

## The Crucifixion

John 19:30

Trinity Lutheran – Kearney, Missouri

March 30, 2018 – Good Friday



In the name of the Father, and † of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. As we read through the Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ during this season of Lent, were you counting? There were at least four I found. “Four what?” you ask – four fulfillments of the Old Testament Scriptures. *“They divided My garments among them and cast lots for My clothing,”* comes to us from Psalm 22:19. That’s one. Then from Psalm 69:21 we see another, where Matthew writes concerning the crucifixion: *“...knowing that all was now completed, and so that the Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, ‘I thirst.’ A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of a hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus’ lips.”* That’s two. Number three is when the soldiers didn’t break Jesus’ legs, but instead only sliced open His side in fulfillment of Exodus 12:46, Numbers 9:12, and Psalm 34:20, where it says: *“‘Not one of His bones will be broken.’”* And the fourth is from Zechariah 12:10, which reads: *“‘They will look on the One whom they have pierced.’”*

So, Jesus dies just as He lived – completely fulfilling the Father’s will according to the Scriptures. To be sure, it was no less than Jesus Himself on the day He rose from the dead who declared: *“Everything must be fulfilled that is written about Me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms.”* And early on in John’s Gos-

pel he records the words of our Lord when He spoke to His opponents, saying: *“These are the Scriptures that testify about Me.”* And then later, after Jesus’ Ascension, Saint Paul would put it this way in his first letter to the Church at Corinth: *“For what I received, I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that He was buried, and that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.”*

The suffering and death of Jesus happens according to the Scriptures. So when Jesus dies, it is most fitting for Him to declare: *“It is finished.”* For with these words spoken from the cross, all the Scriptures *are* fulfilled. The mission *is* accomplished. What the Father *“sent”* Jesus to do *is* completed in full – perfectly. John the Baptist identified and proclaimed Jesus to be *“the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.”* And now Jesus, the Passover Lamb, has been slain. His blood, divine blood, flowed from His wounds, His head and His side. It drenched the wood of the tree, and stained the ground a deep, crimson red. Behold the blood of the New Testament. The blood of God that cleanses sinners from every sin – every sin that’s every been committed by you – all the sins you’ve forgotten about – those sins you didn’t even know you committed – the sin you hate – yes, the sin you love, for we all love sinning. His blood even co-

vers all the sin that's been committed against you in whatever ways people hurt you. All of it has been taken away by the Lamb of God, Jesus, in His dying **for you**. The salvation job is done – finite – finished!

Is there any sin for which Jesus didn't die? Can you name one? And even if you tried you'd be wrong, because Jesus didn't leave any sin uncleansed by His Lamb of God blood. Are there any sinners for whom Jesus didn't die? Can you think of one? The same is true here, too. Even if you tried to name one, you'd be wrong, for Jesus didn't leave any sinner unstained from His Paschal Lamb blood. He is the Savior who proclaims: ***"It is finished."*** In other words He's saying: ***"Behold. The world and Satan have done everything they could do to Me. They've given it their all, and I've suffered it all – including bearing the penalty for all the world's sin in My own body. I was crushed for your iniquities. The punishment you deserved I took in your place to redeem you from your lost, condemned condition."*** Jesus, our Savior, fulfills the Scriptures **for you** and **for your salvation**.

And now faith uses this Good Friday Lamb of God, Jesus, who has taken away your sin. How? Listen to what the author of the letter to the Hebrews writes: ***"Let us then approach the throne of grace with***

***confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need."***

So, dear sinner, use Jesus properly. Use Him against your sin. Let Him be the Mediator He came to be. Let Him stand between your sin and God's wrath – as through His pastors who are given to preach the Gospel **to you**, He speaks the promise of forgiveness **for you**. When your pastor absolves you, you're hearing Christ's forgiveness – the very same forgiveness He won **for you** on the cross. And in the Sacrament of the Altar, when you hear the words of Jesus, you're hearing our Savior Himself speaking **to you** as He audaciously promises that you are forgiven in His body and blood which are ***"given and shed for you for the forgiveness of your sins."*** So **here** is how faith clings to Jesus for divine mercy and God's gracious favor in your time of need. You know you're going to have many times of need and many crises throughout your life – the biggest one being death. But know this, dear Christian, Jesus has that covered, too. His "It Is Finished" death has converted the grave into the doorway to heaven and everlasting life – all in fulfillment of the Scriptures – and all done **for you**. Amen

And now that peace of God, which passes all understanding, will keep your hearts and minds in that one true faith in Christ Jesus unto life everlasting. Amen.