

WEEKLY DEVOTION – Tuesday, July 12, 2022
Pastor Bruce Kischnick, Grace Lutheran Church, New Albany, IN

“IT IS FINISHED!”

READING: John 19:28-30 – Later, knowing that all was now completed, and so that the Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, “I am thirsty.” A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus’ lips. When he had received the drink, Jesus said, “It is finished.” With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

It is finished! The contractors came last week to finish up the last of the punch list we had made for them, we settled up, and our bathroom remodeling job is FINISHED! Oh, my! We started the whole process back in January of 2021. The first contractor bailed out without a word or explanation. The next one we hired has just about become a member of the family, and we are very happy with the outcome. But we ran into supply chain problem after supply chain problem from windows to drawer glides to shower glass. We had to wait on the plumber, the electrician, the tile man, and the drywall guy. And, as you probably know, contractors don’t just do one job at a time. They juggle two, three, or more to keep the cash flow viable. So I am most happy to announce that the job is FINISHED! DONE! COMPLETE and AT AN END!

When Jesus spoke those three words at the end of his ordeal, he wasn’t just talking about his agony coming to its end. He wasn’t just announcing that he could feel the icy breath of death come upon him bringing a blessed end to his suffering. He wasn’t really much talking about his own situation, but he was announcing something far more precious to you and me. He was declaring that God’s sovereign plan of salvation had reached its climax. The payment for the sins of mankind was about to be consummated. The sacrifice required to bring reconciliation between God and mankind was about to be made.

You see, as early as Genesis 3:15 God had declared, “...I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.” From that moment on, God began to plan for that one singular moment on a cross outside Jerusalem. He left a “bread crumb trail” through the Scriptures hinting at the identity and the actions of his “Anointed One”, the “Suffering Servant”, the Messiah. Those hints and pictures were there to comfort and forewarn the Children of Israel about the “Coming One” so they could take comfort in God’s promise of redemption and be watching for his eventual coming. Those hints and pictures are also there for you and me, so by our study of the Old Testament we can see the fulfillment of its prophecies in the life of Jesus.

As he hung suspended from that dreadful cross, bleeding, dying, and rejected by mankind and his Heavenly Father, Jesus became the Scape Goat of the Day of Atonement. On him were placed the sins of all people, and “...he who knew no sin became sin for us.” As he prepared to lay down his life, he had suffered the Father’s wrath for us. He was utterly alone on that cross though surrounded by people. Even the presence of his mother and the disciple John gave Jesus no comfort for he suffered the isolation and emptiness of hell, his Father having turned away from him because all he could see was the sin of the world on that one lone figure. Now, at the moment of his death, Jesus knew he had completed his mission. He knew that the sacrifice required had been offered up – one pure Lamb of God who now takes away the sins of the world. Now he can bow his head, commend his spirit to God, and die in peace trusting that on the Third Day the Father would raise him up as proof positive that the sacrifice at the cross was acceptable and complete.

I have to tell you that having the remodel job all done is most welcome in our house. We have camped out in our own home for months. Becky’s clothes and toiletries have been upstairs. My clothes and toiletries have been in the basement. We’ve had dust settle everywhere, various items stacked in the garage, and

strangers in and out of the house week after week. For two weeks our son Dan and his family lived with us as they awaited their move to New York, and we were all scattered throughout the house. But it's done! It is finished! And we are glad!

The salvation that Jesus won for us in the moment of his death makes us glad, too. It also makes us thankful, hopeful, faithful, and sad. To know what terrors our Lord experienced to save a "wretch like me" – we can only give to him our love, our trust, and our hearts. His cry, "It is finished!" is for our joy, our knowledge, and our eternity. Thanks be to Jesus. Amen.

PRAYER:

ANNOUNCEMENT(S): Pastor Woods is on vacation this week and I will follow suit next week. Becky and I are headed to Ithaca, New York to see where our son Dan and family have settled. I'll let you know what we find there on the next go-around. God bless you.