

Holy Monday
St. John 12:1-23
April 6th, 2020
Sts. Peter & Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, UAC
Simpsonville, SC
Pastor Jerald Dulas

The Hour Has Come

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 Apostle and Evangelist St. John relates the same events that we heard yesterday from the Apostle and Evangelist St. Matthew of our Lord's triumphal entry into Jerusalem. On this second day of Holy Week we are connected to the first day, Palm Sunday. The Apostle and Evangelist St. John, however, adds the scene in his Gospel from the previous day. He says that this event took place six days before the Passover. This means that our Lord's triumphal entry into Jerusalem took place five days before the Passover.

In the Jewish calendar this day of our Lord's triumphal entry would have been the tenth day of the month. Now remember what took place on the tenth day of this month at the time of the Exodus. On the tenth day, five days before the Passover, the people of Israel were supposed to select the unblemished lamb with which they would sacrifice and eat, and whose blood would be spread on the door posts and lintel. This sacrifice would take place at twilight on the fourteenth day of the month—the night of the Passover.

What the Apostle and Evangelist St. John is establishing by giving us the time frame is the connection between the Passover lamb sacrificed as a memorial and the True Passover Lamb—the Lord + Jesus Christ—Whose Blood spread on the post and lintel of the holy cross atones for the sins of the whole world. His Blood shed on the cross causes the Lord God's wrath to pass over us, for He takes upon Himself the whole wrath and punishment of the heavenly Father which we deserve on account of our manifold transgressions.

This is why the Gospel reading ends with our Lord + Jesus telling Sts. Philip and Andrew that the hour of His glorification has come. This sets us up for the rest of Holy Week. The hour has come. The hour that our Lord will be glorified by being exalted upon the tree of the holy cross has come. The hour of our redemption won by our Lord's suffering and death has come. Therefore, our Lord + Jesus shows that none of this is happening to Him unwillingly. He willingly enters into Jerusalem on the colt of a donkey as the Paschal Lamb. He is chosen by the heavenly Father as the spotless, unblemished, innocent Lamb of God, so that He might bear our sins through His innocent suffering and death, and win for us and all mankind atonement for our sins.

The Apostle and Evangelist St. John fills in some of the things that the Apostle and Evangelist

St. Matthew left out of his Passion History. St. John relates the reason for us why the crowds were so welcoming of our Lord + Jesus. It was because of the resurrection of Lazarus. The people who were with the Lord + Jesus when He raised Lazarus from the dead bore witness to the crowds of what He had done. He had raised a man who had been dead for four days. Something that had never been done by any of the prophets. This certainly made an impression upon the people of Israel who had gathered in Jerusalem for the feast of the Passover.

Unlike other times where our Lord + Jesus came for the feast of the Passover and was there either secretly or without any great pomp and show, our Lord and Savior makes it known to all that this is His hour. His triumphal entry into Jerusalem leaves a foul taste in the mouths of the Pharisees. It only adds fuel to the fire in their souls which desires to murder the Lord + Jesus and be done with Him. The fire of their jealousy is stoked to full capacity. Therefore, they openly look for ways to kill Him. Their frustration is shown in the words recorded by St. John, "You see that you are accomplishing nothing. Look, the world has gone after Him."

They had tried the approach of waiting it out. They had thought that given time this Man would fade into the background of people's minds, and they would be done with Him. The miracles of the Lord + Jesus did not permit that to happen. The final straw was when our Lord + Jesus raised Lazarus from being dead after four days. This was the linchpin that convinced the people of Israel that this Man was truly the Prophet come into the world, and it was the linchpin that convinced the Pharisees that all their previous efforts to thwart this Man + Jesus had come to naught. Everything they had done up to this time was useless, therefore they sought to kill the Lord + Jesus and be done with Him, or so they thought.

However, the Pharisees feared the crowds, for the crowds, as we see from our Lord's triumphal entry into Jerusalem, considered our Lord + Jesus to be the true Prophet come into the world. He was the Son of King David. The One Who was to come and save the people of Israel. The Lord + Jesus was held in high esteem by the people of Israel in Jerusalem. He was even held in high esteem by some Greeks who were also in Jerusalem for the feast. We will hear more about that in tomorrow's sermon. Because the crowds held our Lord + Jesus in high esteem, the scribes and Pharisees were at a loss as to how they would kill the Lord + Jesus. Even their trying to question Him and trick Him into saying something that the crowds would reject Him for, are fruitless. Our Lord + Jesus silences both the Pharisees and the Sadducees after they questioned Him. One group asked about being married in the resurrection, which they did not believe in, and one group asked about paying taxes to Caesar, which they were not in favor of anyway.

For these reasons, they were unable to find a means in which they might accuse and kill our Lord + Jesus. They needed outside help. They needed someone to betray the Lord + Jesus. The Apostle and Evangelist St. John reveals to us the events that led to Judas Iscariot betraying the Lord + Jesus for thirty silver coins.

Six days before the Passover, our Lord + Jesus has come to the house of the man whom He had raised from the dead. He came to Bethany and the house of Lazarus, Martha and Mary. While they supped, Mary took a jar of very costly spikenard and anointed the feet of our Lord + Jesus with it. The fragrance filled the whole house. Our Lord + Jesus explains that this was done as a preparation for His burial. The One Who raised Lazarus from the grave, is being prepared for His grave in a few short days.

Another Gospel tells us that the woman was chided by all the Apostles. But St. John makes it clear who the lead instigator is. It is Judas Iscariot. He does not actually care about the poor, but only cares about what He could have gotten from the sale of this perfume. He had the money box and he would steal from it. This spikenard would have brought in more than three hundred denarii. Money Judas would never be able to get his hands on. Judas is like all those people today who cry about

helping the poor, but in reality, they do not care for the poor, for if they did, they would help the poor themselves, and not expect other people to do it for them. You have the poor with you always, and you can do for them a good work whenever you want. You do not need other people's money to do it. Judas did not need the three hundred denarii that this fragrant oil would produce, he could help the poor with his own funds, and out of the generosity of his own heart.

There is no generosity in his heart, though. There is only greed in his heart. And the public chastisement of the Lord breaks the camel's back. For this public rebuke prompts Judas to betray the Lord + Jesus. He is out three hundred denarii, but he gains thirty silver coins from the Pharisees who are looking for a means to do harm to the Lord + Jesus.

Therefore, the hour has come of our Lord's glorification. Judas spurned on by public rebuke seeks to betray the Lord + Jesus, and the Pharisees having reached the pinnacle of their frustration seek someone who will betray the Lord + Jesus. All this evolves around our Lord's triumphal entry into Jerusalem and the spotless Lamb of God chosen five days before the Passover on the tenth day of the month by the shouts and palm branches of the people of Israel.

On the fourteenth day of the month our Lord + Jesus is sacrificed for the sins of the whole world. He suffers and dies in our place, so that through faith we are justified before the heavenly Father. The hour has come that our Lord + Jesus should be offered up as a sacrifice for our sins. In our daily sins we daily betray Him; we daily reject Him as the Messiah; we daily deny Him as Lord. We cannot help it, for sin inheres in us, and we cannot shake it off. It consumes us to death. But our Lord + Jesus knows our grief and shame, and offers Himself up as the spotless Lamb of God so that when we look to Him and His sacrifice for us, we are freed from our sins.

Therefore, we need not fear, for our Lord + Jesus, the King of kings, has come to dwell with us as one of us, so that He might atone for our sins, and take His place at the right hand of the heavenly Father and plead our cause against those who strive with us. His Blood spread on the post and lintel of the holy cross pleads on our behalf to the heavenly Father, for by His Blood the accusations of our enemies are silenced; they can do us no harm. For this reason, we can join with the crowds of Jerusalem and sing, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord. The King of Israel." He is our King and the King of the whole Church Who offers up His life as a ransom for ours. 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!