Sermon for Tre Ore (Sixth Word), March 30, 2018

John 19:30

Rev. Micah Bauer

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

“It is finished.” All is now complete. Everything has been fulfilled. My work here is done.

I have come in human flesh. I have redeemed human flesh. I have kept the Commandments; I have fulfilled the Law’s demands. I have proclaimed God’s Word—I have sown the seed of the kingdom of God. I have given sight to the blind, strength to the lame, words to the mute, life to the dead. I have banished the demons—I have faced off against Satan himself and overcome. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. I have completed my mission. I have saved my people. It is finished.

I have united God and man in my very own flesh—what sin had torn asunder, I have knit together. In me, humanity perfectly bears the image of God. In me, the fullness of God is pleased to dwell bodily. It is complete.

There is nothing lacking in my perfect, willing sacrifice. There is no sin which my blood has not drenched, no stain which my blood has not cleansed, no transgression which my blood has not covered. With my blood, I have purchased and won my people. With my blood, I have taken their death. With my blood, I have secured for them eternal life. Blood for blood, life for life: the Father accepts me in their place. I, the Lamb of God, gladly bear my people’s sin; I gladly own their shame; I gladly die their death. I do, so that they will not. All is now complete.

No longer will my people be enslaved to sin. There is not a single sin left for which I have not perfectly atoned—not now, not ever. I have taken the guilt of every offense; I have covered every sinner with my righteousness; I have kept every single Law of God on their behalf. Everything has been fulfilled.

No longer will my people be enslaved to Satan. No longer can he command their destinies. No longer can he manipulate them, control them, overtake them. The devil is defeated; the accuser is condemned. See, his head lies under my pierced feet. His hell will not be filled to the brim like he had hoped. He may continue to breathe lies, but they are just a vain breath when they confront my Spirit in my people. Satan’s tyrannical rule is henceforth overthrown. It is over.

No longer will my people be enslaved to death. Though he die, yet shall he live. Everyone who receives the first death of baptism will not taste the second death of eternal condemnation. My blood for theirs; my life for theirs; my death for theirs. Death’s fate is being sealed even as it swallows me. It is finished.

It is done. It is complete. It is whole. It is enough. It is finished.