

Cantate
St. John 16:5-15
April 29th, 2018
Sts. Peter & Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, UAC
Simpsonville, SC
Pastor Jerald Dulas

He Will Glorify Me

In Nomine Iesu!

In the Name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

Prayer in Pulpit before Sermon:

O Lord, send out Thy Light and Thy Truth, let them lead us. O Lord, open Thou my lips, that my mouth may show forth Thy praise. O Lord, graciously preserve me, lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be rejected. Amen.

Grace, mercy, and peace be to you from God our Father and from our Lord and Savior + Jesus Christ. Amen.

The glory of our Lord + Jesus Christ is His obedience to the will of the heavenly Father. He does what His Father wants Him to do. And so, He is glorified; that is pretty simple. However, one must consider what the Father has asked His Son + Jesus, the Christ, to do. The Father's will is that the Son would do two things: First, obey His Law and will perfectly for His creation which are unable of their own accord to keep and obey the Law and will of their heavenly Father. The second, is to suffer, be crucified, die and be buried in the place of His creation.

On this night when our Lord + Jesus is gathered together with His disciples to celebrate the Passover, the first requirement of keeping and obeying the Law is already fulfilled. That is why our Lord declares that all things were now ready. His time had come. He had lived under the Law for the correct amount of time. And now, He must go to the tree of the holy cross to suffer and die for the sins of the whole world. He must now go to the Father; the One Who sent Him; the One Whose will He has obeyed. He must go to the Father to present Himself as the perfect, once and for all time sacrifice for the sins of the whole world, and especially for those who believe on Him.

Having told His disciples this, it is understandable that sorrow has filled the hearts of His disciples. Here they were, enjoying each other's company. There was no more perfect communion and fellowship; a fellowship where Christ was the Head, and they followed Him obediently. Now the Lord + Jesus tells them that this fellowship was going to be broken up. There was going to be someone who betrayed the Lord. The Lord would be arrested and killed. And the rest would all desert the Lord and flee. Even St. Peter would deny Him three times before the rooster crowed. It is understandable that sorrow has filled their hearts. Their fellowship was about to be destroyed.

However, after the Lord goes to the Father; after obeying the heavenly Father's will. The Lord + Jesus would send the Helper—the Holy Ghost. The Holy Ghost would complete the instructing that the Lord was unable to do, because the disciples were not ready for that instruction. The Holy Ghost would guide them into all truth. He would take what belonged to the Lord + Jesus and give it to the disciples, and all those who believed on His Name. The Holy Ghost obeys the will of both the Father and the Son, and in so doing He glorifies the Son. For, He shows this world Who the Son is; He shows this world Who the Savior is.

The Helper that the Lord + Jesus sends for the benefit of His disciples, and us,—the Holy Ghost—has three tasks that He does: He convicts, He teaches, and He comforts. This is very similar to the Office of the Holy Ministry. It is what the Ministers of the Lord do, with the help and guidance of the Holy Ghost. That there are three works of the Holy Ghost makes sense, since from the Fall of Adam and Eve, humanity has been ingrained with three defects on account of sin: mankind is ignorant; living in darkness. Mankind is hard-hearted; we do not like being shown what is right and true. And three, mankind is weak-hearted; they always want to despair in the midst of tribulation and temptation. We do not know how to lift ourselves up.

So then, the Holy Ghost in order to combat our blind eyes, and our ignorance of the Word of God, is sent by the Lord + Jesus to teach us all the things we need to know about our Lord + Jesus for our salvation. This is done by the Word of God; by preaching, by study of the Word of God. The Holy Ghost enlightens our blind eyes to learn of our Lord + Jesus.

To combat our despondency and tendency towards depression and despair the Holy Ghost comes to us as the Comforter; the Helper. He again does this through the Word of God. He lifts us up out of despair over our sins. He sets us on a new path. He comforts us with the Gospel, that our sins are forgiven on account of what the Lord + Jesus Christ did for us on the tree of the holy cross. The Holy Ghost helps us bear our burdens through the preaching of the Word. He extends us a hand through the Word of God to bear us up whenever we are about to sink under the burden of cross and trial. When we think we can bear no more, the Holy Ghost preaches into our ears that the Lord + Jesus has endured greater suffering than we will ever endure, and that the suffering that we endure now, will pass, even if we have to wait until we are called home to Heaven.

Our Lord + Jesus Christ, however, speaks in the Gospel reading about the third task of the Holy Ghost—to convict. This task of the Holy Ghost is to combat our hard-heartedness; our unwillingness to heed the will and law of the Lord God. It is, when we are speaking about conversion, the first task that must be completed. For, a person receives no benefit from teaching and comfort, if his heart has not been first crushed by the hammer of the Law; if His hard heart has not been beaten by the Law until it can receive the Gospel. A person must be convicted of his sins, before he can be taught or receive comfort. The Holy Ghost again does this through the Word of God.

It is important to point out also, at this point, that the Minister of God in his proclamation of the Word of God, must not just rely on teaching and comforting. The Minister of God—the Pastor—must convict his hearers with the Law. In this way, the Holy Ghost works through the preaching of the minister to show people their sins. A person must understand what a poor, miserable sinner he is before he can receive any benefit from teaching and comfort. For it is not until we stand before the Lord God with nothing as our own to offer, that we understand what sort of God we have. We must come before Him as beggars; naked, hungry, without possessions, with the knowledge that we are full of sin and unworthy to be in His presence. Then we can receive all good things from our heavenly Father and know that those things do come from Him; clothing, food, all our possessions, and even forgiveness, life and salvation.

All this is done through the preaching of the Law. Therefore, be on your guard for ministers who do not want to convict you of your sin; who are more concerned with being your friend than the man of God who is sent to guide you into all truth and do the will of the Lord + Jesus by convicting you of your sins, and thereby glorifying the Lord + Jesus. Beware of ministers who under the pretense of preserving fellowship, allow that fellowship to be broken when they allow those who are unworthy and unprepared to the Lord's Supper. Beware of ministers who are unable to defend the faith given to them at Holy Baptism and confirmed by them in their confirmation vows.

The Minister of God, with the help and guidance of the Holy Ghost, convicts all those who hear with the Law of God, in order that they might be shown their sin. And when we see our sin; when we know that we are indeed beggars before God; that we are indeed poor, miserable sinners, our eyes can be opened to see our Savior, the Lord + Jesus Christ. We can see the cross that He endured. He can see that He glorified the Father by offering up His life as the perfect, once and for all time sacrifice for the sins of the whole world, and especially for them that believe. The Father in turn glorified the Lord + Jesus, for He accepted the sacrifice of His Son, and He rose again from the dead as a testament that the sacrifice was accepted by the Father.

We who stand convicted by our Lord of our sin, cling to Him in faith. And this is the chief sin: unbelief. If a person does not cling to the Lord + Jesus in faith, He cannot be saved. And it does not matter how good of a person he is, his sins are not removed from Him. But our Lord + Jesus even sees to this. The Holy Ghost is the One Who creates and sustains faith in us through the Word of God. He both convicts us of our sin and gives us faith to believe on the Lord + Jesus, so that we might be taught and comforted by Him. And having been taught and comforted by the Holy Ghost through the Word of God, we can then lift up our voices in His praise and sing of the great things our Lord God has done for us.

He told His disciples that He was going away, but in their sorrow, they were too sad to ask Him where they were going, even though this is the one question the Lord + Jesus desired of them to ask. For, He was going away for their benefit. Indeed, He went to the tree of the holy cross for the benefit of whole world. However, the world rejects the Lord, for they do not want to be convicted of their sin; they do not want to be told what is right. We cling to our Lord + Jesus in faith, for He fulfilled the Law of His heavenly Father for us, and suffered and died in our place, so that after we have been convicted of our sins, we might have forgiveness, and thereby also have life and salvation. Of this great thing we can lift up our voices in song, and praise our Lord + Jesus, the Christ. In the Name of our Lord + Jesus Christ. Amen.

Prayer in Pulpit after Sermon:

Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but unto Thy Name give glory! I will extol Thee, O Lord, and I will praise Thy Name forever and ever. Amen.

The Votum:

The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Amen.

Soli Deo gloria!