

Good Friday
St. John 18:1—19:42
April 18th, 2025
Sts. Peter and Paul Ev. 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.

Sermon Text:

“After this + Jesus, knowing that all things are now finished, that the scripture might be accomplished, saith, ‘I thirst’. There was set there a vessel full of vinegar: so they put a sponge full of the vinegar upon hyssop, and brought it to His mouth. When + Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, He said, ‘It is finished’: and He bowed His head, and gave up His spirit.”

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.

My dear friends, on the very first Friday, the sixth day of creation, our Triune Lord God created the cattle, and creeping things, and beasts of the earth. He also created man from the dust of the earth, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life. He also created woman from a rib of Adam, the first man. Eve was given to Adam to be his wife, to bring forth children to fill the whole earth and subdue it and have dominion over it. When our Lord God finished creating all things on that very first Friday, the sixth day of creation, He said that it was “very good.” This was a distinction between the other days of the week. On the third through the fifth days of creation Moses writes in Genesis that what the Lord created on those days was “good.” Here on the sixth day of creation, the very first Friday, our Triune Lord God says that what He created was “very good.”

He had finished with creation, and it was “very good.” Then He took His rest on the seventh day, the Sabbath. He rested from all His labors of creation. He sanctified and hallowed the seventh day, for on it He rested from all His labors. The perfect creation that our Lord finished on the sixth day, the very first Friday, was soon destroyed by His own creation. Adam and Eve were deceived by the serpent in the Garden of Eden, and ate from the tree of which they were forbidden to eat. They were promised by the serpent the knowledge of good and evil, but they only discovered that in disobeying the Lord God’s command, that they were the evil. Their sin led to the corruption of all of creation. The perfect creation of our Triune Lord God which was “very good” was now corrupt and evil.

But our Lord in His mercy promised on that day of our first parents’ transgression that He would send a Savior for them. This Savior would come from the seed of Adam and Eve. He would be born in the flesh of mankind. The Savior of mankind, the Anointed of the Lord God, was born in our flesh through the Blessed Virgin Mary. The Lord + Jesus, the Christ, took upon Himself our flesh in the womb of the Blessed Virgin. He Who is the Lord of all things, the Creator of all things, humbled Himself to be born on the Virgin. He humbled Himself to be born in our flesh. He became man for us. He began

immediately to set aright and fix the corruption that entered into the world through the sinfulness of mankind. He began to re-create and restore that which was damaged by our transgressions. He perfectly fulfilled the whole Law and will of the Lord God. The one thing our first parents, and all of their children, including us, have failed miserably to do.

Having perfectly fulfilled the whole Law and will of the Lord God. Having finished perfecting the Law of the Lord God, He offered up His life as a ransom for ours upon the tree of the holy cross. He endured the punishment that we deserve. He Who was guilty of no crime; guilty of no sin, endured mockery, shame, spitting, beatings, whippings, a crown of thorns, and crucifixion upon a tree. He was committed, and we are acquitted.

Thus, on this Good Friday, the sixth day of Holy Week, our Lord finishes the work of His redemption of mankind. Just like on the sixth day of creation, when He had finished creating all things and knew that it was very good, after suffering on the cross for six hours, He knew that all things were now finished for the atonement of all of mankind. He saw that it was very good. Then after asking saying that He thirsted, and receiving some vinegar, He said, "It is finished."

What mankind had destroyed, the perfect creation of our Lord God, which mankind destroyed by filling the earth with sin, was now restored. He had accomplished all things for mankind's salvation. Now all those who cling to Him in faith; who cling to His crucifixion and death, have forgiveness of their sins. All those who believe on Him have everlasting life and salvation. For He finished our redemption on this day of Good Friday, the sixth day of Holy Week. Our atonement and redemption is perfect just like the creation was after the sixth day of creation. Therefore, we can firmly cling in hope and faith to His once and for all time sacrifice for our sins, and the sins of all mankind. For that which mankind corrupted, He has restored by His innocent, suffering and death. It is finished. It is very good.

Having perfectly fulfilled all things necessary for mankind's salvation our Lord says, "It is finished" and then calmly bowed His head, and gave up His Spirit. His Spirit left His dead body, just as it is with all of mankind. All of mankind since the fall of Adam have died, and been buried. Our souls will also leave our bodies, and our bodies will be placed in the grave. Like our Lord + Jesus we can leave this vale of tears in the hope of everlasting life. For our souls will immediately be with the Lord in Heaven.

Our Lord calmly enters into death. After His hard labors of the redemption of mankind, He enters into His Sabbath rest. On the seventh day He rests again from all His labors. He rests in the grave. We too, can enter into death in this same manner. We can rest in peace from all of our labors in this life. We can rest in peace from all of our struggles with sin in this life. For when we die, all of our labors will be over. We will be with the Lord in paradise. We will be with all the company of Heaven in peace and rest. We will be reunited with all of our loved ones in Heaven. And there we will find eternal life as it was meant to be for us. We will experience the creation of our Lord that He intended for us.

For our Lord on the very first Friday, the sixth day of creation, saw that all that He had made was "very good." Today, after suffering on the tree of the cross for six hours, and enduring all the suffering of the previous night, our Lord + Jesus also sees that His work His again "very good." It is perfect. It is finished. He has earned His rest. Rest, dear Lord, in the grave. Enjoy Your Sabbath rest. For Thy Sabbath rest leads to the first day of the week—to Sunday, the first day of creation. Upon the first day of creation, after our Lord's Sabbath rest, He restores life and immortality to His creation. He restores life to mankind. For He will rise again from the dead on the third day.

Therefore, what mankind had corrupted and destroyed, our Lord God—our Lord and Savior—restores by His perfect obedience to the whole Law and will of the Lord God, and by His atoning sacrifice for us upon the tree of the holy cross. The work He completes today on the sixth day of the week, He confirms for all of mankind by His resurrection upon the eighth day of the week. On the eighth day of

the week, the former first day of the week, our Lord + Jesus opens up for mankind the gates of eternal life with Him in Heaven.

Therefore, my dear friends, let us consider our Lord's crucifixion and death on this sixth day of Holy Week, this very Good Friday. For upon this day He atones for all of our sins, and the sins of all of mankind, so that all those who believe on Him might have everlasting life. He suffers our torments and pains that we deserve on account of our manifold sins and trespasses. Then He enters into the grave to defeat our greatest enemy. He defeats death itself. Our Lord's death means that death no longer has a hold over us. We will never see, nor taste, of death. For He died the death that belongs to Adam and all his children, and our Lord's death cancels out the penalty of death that we inherited from our first parents. Our salvation and redemption have been finished. It is completed. And it is very good. Thanks be to God! In the Name of our Lord + Jesus, the Christ. Amen.

Prayer in Pulpit after Sermon:

Almighty God, be pleased to accompany Thy Word with Thy Holy Spirit and grant that Thy Word would increase faith in us; bring into the Way of Truth all such as have erred; turn the hearts of the unrepentant; and for sake of Thy Name grant succor to all heavy hearts and those who are heavy-laden, that they may through the mercy of the Lord + Jesus Christ be relieved and preserved so that they succumb not to the temptation of despair but rather that they gain the victory over the world, the flesh, and the devil; through the same + Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord, Who liveth and reigneth with the 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!