

LORD JESUS,
ABIDE
WITH ME

LENTEN DEVOTION #5

THE WORK OF REDEMPTION IS FINISHED;
OUR SALVATION IS WON!

APRIL 10, 2019

Morning Devotion

OPENING RESPONSE

L: God, our Father, each day is a gift of Your grace.

G: Your mercies are new every morning.

L: Guide our steps by the light of Your Word.

G: Shield us from harm and keep us from evil.

L: Better than life is Your love.

**G: Put joy in our hearts and praise on our lips.
Amen.**

PRAYER FOR GRACE

L: O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, You have brought us safely to this new day. Defend us with Your mighty power, and grant that this day we neither fall into sin nor run into any kind of danger; and in all we do, direct us to what is right in Your sight, through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord.

G: Amen.

Evening Devotion

OPENING RESPONSE

L: Lord Jesus, You are the light of the world,

G: The light no darkness can overcome.

L: Stay with us, for it is evening,

G: And the day is almost over.

L: Let Your light scatter the darkness.

G: Let it shine in our hearts and lives. Amen.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

L: Lord God, all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works come from You. Give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments. Defend us also from the fear of our enemies, that we may live in peace and quietness, through the merits of Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G: Amen.



1 O dear - est Je - sus, what law have you bro - ken
 2 They crown your head with thorns, they smite, they scourge you;
 3 Whence come these sor - rows, whence this mor - tal an - guish?
 4 What pun - ish - ment so strange is suf - fered yon - der!
 5 The sin - less Son of God must die in sad - ness;



That such sharp sen - tence should on you be spo - ken?
 With cru - el mock - ings to the cross they urge you;
 It is my sins for which you, Lord, must lan - guish;
 The Shep - herd dies for sheep that loved to wan - der;
 The sin - ful child of man may live in glad - ness;



Of what great crime have you to make con -
 They give you gall to drink, they still de -
 Yes, all the wrath, the woe that you in -
 The Mas - ter pays the debt his ser - vants
 We for - feit - ed our lives, yet are ac -



fes - sion— What dark trans - gres - sion?
 cry you; They cru - ci - fy you.
 her - it, This I do mer - it.
 owe him, Who would not know him.
 quit - ted— God is com - mit - ted.

6 I'll think upon your mercy without ceasing,
 That earth's vain joys to me no more be pleasing;
 To do your will shall be my sole endeavor
 Henceforth forever.

7 And when, dear Lord, before your throne in heaven
 To me the crown of joy at last is given,
 Where sweetest hymns your saints forever raise you,
 I too shall praise you.

Text: Johann Heermann, 1585–1647, abr.; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, st. 1-4, 6-7, alt.; *The Lutheran Hymnal*, St. Louis, 1941, st. 5, alt.
 Tune: HERZLIEBSTER JESU (11 11 11 5) Johann Crüger, 1598–1662.

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE

John 19:30 (NIV)

When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished." With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

DEVOTION – THE WORK OF REDEMPTION IS FINISHED; OUR SALVATION IS WON!

In this sixth week of Lent, we see our Savior complete His redemptive work for our salvation with the victorious and triumphant cry, **It is finished**. There is no question that Jesus' life here on earth now had come to an end. He spent thirty-three years upon earth, the last three of which were devoted to His active ministry. He had come into the world for a purpose. He was born into this world, grew up into manhood, and labored in His Father's business. During His ministry He was persecuted. Men sought to entangle Him in His speech. He was rejected by His own people and endured much sorrow and suffering. No wonder He exclaimed, **Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head** (Mt 8:20). No rest, no home was granted Him. His life was full of trial and suffering, a life that finally ended on the cross. **It is finished**. Yet there was more, much more, meant by those words.

<p>What was Jesus' work in life?</p> <p>What was Jesus' work in death?</p> <p>What did Jesus mean when He cried out, It is finished, from the cross?</p>

When we read the first chapter of the Bible, we see how wondrously God created the heavens and the earth and everything contained in them. With special care He created mankind in His own image, according to His own likeness. That means that Adam and Eve were holy and righteous, just as God was holy and righteous. Their sinlessness was founded on a perfect relationship with their heavenly Father. Their will and their thoughts ran parallel to God's will and thoughts. In His love, God placed Adam and Eve in the beautiful garden of Eden where they lived in perfect peace and harmony with their creator.

But by disobedience, mankind lost that image of God through sin and death was the result—spiritual death for all mankind. Instead of continuing to live in peace and harmony with God, they now hid themselves for fear of God. Yes, sin entered into the world and death by sin. For the Lord had said, **You must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die** (Gen 2:17). But even though man became unfaithful, God remained faithful to His fallen creatures. Instead of casting them out, which is what they deserved, God in His grace gave them

something to hold on to. He gave them the promise of a Savior who would bear their sin for them and conquer sin, death, and the power of the devil.

This promise of One who would save all mankind from the clutches of Satan was repeated again and again and manifested more clearly from generation to generation until Isaiah prophesied the very particulars of His life and death. He spoke of Him as the Son whose name would be called **Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace** (Is 9:6). He also described His suffering and death. He said of the Messiah, **His appearance was so disfigured beyond that of any human being and His form marred beyond human likeness** (Is 52:14). The world would be astonished at the enormity of His sufferings. So despised would He be that the preaching concerning Him would be a stumbling block and a rock of offense to those who would hear it. He would be a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief, so that we would hide our faces from Him. He was to be brought as a lamb to the slaughter. He would be taken from prison and from judgment, delivered to the Gentiles, cut off from the land of the living as a criminal, and buried with the wicked (Is 53).

All this was now to be fulfilled. Every service and every sacrifice pointed toward the time when the all-atoning and all-sufficient sacrifice would be given. When Jesus died on the cross—when He said, **It is finished**—all this was complete. Scripture was fulfilled. The New Testament time and again points to Him and His work and assures us that He triumphed in every battle with the kingdom of darkness and overcame the power of Satan and hell in His death. What God had asked of His Son was finished; God’s plan for our salvation was accomplished. Jesus had reached the end of His labors. He had performed the staggering task which He undertook in God’s plan before the world began.

Search the scriptures and turn to the cross and learn how our Lord Jesus accomplished the work for which He was sent. Do you look for the foreshadowing of Jesus in the bronze snake in the desert, for the Passover Lamb’s delivering blood in Egypt, or for Him who was to suffer so terribly as described in Psalms 22 and 69 and who would endure a criminal’s horrible death even to the cry of, **My God my God why have you forsaken me** (Ps 22:1)? All is found in Him who was crucified and finally cried out, **It is finished**.

What other pictures of Christ can you think of from the Old Testament that were fulfilled at the cross?

And still there is more, much more. Jesus not only finished His work for which He was sent, but through that perfect suffering and death He wrought our salvation. Yes, the work of redemption is complete; our salvation is won!

To complete His redemptive work—to accomplish and win salvation for us—Jesus had to struggle with and fight against powerful satanic forces that fought fiercely and furiously against Him. If we would have had to wage this battle ourselves, we would have been overthrown and defeated. But Jesus fought for us and obtained the victory. He and He alone could “foil the tempter’s power.” The very forces of hell were released with relentless fury against Jesus during His passion, but the captain of our salvation did not yield for an instant. From what seemed to be certain defeat, Jesus snatched victory. Therefore, He cried, **It is finished**. This cry is the sound of the great trumpet of jubilee and the proclamation of an eternal salvation.

We are delivered. There is no longer any pause for fear, worry, grief, or anxiety. For **He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on Him, and by His wounds we are healed** (Is 53:5). In like manner, the evangelist Mark recorded Jesus' own testimony, **the Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many** (Mk 10:45). St. Paul wrote, **Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us** (Gal 3:13), and again, **In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins** (Eph 1:7). The Apostle John testified, **This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down His life for us** (1 Jn 3:16). Indeed, our Lord Jesus took our sins upon Himself, fulfilled the law for us, and paid the penalty for our sins upon the cross. So when He said, **It is finished**, He was not only saying to God, **Your will be done**, but He was also saying to us, **Redemption is accomplished; Your salvation is won!**

Oh, may we always truly appreciate and humbly embrace what our Lord Jesus has done for us. Our guilt was great. We were lost and condemned creatures; the curse of death, hell, and damnation was our rightful lot. But all of this was done away with when Jesus said, it is finished. We have the riches of His grace and mercy. By His grace we who were sinners have now been forgiven. We who were separated from God because of our iniquities have now been reconciled to God. We who were under the curse and condemnation of the law have now been saved. St. Paul assures us, **there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus** (Ro 8:1). The word of judgment to sinners, **Depart from Me, you who are cursed** (Mt 7:23), is muted, and instead we hear the comforting news, **you are washed, you are sanctified, you are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ** (1 Co 6:11).

Our Lord continues to give us this beautiful and precious gospel truth in His precious Word. Through the Means of Grace—His gospel in Word and Sacrament—He gives us His Holy Spirit and leads us to appreciate and receive with thanksgiving all that He has done for us. He who accomplished and won our salvation continues to be “our guide, our staff, and our stay.” And when we finish our course here on earth, He will open the doors of His heavenly home to us.

What do Jesus' words, **It is finished**, mean for your future?

What do they mean for you now as you live out your life in this world?

May we ever treasure and believe the comfort and hope in our Savior's words, **It is finished**. We continue to fasten our eyes of faith on His cross and receive from His death the blessed confidence that our sins are forgiven and salvation is ours.

Closing Prayer:

Lord Jesus, until the joyous day of salvation is fully ours, we humbly pray: Abide with us. Give us the strength to endure the trials and temptations of our lives. Give us faith which rests on Your victory over sin, death, and the devil.



5 I need thy pres - ence ev - 'ry pass - ing hour.



What but thy grace can foil the tempt - er's pow'r?



Who like thy - self my guide and stay can be?



Through cloud and sun - shine, oh, a - bide with me!

CONFESSION OF SINS AND ABSOLUTION

G: O Lord, hear my prayer, listen to my cry for mercy, and in Your faithfulness, come to my relief. Do not bring Your servant into judgment, for no one living is righteous before you. Answer me quickly, O Lord; my spirit fails. Do not hide Your face from me, for I have put my trust in You. Show me the way I should go, for to You I lift up my soul. Teach me to do Your will, for You are my God.

Almighty God, merciful Father, I, a troubled and repentant sinner, confess that I have sinned against You in my thoughts, my words, and my actions. I have not loved You with my whole heart; I have not loved others as I should. I am distressed by the sins that trouble me and am deeply sorry for them.

Silence for private meditation and confession.

L: Jesus says to His people: “If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven.” His death paid for the guilt of your sins and the sins of the whole world. Do you believe this?

G: Yes, I believe.

L: Because of the promise of our Savior Jesus, I forgive you all your sins. Be assured that you are a dear child of God and an heir of eternal life.

LUTHER’S MORNING PRAYER

In the Name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger. Keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. Into Your hands I commend my body and soul and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen.

BLESSING

May the love of the Lord Jesus draw us to Himself. May the power of the Lord Jesus make us strong to do His will. May the peace of the Lord Jesus fill our lives.

Amen.

LUTHER’S EVENING PRAYER

In the Name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day. Forgive me all my sins, and graciously keep me this night. Into Your hands I commend my body and soul and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen.

BLESSING

May the blessing of the eternal God be upon us:
His light to guide us,
His presence to shelter us,
His peace to unite us.

Amen.



1 Be - hold the Lamb of God For guilt - y sin - ners
 2 Be - hold the Lamb of God! In - to the sa - cred
 3 Be - hold the Lamb of God! All hail, in - car - nate
 4 Be - hold the Lamb of God! Wor - thy is he a -



slain; Let it not be in vain That you have died!
 flood Of your most pre-cious blood My soul I cast.
 Word! O ev - er - last - ing Lord, Purge out our leav'n.
 lone To sit up - on the throne Of God a - bove,



You for my Sav - ior let me take; My on - ly
 Wash me and make me pure and clean; Up - hold me
 Clothe us with god - li - ness and good; Feed us with
 One with the An - cient of all days, One with the



ref - uge let me make Your pierc - ed side.
 through life's chang - ing scene Till all is past.
 your ce - les - tial food, Man - na from heav'n.
 Com - fort - er in praise, All light, all love!

Text: Matthew Bridges, 1800–94, abr., alt.

Tune: ECCE AGNUS (66 64 884) *Gesangbuch . . . Psalmen unnd KirchenLieder*, Dresden, 1593, adapt.