

John 19:30

**“τετέλεσται: It is Finished!”**

**Good Friday**

April 3, 2026

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, West Salem, Wisc.

Pastor Peter Adelsen

Grace, mercy, and peace be to you from God our Father and from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! Amen! Dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

***“After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), ‘I thirst.’ A jar of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to His mouth. When Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, ‘It is finished,’ and He bowed His head and gave up His spirit”*** (John 19:28-30).

Τετέλεσται (tetelestai). One word in Greek. Three words in English. “It is finished.”

Tetelestai. It sounds almost like a word of resignation, of relief, perhaps, that the suffering was coming to an end. Maybe that’s what so many observing the crucifixion of Jesus thought. But it had to be more than that.

Tetelestai. That’s a strange word to hear from the mouth of a man who is preparing to give Himself up to death. “It is finished.” Or more literally, “Fulfilled, completed, accomplished, done.”

Tetelestai. This sounds more like a word an artist would say when finished with a masterpiece, or when a poet lays down his pen after writing the perfect poem, or when a craftsman runs his hand along the table he’s been laboring over and at last is satisfied that it’s all he intended it to be. “It is finished.”

Jesus, the Lamb of God, voluntarily went to the cross *“uncomplaining forth”* to complete God’s plan of salvation. Jesus was not saying that the wicked plot against Him was finished. He was declaring that His task as the One and only Son of the heavenly Father was finished.

Earlier in John 10, He said: ***“For this reason the Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it up again. No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of My own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from My Father”*** (John 10:17-18).

The Craftsman of the first creation, through whom *“all things were made ... and without whom nothing was made that has been made”* (John 1:3), is tonight finishing up a new project as He hangs upon the cross, crucified for sinners.

It's like creation all over again. Jesus now restores a creation that had fallen from its perfection, from its *“good”* and *“very good”* (Genesis 1), by the deceit of the devil and the sin of humanity.

This is why Good Friday is good. Upon that cross, *“stricken, smitten and afflicted,”* we meet not only the carpenter through whom the world was made, but we meet Him as a man, the carpenter from Nazareth.

As the New Adam born of the Virgin Mary, He stands in the place of the First Adam.

God had entrusted dominion over the world to Adam, and yet he surrendered it all to the devil. He let sin and death in and thus placed this world out of joint with God, under wrath and judgment.

But on this Good Friday, we meet the New Adam. And unlike the old, this man does not give in to the devil's lies and deceit. This New Adam has come to destroy the works of the evil one, to expose his lies, to deliver humanity from his clutches, and to hand our race back to God the Father.

In the Garden, Satan implied that God was holding out on Adam and Eve and so it would be best to look out for themselves. Humanity has been doing that ever since.

Yet, here for once, stood a Man, true Man, our very Brother, who refused that lie. He knew His Father was not holding out on us, but holding out to us more hope and life than we could ever dream or desire.

Tonight, we remember how Jesus completed the task that we have been given: flawless human obedience.

Tetelestai. He accomplished man's perfect obedience even unto death upon a cross. He, the Creator Himself, came into our flesh to offer that perfect obedience to His Father, that He might give it to all who cling to Him as His own.

Tetelestai. His perfect righteousness is now yours by grace through faith in Jesus Christ alone.

Tetelestai. With that word, Jesus put the explanation point on the purposefulness of His death. With His authority, He laid down His life for you. He bowed His head and gave up His spirit. Upon the cross extended, Jesus died to give you forgiveness, life and salvation.

Tetelestai. It is finished! Salvation is complete! Amen.

*The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding,  
keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus, our Lord. Amen.*

**+ SOLI DEO GLORIA +**