

Good Friday Online Service

“It is Finished”

Greetings, I am Jacob Hanson, and I am blessed to be the minister of Kasson and Pleasant Corners United Methodist Churches. We have at this point already heard most of Jesus’s last words, but there is a final thing He must speak before He yields up His Spirit. John 19:30 gives us those words. “Therefore when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, ‘It is finished!’ And He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.” “It is Finished” are the final words heard before Christ willingly dies for our sins. The meaning should not be lost on us. At this point Jesus, having tasted the sour wine, has now fulfilled all the scriptures and prophecies about His life up until His death. He has done what He was destined to do, and all that is left is to finish the salvific work by yielding up His life in sacrifice. There are no more healings to be done, no more teachings to be given, before He enters the tomb. “It is finished.”

The work that is completed on Good Friday is the most important thing ever done in the history of humanity. Jesus, by going to the cross and doing all that He has desired to do, has made a way for sinful man to be in communion with God. Without this act, without finishing His work, there is no heavenly peace to be attained. Without His death there is no sacrifice. Without His death there is no Easter Sunday to be celebrated, no eternal life to behold. One of Jesus’s earlier teachings should come to mind, that from the Last Supper where He declares in Matthew 26:28 “For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.” On the cross His body and blood are indeed shed. This makes possible the forgiveness for our sins, He completes His mission to save all who call upon Him. He finishes it. At the moment the people around Jesus have no idea what He is saying. They see the great earthquake after, the temple veil torn in two, and the dead holy men walking around Jerusalem, but they don’t yet understand what Jesus has completed. The disciples cannot imagine it, the Jewish leaders think they have won, the Romans assume just another person has been put to death. But as we know as Christians, Good Friday, as awful as it is, does not mark the end of Jesus. His mission to save men’s souls may be accomplished, His goal of doing all the Messiah was prophesied to do is over, but He is not done.

On Good Friday it is good and right for us to remember our sins Beloved, to remember what it cost for us to have eternal life. Jesus, fully God and fully man, perfect in every way and sinless in every way, bears our burden to the fullest. He completes the task, He finishes it, He pays our price, He bears our cross. After He speaks this truth, indeed, “it is finished.” Let us pray.

Closing Prayer