

# Eastern Mission

Apostolic Lutheran Church of America

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## IT IS FINISHED

**John 19:30: "When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, He said, 'It is finished': and He bowed His head and gave up the ghost."** What does it mean to us when we hear Jesus say it is finished? We know that Jesus' life on this earth was finished. It is true that He died to this life; His life here was done. Jesus says in **John 17:4, "I have glorified thee (God) on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do."** In this verse, Jesus is saying that His work on this earth was finished. He had healed the sick and the lame, brought people who had died back to life, and comforted the sorrowful. He rebuked those that exalted themselves, taught that we should be as He is, and though He was master of all, He became a servant to all. But oh, His death meant much more than just His life being finished here on earth. The week of the greatest work ever performed on earth was just beginning!

Jesus's work here on earth was done to please the Father in heaven by providing a way in which His fallen children could be reconciled to Him. That is, we need a way to get rid of our sin so that we can stand rightly before God and be acceptable to Him. God knew that because of our fall and sin in the Garden of Eden, we would never be able to rightly stand before Him. He knew that the only remedy for sin was death. And if we die with our sins, we will go to hell because sinners are not allowed into heaven. So, our Father in heaven had to come up with a way that our sins could be forgiven. That way could not have anything to do with man's ability to perform the Father's will.

Once Jesus was finished with His work on earth, He knew that he had to finish the Father's will, which was to take away the sins of the world. My sins alone would have been enough burden and pain to cause the death of Jesus, and rightfully so as the wages of sin is death. But as He hung on the cross, He could feel the weight of not only my sin, but yours, along with sins of the whole world.

Remember when Jesus began to tell His disciples what was coming in the days ahead, and how He was going to suffer and die. Peter said told Jesus that he wouldn't leave His side: **Mark 14:27-31: "And Jesus saith unto them, 'All Ye (that includes me and you) shall be offended because of me this night: for it is written, I will smite the shepherd, and, and the sheep shall be scattered'. (28) But after that I am risen, I will go before you into Galilee. (29) But Peter said unto Him, although all shall be offended, yet will not I. (30) And Jesus saith unto him, verily I say unto thee, That this day, even in this night, before the cock crow twice thou, shalt deny me thrice. (31) But he (Peter) spake the more vehemently, If I should die with thee, I will not deny thee in any wise. (then hear what it says) Likewise also said they all."** Jesus was beginning to feel the weight and the pain of our sins. In one place it says he began to sweat blood. The suffering was so great that Jesus asked the Father if there could be another way to redeem us: **Mark 14: 36: "Jesus said Abba Father, all things are possible unto thee; take away this cup from me; nevertheless not what I will, but what thou wilt."** Think about how our Father in heaven must have been feeling, knowing that there no other way to save man. We can understand why God in heaven could not bear to look at his Son and looked away from Him. (JESUS BORE IT ALL ALONE). **Mark 15:34** reads, **"My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken me?"** Here is where the verse we started with comes into play, **John 19:28-30 28: "After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scriptures might be fulfilled saith, 'I thirst'. (29) Now there was set a vessel full of vinegar: and they filled a sponge with vinegar, and put it upon hyssop, and put it to his mouth. (when my wife and I were in Israel, our guide told us that the sponge that they used was from a pail of dirty sponges that were used for wiping after using the toilet). (30) When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is FINISHED: and he bowed his head and gave up the ghost."**

It is FINISHED, it is FINISHED! Sin had had its say. It should have been my burden, but Jesus bore it all the way to the cross. The cross that was the place where criminals were executed for their sins. Oh that we would come to the end ourselves in trying to please our God with our own righteousness, give up, and say, "I am finished". That we would give up this life of ours and by faith believe that what our Savior FINISHED on the cross. And our life is now hid in Christ the Lord. Praise the Lord that the grave couldn't hold Him and that He arose and conquered SIN!!!!

God's Peace,  
Ken Matson