

The Tenth Sunday after Trinity Sunday
St. Luke 19:41-48
August 16th, 2020
Sts. Peter & Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, UAC
Simpsonville, SC
St. Michael and All Angels Evangelical Lutheran Mission, UAC
Augusta, GA
Pastor Jerald Dulas

You Did Not Know the Time of Your Visitation

In Nomine Iesu!

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

Prayer in Pulpit before Sermon:

Almighty and Everlasting God, Who by Thy Holy Ghost hast revealed unto us the Gospel of Thy Son, Jesus Christ: We beseech Thee so to quicken our hearts that we may sincerely receive Thy Word, and not make light of it, or hear it without fruit, as did Thy people, the unbelieving Jews, but that we may fear Thee and daily grow in faith in Thy mercy, and finally obtain eternal salvation; through Thy Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, Who liveth and reigneth with Thee 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 unbelieving Jews did not know the time of their visitation. They had in the past already ignored, mocked, beaten and killed all of the prophets the Lord God had sent to them. When the Messiah had come, they also sought to destroy Him. They had so badly ignored and abandoned the Word of God, and the worship of Him, that they had turned the temple—the place where the people of God could meet and worship the Lord God—into a “den of thieves.” They had so forgotten the Word of God that they turned the temple into a marketplace; a place where people could buy and sell the things required for sacrifice.

The sacrifices were meant to appease the Lord God’s wrath over a person’s sins. The sacrifice was meant to be taken from one’s own possessions, and a sign of personal sacrifice on the behalf of the penitent. Now the temple was turned into a place where a person could in essence buy their forgiveness.

Therefore, our dear Lord + Jesus in seeing the city of Jerusalem as He approached on Palm Sunday to the shouts and cheers of the crowds singing, “Hosanna to the Son of David!” and “Blessed is He Who comes in the Name of the Lord!” is filled with sorrow. He weeps over the city on account of their unbelief and their rejection of Him. He is the source of their salvation. He has come to atone for their sins; to be the once and for all time sacrifice that will appease the wrath of the Lord God over the sin of mankind.

The unbelieving Jews should have known the time of their visitation. Here was the Word of God incarnate, preaching into their ears that salvation was found in Him; that He was there to suffer and die and the third day be raised again from the dead for their justification. But they refused His visitation. They spurned His arrival. They had even turned the temple of the Lord God into a “den of thieves.” This truly shows their rejection of the Lord + Jesus, for He had cleansed the temple of the Lord God at the beginning of His ministry at His first visit to Jerusalem. Now three years later, things had returned to

“normal” in Jerusalem. The buyers and sellers had returned. The temple had once again been turned into a marketplace. This is all because of their unbelief; their refusal to acknowledge the time of their visitation; that the Lord God had come in the flesh of mankind to dwell with them and be their Savior.

Our Lord + Jesus as He approaches the city of Jerusalem to the waving of palm and olive branches—as He approaches the city where He will atone for the sins of the whole world, and give justification to all those who believe on His Name—weeps in agony over the knowledge of what must happen to those unbelieving Jews. The enemy will come and set up embankments all around them, and hedge them in. The enemy will lay siege to the city, and starve them out, so that they will be forced into the most horrendous acts people will commit when pushed into starvation and thirst. Then the city will be crushed to the ground so that not one stone will rest upon another.

This destruction of Jerusalem which happened in 70 AD is only a foretaste of the eternal destruction that awaits all unbelievers in Hell. Our Lord + Jesus even gives the unbelieving Jews a foretaste of the wrath of God when He drives out the moneychangers at the edge of a whip. Unbelief will be dealt with such punishment. The eternal wrath and displeasure of the Almighty Lord God will be meted out against all those who refuse the visitation of the Lord + Jesus; upon all those who remain in impenitence and unbelief; who continue to gain their salvation by buying and selling their own useless good works as a means of trying to appease the wrath of the Lord God.

The unbelieving Jews did not know the time of their visitation. The chief priests, the scribes and the leaders of the people all sought to destroy the Man Who came to redeem them from God’s eternal wrath. Our Lord + Jesus knows their fate, and weeps over them, not wanting anyone to perish. He desires all mankind to be saved.

The world today also refuses to acknowledge the time of their visitation. The Lord + Jesus comes to us every time we gather in this place, and wherever two or three are gathered in His Name. The time of our visitation is now; it is when our Lord + Jesus comes to us in His Word and Sacraments. How sad it is that many people today do not know the time of their visitation. How many people choose to remain in their unbelief and impenitence? The Church—the Bride of Christ—weeps for these lost souls. We weep for them. Being the children of the heavenly Father, and the co-heirs of our brother the Christ, we also do not want anyone to perish eternally. We pray daily and often—in the Lord’s Prayer—that the Lord’s will would be done, that His Kingdom might come, and that His Name may be hallowed among us.

These things are done, when our Lord + Jesus comes to us in His Word and Sacraments. Through these means the Holy Ghost enlightens and sanctifies all those who receive His Word and Sacraments gladly and willingly. Our Lord + Jesus desires for us to be saved, this is why He has placed us here in this place at this time, to be a beacon to all those who would come and receive Him. Yes, based on our size, there are many who do not know the time of their visitation; there are many who either do not know, or care, about the destruction that is promised them on account of their unbelief and impenitence. But we remain steadfast in this place to bring the Word of God and the Blessed Sacraments to all who would come through those doors; to all those who through the cleansing of their hearts by whip of the Law, seek salvation not from themselves but from only and true source of salvation—our Lord + Jesus Christ.

The unbelieving Jews did not know the time of their visitation. The more things change the more things stay the same, for many today do not know the time of their visitation; that the Lord + Jesus is here with us. He is wherever two or three, or more, are gathered in His Name. For He desires that all men be saved. This is why He came down from Heaven. He came to take upon Himself our flesh, and fulfill the Law of God for us, since we are unable to do so. Then He offered up His perfect life and flesh as a once and for all time sacrifice for the atonement of the whole world. Now all those who know the

time of their visitation may receive Him in faith and be justified before the Lord God. He has justified all of us who believe on His Name.

Out of His great love for us, He has desired to save us from all of our sins and trespasses; He has desired to save us from the wrath and destruction planned for all those who reject the time of their visitation. Let us share in the compassion of our Lord + Jesus and weep for all those who do not know the time of their visitation, so that by our compassion they may be drawn to the Word of Life, and be granted forgiveness and salvation in the Lord + Jesus, even as we have.

Let us also continue to gather together in this place and receive the visitation of our Lord + Jesus as He comes to us in the preaching of the Gospel and in the administration of the Blessed Sacraments. Indeed, He comes to us in a personal way in the Lord's Supper, where we receive Him in His Body and Blood given in bread and wine. He comes to us in His Person every time we kneel at this altar to receive Him in bread and wine. Through this meal He forgives us all of our sins, and reminds us that the time of our visitation is now. Therefore, my dear friends, let us lay hold on the things that make for our salvation and our eternal peace found in the gifts of our Lord + Jesus, Who desires that we all be saved and join Him eternally in Heaven. In the Name of our Lord + Jesus Christ. Amen.

Prayer in Pulpit after Sermon:

Merciful God, Heavenly Father, we heartily beseech Thee, Thou wouldst so govern us by Thy Holy Spirit that we may not neglect the time of Thy gracious visitation, nor by impenitence fall into temporal and eternal punishment, but in this our day lay hold on the things that make for salvation and everlasting peace; through Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord, Who liveth and reigneth with 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!