

Sermon followed by Service

Good Friday 2022 - John 19:28-30

[Pastor drinks up and finishes his glass of water.]

“Ah, finished.” There had to be something more to it than just that. When Jesus said “It is finished” he had to be talking about something more than just that last drink. There has to be something more to his words, doesn’t there? I remember thinking: “Why? Why can’t we just leave it at that, that Jesus was finished; he had had enough of that cheap and sour wine. Why does there have to be something more?” Why? Because John tells us something more. Just before Jesus said: “I thirst,” John tells us Jesus knew “all was finished.”

All done. All finished. Hard to imagine, isn’t it? I never get everything finished and crossed off my to-do list. I never get everyone seen that I want to see. And those times that I think I’m done, that I think I’m finished, what then? I do the dishes, clean out the sink, and then another dirty dish appears. I get the car fixed, but before I get home, the check-engine light comes on. We think we’re done with one day, but then there’s another day to prepare for. It seems we’re never all done finished, are we?

And it’s not just with things to do; the same thing is true with our relationships. We can think we’re in a good place, but we find out we missed something. There’s always room for us to do better, to do more; to be better, to be more, isn’t there?

How does that feel? How does it feel to never be done, to never have it right? Take away the excuses and the blaming. Take away the judging and comparing and denial. (At least I’m not as bad as they are; at last I’m not as far behind as they are.) Take away your self-defenses. How does it feel when you see how you have failed and frustrated the people in your life, those you love? How does it feel when you see how you have failed God, the God who demands: “Be perfect as your Father in heaven is perfect.” The God who judges: “The soul that sins, it shall die”? How does it feel when you see how you have failed your Savior? How does it feel? How about crushing, dark, empty? How about guilty, fearful, on edge?

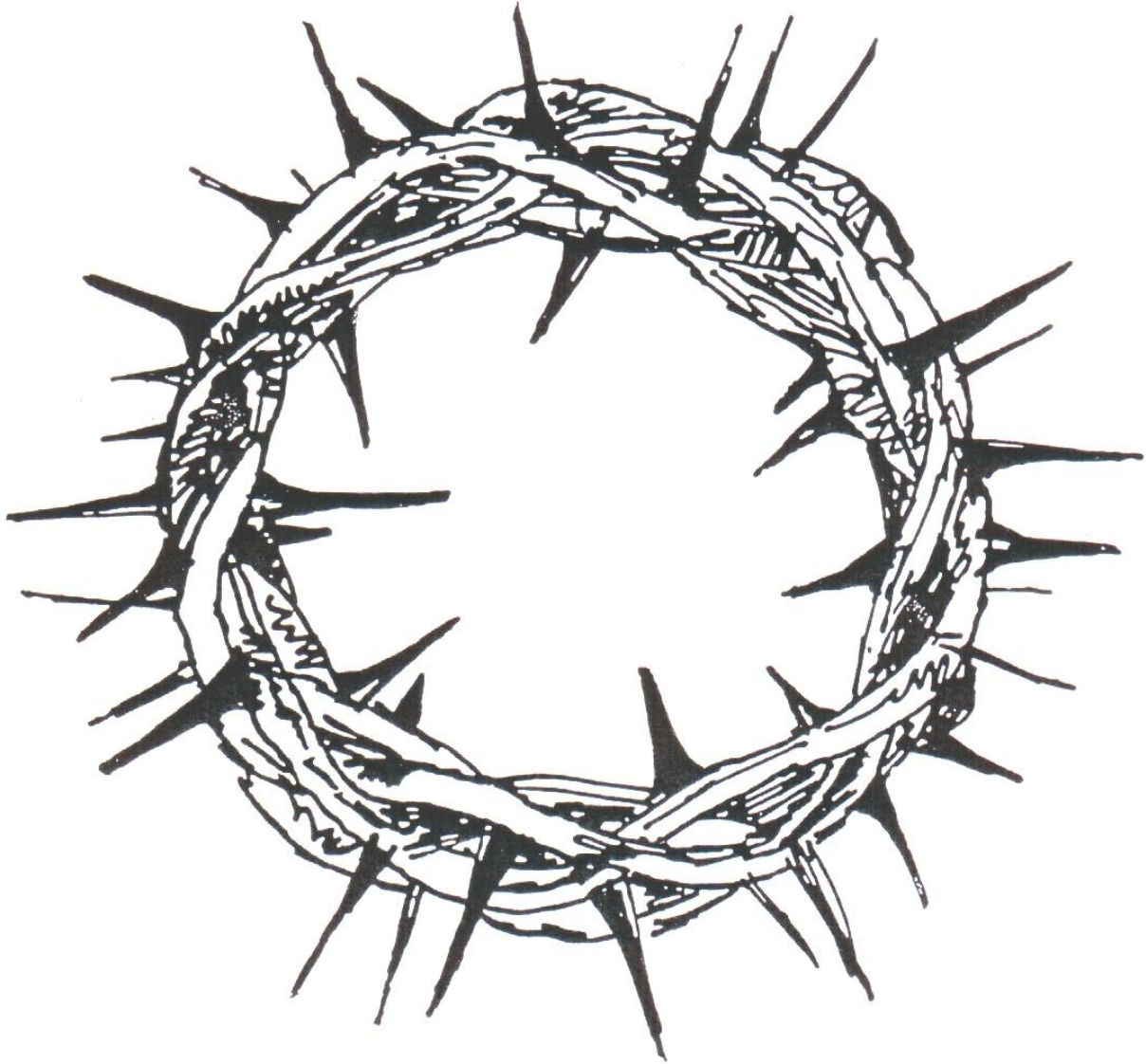
Listen to what Jesus says: “It is finished.” We don’t have to live a life of emptiness and darkness, judged and judging ourselves never good enough, never done enough. We don’t have to live the life of a fearful child trying to get on God’s good side. We don’t have to live a life of walking on egg-shells hoping to stay on God’s good side. Our place with God, your place with God - “It is finished!”

You don’t have to live a life on edge, obsessing on every do and don’t to somehow make life right. With every day of his life, Jesus has already got life right for you. “It is finished.”

You don’t have to live life trying to make up and pay up for what you have done. With his death on the cross, Jesus has already made up and paid up for you. “It is finished!”

You don’t have to live a life seeing, hearing, feeling judgment every time something goes wrong. “There is now no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus.” “It is finished.” Judgment is finished.

We hear that in Jesus’ next words: “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.” Jesus knew he was done, not done as in kaput, but done as in his work finished, his prophecies and promises all on track to be fulfilled, his mission accomplished. With Jesus, like Jesus, we can say the same thing: “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit,” knowing that our Father’s hands aren’t turned up and out to reject us; they aren’t pointing here and there demanding “more, more, more”; they aren’t clenched in anger ready to pound and to crush. No, with Jesus, like Jesus, you get to see the Father’s hands ready to hold you and hug you today and forever. Why? Everything that needs to be done - for you, for me, for that whole, wide world out there - everything that needs to be done to be in God’s good graces, with Jesus, “It is finished.” Amen.



Good Friday

St. John Lutheran

April 15, 2022

Good Friday

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WE WELCOME OUR GUESTS and pray that all who are with us today are blessed by the message of God's Word in our lessons and hymns and by an encouraging and warm welcome. Our worship service is designed to focus us on Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. The Holy Spirit does that by exposing our need for Christ and by showing us the wonders of God's grace in Christ: forgiveness and peace, help and hope for life in this world, and life forever with God in heaven. The notes below may be helpful for your worship and time with us today. If you have questions, please ask! We are blessed to have you with us!

Our Communion Practice

We practice close communion, the Biblical and ancient practice of the church, celebrating the Lord's Supper only with those who are united with us in faith and teaching. In this sacrament we give public confession of our doctrinal unity and fellowship; therefore, we invite visitors from sister WELS or ELS congregations to join us in the sacrament. We ask our fellow Christians from other denominations to kindly respect our practice and refrain from the Lord's Supper at this time. If you have questions, please speak with the pastor.

We Care about Your Children

We love to have children with us for worship. Children's worship bulletins and "church bags" (with paper, colors, and Bible story books) are available from an usher. Baby noises can be beautiful to our Savior who said, "Let the little children come to me." If children are crying loudly, our nursery and Gathering Area (back of the church) are audio-equipped and available for you and your young children. After the children regain their composure, come back so we can all worship together.

We Care about Your Special Needs

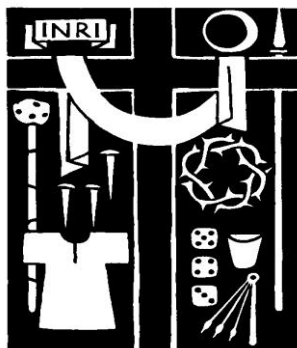
Large Print Service Folders are available from an usher.

Hearing Assistance for those with hearing aids is provided through our *Hearing Loop*. More information is available from an usher.

A *wheelchair lift* is available for your assistance; please ask an usher.

Our Facilities

Restrooms are in our Fellowship Hall, downstairs and to the right of the kitchen.



Our service this evening is a Tenebrae service, a service of shadows and darkness, reminding us of the darkness of our sin and guilt, the darkness of the world's hate and anger against God, and, yes, the darkness of God's curse on our sin, charged against Jesus.

In a Tenebrae service, candles are extinguished and lights are dimmed to impress on us the utter darkness and loneliness, the horrible curse that Jesus faced on the cross. As you hear of Jesus' burial and the service closes, expect to hear the *strepitus*. (In various Tenebrae traditions, the sharp, loud noise of the *strepitus* stands for the earth shaking and rocks breaking at Jesus' death, the stone rolled in front of Jesus' tomb, or the rending of Christ's tomb on Easter morning.) As the seventh candle is removed we are reminded of Jesus' death; as it returns we are reminded that he lives with the Father. As the service draws to a close, see the sign of hope - in the darkness, a light still burns - Easter is coming!

After the service, the congregation may remain for prayer and meditation before leaving quietly. If you wish to speak to the pastor, please go to his office (door near the piano).

PIANO & ORGAN MEDITATION

Lenten Hymn Selections

By Valerie Floeter

"Were You There"

By John Carter

"O Sacred Head, Now Wounded"

By Michael Burkhardt

Three Variants on Passion Chorale

By John Carter

“Were You There”

CHOIR

*Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?*

*Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?*

*Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?*

Please stand

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

PRAYER

M: Lord Jesus Christ, in humble awe, in reverent silence, and in solemn trembling, your people have gathered before your cross to remember your death.

C: **O Christ, friend of sinners, have mercy on us;
O Christ, Savior and Redeemer, have mercy on us;
O Christ, only hope of a lost world, have mercy on us.**

M: At your cross let us see all the ugliness, horror, and misery that sin, death, and Satan brought into the world and that you willingly took on yourself.

C: **Open our eyes to see that we deserved the death and torments of hell that you suffered for us.**

M: Open our eyes also to see that by your death you destroyed death, by your sacrifice you reconciled us with your Father, and by the blood you shed you purchased us to belong to you forever.

C: **Help us believe that we are worth that much to you.**

M: Fill us with joy and peace in believing that we are truly free from condemnation and forgiven by your Father. Help us dedicate our lives in thankful love to you, who gave yourself for us.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

M: Hear us, O Lamb of God, who bore all sin for us. Amen.

Please be seated

LESSON OF PROMISE

**Isaiah 52:13-53:12
Pew Bible, p. 731**

The first candle is extinguished.

RESPONSE

"A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth"
Hymn 422

LESSON OF ANGUISH AND HOPE

Psalm Prayer - Psalm 22

Father, when your Son hung on the cross, he cried out to you in agony and grief. You gave him the strength to endure so that death might be destroyed and life restored. Have mercy on us all our days and preserve us in true faith unto life everlasting; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 22

Refrain



Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

Psalm tone



My God, my God, why have you for`saken me?*

Why are you so far from `saving me?

I am a worm and `not a man,*
scorned by men and despised by the `people.

All who see me `mock me;*

they hurl insults, shaking `their heads:

"He trusts in the LORD; let the LORD `rescue him.*
Let him deliver him, since he de`lights in him." *Refrain*

My strength is dried up, and my tongue sticks
to the roof `of my mouth;*

you lay me in the `dust of death.

A band of evil men has en`circled me,*
they have pierced my hands `and my feet.

They divide my garments `among them*
and cast lots for my `clothing.

But you, O LORD, be not `far off;*

O my Strength, come quickly to `help me.

**Glory be to the Father and `to the Son*
and to the Holy `Spirit,
as it was in the be`ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. `Amen.** *Refrain*

The second candle is extinguished.

Please stand

LESSON OF FULFILLMENT

**John 19:17-30
Pew Bible, p. 1073**

Please sit

The third candle is extinguished.

CHOIR ANTHEM

***“The Blood of the Lamb”
Hymn 418***

*The Father sees his children’s chains. From Pharaoh’s land they cry in pain.
To rescue them, he makes a way: the blood of the lamb.*

*The lamb is slain as sun is set — a perfect lamb, without defect.
They stain their doors with innocence: the blood of the lamb.*

*As midnight looms, the hour of death, God seeks the firstborn, steals their breath,
but passes o’er doors drenched in red: the blood of the lamb.*

*Children of God, we too were slaves: our master — sin! Our end — the grave!
But freedom came in crimson shades: the blood of the Lamb.*

*This perfect Lamb is Jesus Christ. He gave himself as sacrifice.
His life poured out, the final price: the blood of the Lamb.*

*The blood he spilled, the life he spent, he gives us now in sacrament.
Eternal life on Christ depends: the blood of the Lamb.*

SERMON

HYMN

***“Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted”
Hymn 430***

The fourth candle is extinguished.

BIDDING PRAYER

The *bidding prayer* is an ancient form of prayer in which a minister bids or invites the congregation to pray.

M: Let us pray for the whole Church, that our gracious Father would defend her from the devil and keep her faithful to her Lord.

Silent prayer

M: Almighty and everlasting God, you have revealed your saving name to the world through Jesus Christ our Lord. Protect us from the assaults of the evil one, and help us remain faithful to your Word so that in every adversity we may stand firm in our faith and give ourselves fully to our Savior's work, through Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

M: Let us pray for those who serve in the public ministry and for all people of God.

Silent prayer

M: Almighty and everlasting God, you rule over all things for the good of your people. Preserve us from divisive spirits and false teachers. Give your servants the grace to proclaim Christ joyfully in word and deed so that all who hear them may come to know their Savior better and be strengthened for their lives of service, through Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

M: Let us pray for those who are being instructed in the Word, that they remain firm in the simple faith of Baptism.

Silent prayer

M: Almighty and everlasting God, you make us your own dear children by the washing of rebirth and renewal in the Holy Spirit. Give strength to all who are buried with Christ in Baptism, that each day they may die to sin and rise again to live new and holy lives, through Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

M: Let us pray for our earthly government, our rulers, and all who are in authority.

Silent prayer

M: Almighty and everlasting God, you have established earthly government to keep a measure of order in this dying world and to protect us from the disorder of sin. Give to all rulers the wisdom to govern well and to all citizens the desire to obey them, so that we may live peaceful lives in all godliness and holiness, through Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

M: Let us pray that our gracious Father would protect us and our communities from the many earthly calamities that threaten us.

Silent prayer

M: Almighty and everlasting God, on all sides we are surrounded by danger from wars and famine, from disease and pestilence, with the devil begrudging us every minute of our lives. Protect us from all these miseries so that your name may still be glorified in them and so that we may safely pass through them to your heavenly kingdom, through Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

M: Let us pray for those who are outside the Church that they may come to know the one true God and Jesus Christ whom he has sent.

Silent prayer

M: Almighty and everlasting God, your Son was lifted up on the cross so that he might draw all people to himself. Through the proclamation of your Word, mercifully gather from the nations a people that are your very own, that we may join together around your throne in glory to praise and thank you forever, through Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

M: Let us pray for our enemies and for all those who hate us.

Silent prayer

M: Almighty and everlasting God, no one can harm us without grieving you, whose name we bear. We ask that you would change the hearts of those who work against us and who hate us without reason. Give them repentance and faith so that they may be glad with us and find joy in your love, through Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

M: Let us pray for all who suffer under cross and trial:

Silent prayer

M: Almighty and everlasting God, you sent your Son into the world to bear our griefs and to carry our sorrows. Help those who are suffering for your name's sake and who are struggling against temptation, that they may not be overwhelmed with sadness but find relief in your grace, through Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

M: Finally, let us pray for all those things for which our Lord would have us ask in the words he himself has taught us.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

A moment of silence.



RESPONSE

"O Sacred Head, Now Wounded"
Hymn 428 (st. 3)

Sung by the congregation

3 What lan - guage shall I bor - row to thank you,
dear - est Friend, for this, your dy - ing sor - row, your
pit - y with - out end? O make me yours for -
ev - er, and keep me strong and true; Lord,
let me nev - er, nev - er out - live my love for you.

The fifth candle is extinguished.

LESSON

John 19:31-42
Pew Bible, p. 1074

The sixth candle is extinguished.

The seventh candle is removed.

A TIME OF SILENCE FOR MEDITATION
THE STREPITUS

The seventh candle is returned.

CLOSING HYMN
Sung by the choir

“O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”
Hymn 429 (st. 7)

*Lord, be my consolation, my shield when I must die;
Remind me of your passion when my last hour draws nigh.
My eyes will then behold you, upon your cross will dwell;
My heart will then enfold you – who dies in faith dies well!*

OFFERING

*If you prefer online giving, you may scan
this code with your mobile device.*



*The congregation may remain for prayer and meditation before leaving silently.
If you wish to speak to the pastor, please go to his office (door near the piano).*

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We welcome you to come and worship with us again.

Easter Sunday Services at 9:00am & 11:00 am

We also invite you to join us for Easter Fellowship, downstairs in the Fellowship Hall, between the services.

For all, we have food and fellowship. For our young children (preschool to grade 5), we have a special Easter activity and egg hunt.

Egg hunters gather in the Fellowship Hall to go on the hunt at about 10:30.

We won’t mind if you help clean up.