

Good Friday
St. John 18:1—19:42
April 2nd, 2021
Sts. Peter and 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:

Merciful God, heavenly Father, we give Thee most hearty thanks that Thou hast removed from us the grievous burden of our sins and placed it upon Thy dear Son, our Lord Jesus Christ; and we humbly beseech Thee, govern us by Thy Holy Spirit, that we may comfort ourselves with His suffering and death in the face of all temptation, diligently guard against sin and an evil conscience, and finally obtain eternal salvation; through Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord, Who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Ghost, one true God, world without end. Amen.

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

It is finished! The atonement for our sins has been completed. Our Lord + Jesus has suffered and died on the tree of the holy cross to offer up His life as a ransom for us. His perfect fulfilling of the Law of God renders this sacrifice an unblemished and spotless sacrifice of the Lamb of God for the sins of the whole world. He has atoned for the sins of the whole world. All those who cling to Him in faith are justified—they are made right—with the Lord God. Upon the holy cross, at our Lord's death, the payment for the penalty of our sins is accomplished. It is finished.

Soon Lent will also be finished. Our eyes will turn from our breaking of the Law of God and the price of our payment to be freed from sin through the holy cross, and look to the open and empty tomb of our Lord + Jesus. There we will see the end and destruction of the power of our enemies—sin, death and the devil. Their power and might over us is finished. They can harm us no more. We may still feel the blows of their anger against us while we dwell in this flesh, but they can do us no harm anymore eternally. For our Lord + Jesus has paid the price of our transgressions once and for all.

The veil of sin that separates mankind from the Lord God is torn in two. There is now no longer any separation between us and the Lord God. We have peace with the Lord God on account of the sufferings and death of our Lord + Jesus. The veil on the crucifix is a physical reminder to us during Passiontide of the separation that exists between the Lord God and us. Shortly, that physical veil will be removed from the crucifixes that adorn our sanctuary. We will have a physical reminder that our Lord + Jesus has paid the penalty of our sins. Even as the veil in the temple was torn in two as a physical testament to the repair of the breach between the Lord God and man.

It is finished. Peace between the Lord God and man has been accomplished. There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ + Jesus the Lord. We are no longer separated from the Lord God because of sin. Our Lord + Jesus has healed the breach. He has won for us access to the Lord God and all of the gifts He desires to give us on account of His love for us. As we have prayed throughout the season of Lent in the Collect for the season of Lent, our Lord God does not hate anything that He has made and desires to forgive the sins of all those who are penitent. By our Lord + Jesus'

finishing our atonement on the tree of the holy cross, we are now given new and contrite hearts that worthily lament their sins and acknowledges their wretchedness. We obtain from the heavenly Father, on account of our Lord's sacrifice on the cross for us mercy. He gives us perfect remission and forgiveness through our Lord + Jesus, the Christ.

Finished also is our Lord God's wrath over the sins of those who in penitential faith confess their sins and cling to the sacrifice of the Lord + Jesus on the cross. The heavenly Father has poured out all of His wrath toward us onto His One and Only Beloved Son, our Lord + Jesus. Our Lord + Jesus took all of the heavenly Father's wrath upon Himself for our sake. He hung in darkness, forsaken by the Lord God Who only saw our sin as He looked upon His Son + Jesus. Our sin was on full display in the crucifixion of the Lord + Jesus. Our penalty is revealed in the cross of our Lord. This is the punishment that we deserve, and our Lord + Jesus took that upon Himself. We deserved to be forsaken by the heavenly Father, but our Lord + Jesus stands as an intercessor on our behalf.

No longer are we without an advocate and intercessor. Finished are the days when mankind had to look to the day when their redemption would be accomplished. The Old Testament saints had the promise of a Savior to come. They looked forward to the day of our Lord, and His sacrifice for them. We no longer have to look to our works and our keeping of the Law. Foolish it is to do so. For no man is able to keep the Law of God perfectly. Every attempt by mankind to save himself by his keeping of the Law ends in failure. Our Lord + Jesus has fulfilled the Law and put an end to anyone despairing over their inability to keep the Law. We now have a perfect Mediator and Advocate who intercedes for us continually before the heavenly Father, as our Lord + Jesus sits on His right hand to plead for us poor, miserable sinners.

Soon our fasting and reflection upon our sins will be finished. We will feast and rejoice and celebrate the resurrection of our Lord + Jesus. This end to the fast and the beginning of the feast reminds us that the sufferings of this vale of tears will come to an end and we will be given the crown of eternal life. There in Heaven we will feast for all eternity with all the other saints who have gone before us into Heaven. There we will join with them and the heavenly choir of angels and sing eternally the eternal Liturgy of the Lamb in His Kingdom which has no end. Our feasting will last eternally. Our celebration will have no end. Finished will be the suffering, tears and pain of this life. Neverending will be the joy, hymns and songs of praise for our Lord + Jesus, the Lamb of God Who takes away the sin of the world.

For, it is finished! Our salvation is assured. We now have peace with the Lord God. He has won for us an end to all of our tears. He has given us an eternal home in Heaven. He has also given us the means by which we are brought into faith in Him, too. By the work of the Holy Ghost, we are given faith through the waters of Holy Baptism. The Words connected to the Sacrament—In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost—proclaim into our ears, all those of us who have been baptized, that we have received the Name of the Lord God upon us. We are now called by His Name. We are considered to be His people. He is now our loving Lord God. Finished for us are the days when we have a false god, and in reality, we were without a god, for there is no god but the Lord God.

Those of us who have been called by His Name, Who proclaim at the beginning of each new day and at the end of every day, and also whenever we celebrate the Divine Service, that we are His people when we make the sign of the holy cross upon our friends, and say our Name, we get to share in the meal that is reserved for those who are called by His Name. We get to share in this meal of forgiveness at this altar. We receive our Lord's Body and Blood given in bread and wine for the remission of all our sins. We remember and proclaim when we come to this altar and receive our Lord's Body and Blood that our salvation is indeed finished. Our Lord + Jesus has finished our atonement for our sins by His death on the tree of the holy cross. And He has given us to share in the spoils of the war that He waged against sin, death and the devil on the cross. He has finished the war with the

powers of darkness, and given us the spoils. We receive from Him in the bread and wine, forgiveness of our sins, eternal life, and salvation.

Therefore, my dear friends, let us rejoice that we are no longer separated from our Lord God, for our Lord + Jesus has finished our atonement. "It is finished" hear Him cry! Our sins have been paid for, and we have been given life and salvation. "God forbid that we should boast except in the cross of our Lord + Jesus Christ, in Him is salvation, life, and resurrection from the dead: by Him we are redeemed and set at liberty." In the Name of our Lord + Jesus Christ. Amen.

Prayer in Pulpit after Sermon:

Merciful God and Father, Who didst give Thy Son into death and the grave for our sins, we beseech Thee, enable us also to die unto sin and to bury the lusts of the flesh, that our lives may be holy in Christ, our death transformed by His death into sweet sleep, our graves hallowed by His rest in the grave, and we may finally rise again unto eternal joy; through Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord, Who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. Amen.

The Votum:

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

Soli Deo Gloria!