



John 19:30

Good Friday, April 18, 2025
Pastor Sam Rodebaugh

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

When all was said and done that dark Friday, Jesus ***"bowed his head and gave up his spirit."*** On the cross, the Son of Man and Son of God died, and the soldiers pierced His side to prove it. Then they placed Him in a nearby tomb. I read one commentator who described it this way: *"He began and ended His life in the same way—wrapped in cloths and laid in borrowed quarters."* Hardly what our Savior and our God deserves.

But before He died, Jesus gave a cry—it was **The Cry of Victory, "It is finished!"** This is the last Sound of the Passion that we will be considering—we saved the best for last. Now, these other sounds that we've considered, I can imagine what they sounded like. I know what the crowing of a rooster sounds like; I can hear the shout of the crowd. I know what weeping sounds like, and I can imagine the sound a bag full of coins makes clattering to the floor. The thud of a hammer, the rattle of dice, a splash of water—these are all things I've heard before.

But **The Cry of Victory**, I'm not sure what that sounded like. We don't know if Jesus shouted these words in a loud voice or if He forced them out between ragged breaths. John may have been the only one near enough to hear Him utter these words; he's the only Gospel writer to record them. Yet whether it was loudly or merely the faintest whisper, this most joyful sound echoed throughout heaven and earth—and even hell!—and has continued to echo through time. Echoing through this sin-wrecked world, this **Cry of Victory** gives eternal hope and comfort to believers like you and me. **"It is finished."**

What is finished, exactly? All of it! **It is finished:** the suffering that Jesus had to endure for the sins of the world. **It is finished:** the full payment, complete punishment for your sins and mine already doled out. **It is finished:** God will not punish you over your sins, because the punishment has already been levied. **It is finished:** since God was the one who did it, we know it was done completely and perfectly. **It is finished:** Satan cannot use your sins to accuse you any longer. **It is finished:** your conscience need not be burdened by guilt anymore. **It is finished:** death can no longer haunt you. **It is finished:** hell has no power *over* you because Christ Jesus was crucified *for* you.

And we know for certain that it was truly finished right then and there, because in the Gospel of Luke, we're told that Jesus spoke once more to His Father. He said, ***"Father, into Your hands I commit my spirit."*** (Luke 23:46) God's face was once again turned *to* His Son. The punishment was over, the sacrifice accepted. Father and Son were at peace once more.

Now, this is a somber day; and our Tenebrae service of darkness is intended to reflect that. And as we follow along as Jesus walks the Way of Sorrows, step after relentless step, sorrow over our sins is the appropriate reaction. Yet, let this be the final sound in your ears as you leave the sanctuary this evening: **The Cry of Victory, "It is finished."** This means that *your* punishment is over and that God is at peace with you. God now lifts His countenance upon you and gives *you* peace. And because of this cross and this final Sound of the Passion, on that day when each of us finishes our earthly journey, we can gently bow our heads and also commend our spirits into our Father's hands. For this God of all power and love will take us, will call us by name and will bring us into His eternal glory. May God grant it to us, in Jesus' name. Amen.