

Tetelestai! Paid in full!

Jesus said, "It is finished." With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit. - John 19:30



This week is a very special and somber week - Holy Week. At such services as **Maundy Thursday (7pm)** and **Good Friday (12 noon & 7pm)**, we contemplate our Lord's Passion, His suffering in our place for our sins on the cross once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous. It is our Day of Atonement, and the holiest day of the year (along with Resurrection Sunday).

It was on that cross that Jesus cried out, *Tetelestai!* which is Greek for **"It is finished!"** This is a word used by accountants in the ancient world that meant that one's debts were totally paid off in full. The debtor was totally free from any further obligation to pay anything more - it is finished. As the hymn puts it, "Jesus paid it all, all to Him I owe."

And, yet, while the debt of mankind's sin was paid off in full by Jesus' sacrifice in our place on that first Good Friday, the story, itself, the Gospel story, is not yet finished. For we celebrate three days later the results of redemption: death starts working backwards (as CS Lewis put it)! Jesus rises victorious over death and the grave and appears multiple times to His disciples over a period of 40 days. Thus, Jesus firmly establishes our sure hope of rising from the dead - all those who put their hope in Him.

Then, moving the story along further still, Jesus commissions His followers to go into the world with this message of God's love and redemption in Christ. That's where the book of Acts is born - the Church taking it to the streets with words and acts of love.



This brings us to our task of serving others in our community - not for money, not for prestige or acclaim - but as one small way to say "Thank you, Jesus" for all you paid out for us sinners. We love because He first loved us. With that love we can go out into our community and the world and serve our neighbor as if we were serving the Good Lord, Himself. That is what He wanted.

That is what we need today.

Our **READING MENTORS** sacrifice an hour every **Tuesday from 5pm-6pm** in the Proverbs Coffeehouse. As we give of our time to this end may God grant us all insight into this eternal truth: **"It is more blessed to give than to receive."**
- Acts 20:35.

