

Good Friday
St. John 18:1—19:42
April 10th, 2020
Sts. Peter & Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, UAC
Simpsonville, SC
Pastor Jerald Dulas

He Delivered Him to Them to Be Crucified

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, our Savior, we praise and bless Thee that Thou wast obedient unto death, even the death of the cross, and, having finished all, art become our Mediator and Redeemer; and we beseech Thee, grant that by Thy death we may be crucified unto the world, and henceforth live not unto ourselves, but unto Thee, Who didst die for us, and Who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Ghost, one true God, world without end. Amen.

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

The world had waited many years for the Messiah to come. There were those who had even given up on ever thinking that a Messiah would come, even as the perfidious Jews of today, who have rejected the true Messiah of our Lord + Jesus Christ, have given up on a Messiah coming and have turned their religion into a religion of doing good works and being a good person. Into the world the heavenly Father sent His One and Only-Begotten Son to redeem the world. The Patriarch Abraham is a picture of the heavenly Father. He also has an only-begotten son—Isaac—whose name means “laughter.”

Abraham is told by the Lord God to offer up his only-begotten son Isaac on the spot to which He would direct him. When Abraham and his son Isaac reached the spot where they would leave behind the servants, Abraham placed the wood for the fire—for the burnt offering—on his one and only-begotten son, Isaac. Isaac carried the wood for the sacrifice to the place of the sacrifice. Our Lord + Jesus after Pilate had delivered Him over to the Jews to be crucified, also carried the wood of the holy cross to the place of His sacrifice. He carried it to the place of the skull; to Golgotha.

Abraham led his one and only son to Mount Moriah, the place where the city of Jerusalem would eventually be built; where the temple would be built. On that mountain the sacrifices of rams and goats for the atonement of the sins of the people of Israel would take place. On this mountain the one and only sacrifice for the atonement of the sins of the whole world would also take place. On this mountain our sins have been atoned for by the Lord + Jesus Christ. He bears the holy cross for us so that He might offer up His life as an all-atoning sacrifice for our sins and the sins of the whole world.

We see a picture of this in Abraham leading his only-begotten son, Isaac to the place of sacrifice, while Isaac carries the wood for the sacrifice. We know from the First Book of Moses, commonly called Genesis, that Abraham did not have to offer up his only son as a sacrifice; even though Abraham was confident that even if he did sacrifice him the Lord God would raise him from the dead. But Isaac did not have to be sacrificed, for the Lord God provided a ram whose horns were caught in a thicket to be the sacrifice for Isaac.

The heavenly Father also supplied us with a substitutionary Lamb to serve as a sacrifice for us. Isaac like his father Abraham, and all those born from the seed of Adam, was born in sin. Sin so corrupted his nature that even though he was circumcised and a member of the family of God, sin continued to inhere in him. We see this played out in his two sons. Isaac favored his older son, Esau, over his younger son, Jacob, even though they were really only born a few minutes apart. We are also born of the seed of Adam, sin also continues to inhere in us, even though we are baptized.

In the Lord God's eyes, through our faith and trust in the waters of our Holy Baptism, we are clean and pure; we are justified before the Lord God Almighty. But sin still inheres in us. We bear this inborn sin—this original sin—all the days of our life. This inborn sin which inheres in our nature causes us to commit actual sins. We sin daily and much. Not only do we commit sins against God's will and Law, but we neglect to do the good that the Lord God requires in His will and Law. We rightly deserve the Lord God Almighty's eternal wrath and displeasure in Hell. We deserve to be condemned to die.

Out of His great love for us and all mankind, our Lord God, the heavenly Father, sends His One and Only-Begotten Son into the world to bear our flesh and fulfill His Law and will for us. He then places upon the Lord + Jesus the wood of the cross which we deserve to carry. Indeed, we see a picture of this when the cross of our Lord + Jesus is forced upon Simon of Cyrene. This cross rightly is ours. We are the ones who deserve it, but it is our Lord + Jesus Who is placed upon it. He is the One Who is crucified by the Jews; Who is delivered over to them to be crucified.

Our Lord + Jesus carries the cross that we deserve. He carries the wood of the sacrifice to the altar of sacrifice; to the place of the skull—to Golgotha. There on that mountain He offers up the whole burnt sacrifice of the Lamb for the atonement of the sins of the whole world—for our atonement from sin. He pays the price we owed. He endures what we deserve. In the same way that Isaac was replaced by a lamb caught in a thicket, we too have a substitute Lamb in the Lord + Jesus Christ. On His head is placed a crown of thorns. His head is caught in the thicket of the crown of thorns, showing that He is the One given by the Lord God as a substitute for us. He dies for our sins, even though He is innocent.

He Who is without sin, dies for us who are full of sin. He Who is innocent, suffers for those of us who are guilty of sin and shame; He suffers and dies for the sins of the whole world. All those who cling to Him in faith; who cling to this work of atonement in faith, are justified before the Lord God; we are made right with the Lord God Almighty. He does not charge our sins against us, but credits us with the works and merits of the Lord + Jesus. Through faith, our beloved Lord God only sees the sacrifice of the Lord + Jesus on our behalf; He only sees that the payment for our sins has been made. This why the holy cross is our one reliance that we hail. For by the tree of the holy cross our Lord + Jesus has surely borne our grief and carried our sorrows. He bore our grief and sorrows as He carried the wood of the cross to the Place of the Skull.

Sadly, there are many who are like Pilate; who want to wash their hands of the whole ordeal. They want nothing to do with this Just Man. They are like the perfidious Jews, or the heretics and schismatics, or all the heathen. They have all rejected the Lord God, or perverted His Word in such a way that they have lost the true and saving Gospel of our Lord's atonement for us. They choose eternal death over eternal life.

Pilate is just as culpable as the chief priests and scribes. This is why the Apostle and Evangelist St. John phrases the sentence the way he does. Pilate handed the Lord + Jesus over to the chief priest and scribes to be crucified: "He delivered Him to them to be crucified." Pilate is guilty of this Man's death, even though he tries to wash his hands of it. The perfidious Jews are responsible for it, for Pilate has given the authority over the life of the Lord + Jesus to them, and they crucify Him. He is led to death because they are guilty. Our sins have also led our Lord + Jesus to death.

He carries the wood of the cross that we deserve to carry. He is the sacrifice for us that the heavenly Father has given to us as a substitute for our deaths. Our sins have been atoned for. We are free from the burden of sin, death and the power of the devil. Our Lord + Jesus has conquered all of our enemies by taking the wood of the holy cross upon His shoulders, and by being lifted up on that wood on the tree of the holy cross at the Place of the Skull—on Golgotha.

He has surely borne our griefs and carried our sorrows so that He might make out of all those who believe on Him one family. For this family our Lord + Jesus was contented to be betrayed, given into the hands of wicked men, and be crucified and die. For He hates nothing that He has made and forgives the sins of all those who are penitent. There is no sorrow like unto His sorrow, for He bears our sins, and the sins of the whole world on the tree of the holy cross; He bears the wrath and displeasure of the Lord God heavenly Father for us. All of His pain and suffering is the pain and suffering which we deserve, and He bears it willingly.

Our Lord + Jesus is the ram caught in the thicket that is sacrificed in our place. We deserve the punishment of death on account of the inborn sin in us we inherit from Adam. Just like Isaac was spared death through the appearance of a ram caught in a thicket, the Lord God has provided a sacrifice for our sins and the sins of the whole world. Let us hail this holy cross, for it is stained with the royal purple dight of our Lord's Blood shed for us. The Blood that speaks to the heavenly Father of our atonement, and payment for our sins. In the Name of our Lord + Jesus Christ. Amen.

Prayer in Pulpit after Sermon:

Merciful God and Father, Who didst give Thy Son into death and the grave for our sins, we beseech Thee, enable us also to die unto sin and to bury the lusts of the flesh, that our lives may be holy in Christ, our death transformed by His death into sweet sleep, our graves hallowed by His rest in the grave, and we may finally rise again unto eternal joy; through Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord, Who liveth and reigneth with the Thee and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. Amen.

The Votum:

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

Soli Deo Gloria!