

Jubilate

St. John 16:16-23a

May 12th, 2019

Sts. Peter & Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, UAC

Simpsonville, SC

St. Michael and All Angels Evangelical Lutheran Mission, UAC

Augusta, GA

Pastor Jerald Dulas

A Little While

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.

Have no fear, little flock, for the Lord + Jesus Christ is coming in "*a little while*." He has gone to the Father, just as He said He would. He will come again on the Last Day and take us to our home in Heaven. We may, as the Church, suffer hardship and pain in this life. We suffer temptation to sin. We suffer persecution as believers on the Lord + Jesus Christ, being called "whack jobs" and other similar things. The foolishness of the Lord God is wiser than the wisdom of mankind. For, He has prepared us for this suffering, trial and persecution.

He endured these things on the night and day of His redemption of us poor, miserable sinners. He showed us how many things we must suffer for clinging to the truth of God's Word. We endure only a fraction of the suffering and pain that our Lord + Jesus endured on the tree of the holy cross. He knew that He would endure these things, and He knew what His Apostles and us as well would endure for the sake of clinging in faith to Him as our Lord and Savior. This is why He prepares His us and His Apostles with these words from the Gospel reading according to the Apostle and Evangelist St. John on the night of His arrest, while He was still in the upper room with them.

His promise is that it will only be "*a little while*." Their hardship, their pain, their persecution would only last "*a little while*." They would see the Lord + Jesus be arrested, tried, crucified, dead, and buried. Even as we have seen these things through our reading and listening to the Passion accounts of the four Gospel writers. In a way, we have lived through these things, as we do every Holy Week, just as the Apostles did, and as countless ranks of Christians have throughout the centuries leading up to our time.

Our Lord + Jesus knew what He was about to endure and prepared His Apostles for what was about to come. He prepares us today, as well, as we hear these words implanted into our ears, and for our benefit. "*A little while, and you will not see Me; and again a little while, and you will see Me, because I go to the Father.*" Our Lord + Jesus is talking about His death and resurrection. In "*a little while*" the disciples would not see the Lord because He would be in the grave for three days, but then again in three days they would see Him, for He would go to the Father and present His perfect, obedient sacrifice of His life for us on the tree of the holy cross as a ransom for our sins. And, the heavenly Father would

accept that sacrifice as a payment, once and for all, for our sins and the sins of mankind. The penalty for our sins has been paid for with blood on the tree of the holy cross. The whole burnt offering of our Lord's life satisfies the wrath of the heavenly Father for our sins. Therefore, our Lord + Jesus was raised again on the third day, and through faith in Him we are justified, that is, made right with God.

But our Lord + Jesus in saying that He will be gone for "*a little while*," is also preparing His Apostles and all those who would cling in faith to their teachings, which they received from Him, for the time that we live in now. The time when our Lord is preparing our homes in Heaven, so that He might invite us into our heavenly home on the Last Day. This is why the Church has chosen this reading from the Gospel of St. John, and the readings that we will be hearing in the next few weeks—readings that are some of the most ancient readings in the Church's lectionary—for they prepare us for the time when our Lord is not with us as He was with the disciples. This day is coming! It is only "*a little while*" when our Lord will come and take us to our home in Heaven. We hear these words every year, because we need to hear these words every year.

They serve as a reminder to us that even though we may face temptation daily, persecution often, and hardship regularly, both in the Church and in our daily lives, the Lord is coming in "*a little while*." It is a reminder that God Himself is for us. If God is for us, we can a host of all of our enemies defy. For the Lord God Almighty fights for us on our behalf out of His great love for us. We are His people, and the sheep of His pasture. He is our shepherd and He shepherds us with His means of grace. He baptized us and made us new creations; made us newborn babes who crave pure, spiritual milk.

He forgives us of our sins daily when we daily live in contrition, sorrow over our sins, and when we in faith cling to the salvation found only in Him and His cross. The pastor—His called and ordained minister—proclaims the good news of our forgiveness into our ears, and we receive His forgiveness as if it was spoken from the lips of the heavenly Father Himself.

Our Lord God leads us to this altar to receive the Body and Blood of His Only-Begotten and Beloved Son in bread and wine. And through the Holy Ghost, we are sustained in the faith, and granted even more faith to cling to Him and His promises. Even as the Holy Ghost works through all the means of grace to draw us closer to the Lord God.

These words "*a little while*" are meant for our joy. This is what the name of this Sunday means, "rejoice." *Jubilate* does not have anything to do with certain kinds of caffeinated beverages. It is one of the three "rejoice" Sundays of the Church's year. The other two are in Advent and Lent (*Gaudete* in Advent and *Laetare* in Lent). As an aside, when we see a Sunday with a Latin name it indicates to us that these Sundays are part of the most ancient and original lectionary of the Church's year. The Easter cycle of readings is the oldest set of readings that the Church as used for centuries. So, when we see a Sunday having a Latin name, we know that Christians have been hearing this Gospel on this day of the Church's year for almost as long as the words have been written.

This indicates that the words of this Gospel are important for our ears to hear. We need to hear these words, because our lives are filled with such strife. We need to hear these words that our Lord is only delaying His return for "*a little while*," because this world is becoming more evil every day. Christianity is coming under increasing attacks both within our society and in this world. Therefore, today our Lord + Jesus Christ brings us comfort. He tells us that His return is coming in only "*a little while*."

So then, my dear friends, have no fear. For our Lord, the Good Shepherd of Whom we heard about last Sunday, is shepherding us to our eternal home in Heaven. He leads us by the work of the Holy Ghost Who strengthens our faith through the means of grace, and draws us closer to our loving

and compassionate Triune God. Have no fear, little flock for our Lord + Jesus is the priceless treasure Who is for us and fights for us, so that our hearts may rejoice and sing. For, our pain and suffering in this life—the temptations and trials which we endure—will only last “*a little while.*” This is our Lord’s promise to us. Hear Him and rejoice. 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!