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Good Friday

John 19:30

When he had received the drink, Jesus said, “It is finished.” With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit. (NIV84)

Theme: Jesus: the Alpha and the Omega

1. He died physically.
2. He died and eternal death.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. That is how John starts his gospel. Jesus is the Word; Jesus is God. And he is eternal. He was with God in the beginning—before the beginning. And he created the world. Jesus is the almighty, eternal God. That is what the name of Jesus that we consider today tells us. A name that doesn't appear in our text. In fact our text for today almost seems to contradict our name. **Jesus said, “It is finished.” With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.**

He is the Alpha and the Omega. This name is found only three times in the Bible. Each instance is used in Revelation. These are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. The A and the Z. He is the beginning and the end. As we read in Revelation 22, **I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.** He was there at the beginning and he will still be around after the end. Jesus says something similar in Revelation 1, **“I am the Alpha and the Omega who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.”** Jesus is now. He was at the beginning. And he will be forever. This name, The Alpha and the Omega, tells us that Jesus is eternal.

He is the opposite of us. We were not eternal. We were present at creation or before creation. No one here was even around 100 years ago. As Moses once said, **The length of our days is seventy years—or eighty, if we have the strength.** It doesn't matter how strong and healthy we are, we will all die. It's a result of sin. **For the wages of sin is death.** If we weren't sinners, than we would never die. But we do die. It's the consequence of our sins.

Holy Cross, Standish, MI.

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That is why Jesus came. John in chapter one, **The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.** Jesus, the eternal God—the Alpha and Omega, became man. He had a beginning. For he was conceived and born of a virgin. He became under the law so that he could keep the law for us. Not once did he go against God's Word. Not once did he sin, so he wasn't deserving of any kind of punishment. And yet Jesus was arrested. He was accused of blasphemy. He was sentenced to death.

He was mocked and ridiculed. He was blindfolded and hit. Spit upon. Crowned with thorns. Beaten in the head with rods. And he was flogged. Whipped with cords with sharp pieces of metal or bone to make deep gashes and cuts into Jesus' flesh. Or heavy blunt object to inflict deep bruises or perhaps crack some ribs. Jesus, the almighty, eternal, and innocent God, was humiliated and beaten. He suffered not because of his actions, but for ours. It was our sins that caused Jesus to suffer and die.

It didn't take long. Typically death by crucifixion took days. For Jesus, about six hours. He was crucified at about 9 o'clock in the morning. Large nails were punched through his hands and his feet. Large amounts of blood would have been lost by now. Than about noon it became dark. God caused the sun not to shine while his son suffered. For three more hours he hung on that cross. Enduring its pain.

And then at three he cried out in a loud voice, **Father, into your hands I commit my Spirit.** He gave up his life. And he breathed his last. Murdered by the ones he came to save. The life of the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end, was ended. The eternal God, dead. He was in the beginning, and then he was no more. God died. He did this for us. As Isaiah prophesied, **He was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.**

The Alpha and the Omega, the eternal God became a man and suffered and died for us. But he didn't just die a physical death. He also died an eternal death.

That is what we deserve for our sins. The punishment of physical death is bad enough. But our sins deserve so much more. The wages of sin is also eternal death. Eternal suffering with the devil forever for each and every one of our sins. That means we deserve eternal damnation many times over. For our sins every day are too numerous to count. From the times we failed to put God first our lives. To the times when we failed to show to others. We sin numerous times a day. And we need to pay for those sins. Death—physical and eternal is the price God demands for our sins.

And that is the price that Jesus paid for our sins. The physical pain that Jesus endured on the cross wasn't the most painful thing he experienced. As painful as it was to be flogged, crowned with thorns, and have nails driven through his hands and feet, it paled in comparison to the eternal death that Jesus suffered through. He suffered through that eternal death while he was on the cross. We see this when Jesus cried out, **Eloi, Eloi lama sabachthani? My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?** The Father forsook his own son. God forsook Jesus. Because Jesus became a sinner. Isaiah prophesied about it, **The Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.** God transferred our sins to Jesus. On the cross Jesus took all our sins upon himself. He became guilty of everything we have done wrong. He became a sinner like us and for us. Although he had done no wrong he was punished for our sins. He was forsaken by his Heavenly Father. It was on the cross that Jesus died an eternal death. He suffered through an eternity of hell in a few short hours so that we wouldn't spend forever with the devil. The almighty, eternal God, suffered through hell in our place so we could live in heaven. And he gave us his perfect life. Paul says in 2 Corinthians 5, **God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.** Not only did Jesus take all our sins upon himself and suffer the eternal consequences for those sins, he also gave us his perfect life. The life he lived he lived for us he gave to us. We are now considered pure and holy. Jesus took away what we could not have. And he gave us what we needed to have. And so we are now the righteous ones of God. Pure and holy in God's sight, just like his Son.

And so Jesus said the word of our text for today. **It is finished.** Three words in English, one word in Greek. It means to complete, accomplish, to finish a goal. It was a word they used at the marketplace. It marked the completion of a sale. It was kind of like saying, paid in full. Jesus paid our debt in full. He paid the price that we needed to pay for our sins. Jesus' work was finished. His goal of saving us was accomplished. His work as the Messiah, our Savior, has been completed. Our sins have been removed and paid for. Hell has been suffered through. And we have been given his perfect life. Our salvation has been accomplished. His work as our Savior was done. **It is finished.**

And so he bowed his head and breathed his last. He gave up his life. The death of Jesus is a sad day. For an innocent man died. He was brutally punished and severely treated. Jesus was murdered by the very people he was sent to save. A sad and dark day. God himself is dead. But this is not sad Friday, but Good Friday. For Jesus' death is good. For his death means our forgiveness. His death means our righteousness. And it's good for because death wasn't the end of him. His death wasn't eternal. It was only three days. After all, Jesus is the Alpha and the Omega. He is the beginning and the end. He was there before the beginning. And he will be beyond the end. It's good because he became a man and died to make us eternal. For we will live with the Omega beyond the end. Amen.