death. The cross of our Lord + Jesus provides even more comfort, however. For, our Lord + Jesus on the tree trunk of the cross did not just pay for that one or two or three sins that we have committed against the Commandments of the Lord God. He did not even suffer on the cross just for us; He did not just suffer for one man. He did not even suffer and die for just the Jewish nation, or only any other nation. Our Lord + Jesus also did not just suffer for the elect—the Christians—of all nations. No, our Lord + Jesus, the Christ suffered and died on the tree of the holy cross for the sins of all of mankind of all time; He paid for the sins of everyone; all the sins that have been committed or omitted from the beginning of the world, and for all the sins that will be committed or omitted up to the end of the world when our Lord + Jesus will judge the world according to His righteousness.

This is the great comfort of the holy cross of our Lord + Jesus Christ: He has atoned for all sins of all time. He has atoned for all the sins that we have committed and ever will commit, and He has paid for all of the good which we have left undone, and for which we will leave undone. All sins of all time have been atoned for on the tree of the holy cross. As He proclaimed from the cross just before He gave up His spirit into the loving arms of His heavenly Father, "It is finished." Our atonement, and the atonement of the whole world is finished. We claim this atonement, and are justified, through our faith.

When we struggle in our sinfulness; when we are led into sorrow over our sins, both our actions, and the things we have left unsaid and undone, we look for salvation outside of ourselves. The Holy Ghost, the Comforter, comes to us in these times with the promises of the Gospel. He places before our eyes the once and for all time sacrifice of our Lord + Jesus, the Christ on the tree of the holy cross, and points out to us that our sins have been paid for—atoned for—by this suffering and death of our Lord + Jesus on that tree. By this Gospel, by this preaching into our ears and hearts of the works and merits of Christ, the Holy Ghost creates and sustains faith within us. Our sorrowing heart looks for some comfort in the midst of our sins, and the Holy Ghost provides that comfort by showing us that our sins have been paid for by the death of our Lord + Jesus on the holy cross. We cling to this cross in faith,

and in it we hope for salvation and eternal life. The Holy Ghost provides us with all that we need for our comfort, faith and hope in the world filled with sin and death.

The cross of our Lord + Jesus shows us that our sins have been paid. This is why we do not spurn the crucifix, the cross with the image of our suffering and dying Lord on it. For this image of our suffering Lord + Jesus reminds us of the penalty of our sins. It reminds us that our sins require a payment of death. But it also reminds us that the penalty of our sins—the death required—has been paid for by our Lord and Savior + Jesus Christ. The crucifix shows us that our sins have been paid for with death. So that now we are free from the wages of sin—death.

In our Lord's death, He has won for us life. We now have the promise of eternal life through our Lord's death. He has accomplished all that He was sent to do by the heavenly Father. He was born into our flesh, but without sin. He was tempted as we were, but did not sin. He perfectly obeyed the Commandments of the Lord God, and thus fulfilled them for us who break them daily. He endured the trial and accusations that we deserved, and though innocent of those accusations, unlike we who are guilty of all the accusations of the Accuser against us, He was condemned to die the death that we deserve. He endured the mockery, shame, beating, spitting, scourging, a crown of thorns, and all the sufferings that we deserve on account of our manifold transgressions, even though in His innocence He did not deserve them. Finally, He was crucified, dead and buried. He shed His innocent Blood for us. Our blood truly deserves to be poured out on account of our manifold transgressions. But our Lord and Savior suffers in our place.

He did all this out of His great love for us and for His heavenly Father. Only love—true love—can do this. Love sacrifices itself—its will—for the object of its love. Our Savior loves us enough to endure all of the trials, sufferings, persecutions and death that we deserve.

And when it was all over. *“After...knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled...He said, “It is finished!” And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.”* The atonement of all the sins of the whole world, from the fall into sin until the Last Day, was finished. He had accomplished the mission that His heavenly Father sent Him to do. He had accomplished our redemption. By His death, by His bowing His head and giving up His spirit into the arms of His heavenly Father, He won for all those who believe on His Name forgiveness of sins, eternal life, and salvation. In His death He conquered once and for all sin, death and the power of the devil.

These three enemies of us and our Lord + Jesus can no longer bring an accusation against us. All of their accusations of wrongdoing are met with the payment accomplished on the tree of the cross. The crucifix of our Lord + Jesus Christ is placed before all accusations of sin against us.

Therefore, when we sin; when we daily commit those sins we keep on doing, and when we struggle with those sins, we can call to mind the crucifixion of our Lord + Jesus Christ. We can show our soul, and show our conscience which accuses us that our sins have been paid for by the suffering and death of our beloved Lord + Jesus. He has accomplished our salvation. He has paid for our sins with His suffering and death. No accusation can be brought against any longer. *“It is finished!”* hear Him cry! Our Lord declares that our sins have been paid for when He cries out with a loud voice, *“It is finished!”*

In faith we cling to these words. In faith we cling to the cross. And our Lord declares us righteous—justified—on account of our faith in His works and merits that He performed on the tree of the holy cross. Such is the love of our Lord + Jesus for us, and for all mankind, even when they continue to reject Him and the salvation found in Him only. The atonement that He won on the tree of the cross is theirs if they would only repent; if only they would turn away from their sins in sorrow and contrition, and believe that for the sake of Christ's merits—His fulfilling of the Law and His suffering and death—

they have forgiveness, life and salvation. My dear friends, let us continue in this faith. Let us not despair when we daily struggle with our sin; when we keep on doing the same sins over and over again. For, our Lord + Jesus Christ came down from Heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Ghost through the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried for us.

Our Lord has finished paying for our sins. Let us then rejoice in His death! For His death means our eternal life—our eternal reward in Heaven. He is arrested, and we go free. He is condemned to die, and we are acquitted. He dies, and we live. And then He wins forgiveness for our sins, which we receive whenever we believe the Gospel preached into our ears, and whenever we participate in the Blessed Sacraments, in which the Holy Ghost works to create and sustain faith in our poor hearts. Take comfort, my dear flock, your sins have been paid. You are forgiven on account of our Lord's suffering and death on the cross for you. In the Name of our Lord + Jesus Christ. Amen.

**Prayer in Pulpit after Sermon:**

Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but unto Thy Name give glory! I will extol Thee, O Lord, and I will praise Thy Name forever and ever. Amen.

**The Votum:**

The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Amen.

*Soli Deo Gloria!*