

GOOD FRIDAY THESAURUS

Sermon for Good Friday – Jn 13:1-17, 31b-35

LPC, 3/29/13

It is finished. What has gone before is no more. This chapter has closed. Perhaps the whole book has. And there's no turning back.

All has been completed. The I's are dotted; the T's crossed. Every blank is filled. There is nothing left to do. Nothing is wanting.

All has been brought to an end. The process has reached its conclusion. Things have been brought along by various forces, but now those forces are at rest. We are in a state of stasis, balance.

All has been carried out. Every actor in this drama had a role to play but now the play is over. Draw the curtain. Go home. What's been done is done. Like all live drama, the particular reality created by this particular cast on this particular date for this particular audience is gone forever. Perhaps there will be another performance, but things will never be exactly the same.

It is accomplished. Check it off. Cross through it. Cut another notch on the rifle barrel.

It is paid up. Your taxes are current. The debt is paid. The mortgage is retired. Your balance is zero. You owe nothing further.

It is consummated. Signed. Sealed. Delivered. Ratified. Legal. Finalized.

All of these words are implicit in Jesus' last speech. For Jesus, saying, "It is finished" does not equal "The End." Because of the particular Greek verb used, and because of its tense (passive perfect) all of what I've said so far is contained in this one word:

It is finished. All has been completed. It is brought to an end. All has been carried out. It is accomplished. The tax is paid. All is consummated.

Jesus' life is over: his work and his earthly ministry, but also his trial, humiliation and suffering. They can do more to him.

Jesus' lifework is complete. He has left no blanks. There is nothing wanting.

Jesus is brought to an end. The forces of evil, for the time being, rest, having done their worst. We are in stasis, balanced, waiting.

The Very Rev. Cynthia Byers Walter

Jesus' purpose has been carried out. The play, although it will go into revival many times, will never be recreated with anything like the original cast. Where God is concerned, it will never again be necessary for one innocent man to pay for what the whole wicked world has done. It will never again be necessary for God's own son to be given and murdered.

It is accomplished. Check it off. The tax is paid. The debt is gone. We owe nothing further. The deal is consummated.

There is no going back.

At some point it will be necessary to go forward.

For the time being, however, we stand in the balance. We stand at the base of the cross, numbed, stunned, drained, while the reality we would just as soon deny hammers at us relentlessly, demanding recognition.

It is finished. Anything that happens now will have to be different from everything that has gone before. The time will soon come to move on into what will come, when everything is changed.

But for now, here we stand.

While there he hangs.

It is finished.