

Good Friday
St. John 18:1—19:42
April 15th, 2022
Sts. Peter and Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, UAC
Simpsonville, SC
Pastor Jerald Dulas

Jesus Was 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, ever One 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.

My dear friends in Christ, we began our procession to our Lord's cross on Palm Sunday, where we heard Him enter into Jerusalem, the city of His ancestor David, lowly and sitting on a donkey, the colt the foal of a donkey, to the shouts of the very great multitude waving palm and olive branches, and crying, "Hosanna in the highest!" They cried out "Save us now!" Our procession has led us through the trickery and deceit of the chief priests, scribes, and elders of the people, and the betrayal of Judas. We have seen our Lord prepared for His burial by the anointing of Mary at the feast in honor of Lazarus in the home of Simon the Leper. Our Lord has even prepared for His death by offering to us the meal that celebrates His death by giving us to eat His Body and Blood given in bread and wine for the remission of sins. Today, we kneel before the cross of our Lord + Jesus. We have come to bear witness once again His suffering and death on the tree of the holy cross. Let us reflect upon this great mystery.

In the Passion of the Apostle and Evangelist St. John we hear how diligently the chief priests, scribes, and elders of the people worked against Pontius Pilate to get the Lord + Jesus crucified. It is easy to blame them for all of the events that day, for they are the chief instigators. It is easy to blame Judas Iscariot, for he is the one who betrayed our Lord in his greed for thirty pieces of silver. It is easy to blame Pontius Pilate, who although he knew the Lord + Jesus to be innocent, and tried somewhat to have him only scourged and released, finally gave into the desires of the crowds. No matter how much he tried to wash his hands of this, he was the one who gave the sentence to put the Lord + Jesus to death on the cross. It is easy, my dear friends, to blame all the instigators of our Lord's crucifixion which we have heard throughout this Holy Week in the four Passion Gospels of the four Evangelists, and the Passion History.

But to solely blame them forgets that it is our sin and transgressions for which our Lord + Jesus suffers and dies on the tree of the holy cross. We are the ones who put Him on that cross. It is for our sins for which He dies. It is for our sins for which He suffers the full wrath of the heavenly Father upon the tree of the holy cross. It is for our sins that our Lord + Jesus willingly is crucified.

In the Twenty-Second chapter of the Book of Moses, commonly called Genesis, which we will hear tomorrow night during the Easter Vigil, our Lord gives us a foreshadowing of His sacrifice for us.

Abraham, after the birth of Isaac, when he was twelve years old, was told by the Lord God to go to a certain mountain and sacrifice his son, his only son, the son of his old age when he, and his wife Sarah, were past the age of bearing children. Abraham was to kill the son that the Lord God had given to him, and Who had promised that through this son, Abraham would have many descendants; as many as the sands on the seashore, and the stars in the sky. We see in this narrative a picture of the events of today. For Abraham, who in this case represents the heavenly Father, willingly offers up his only-begotten son as a sacrifice. He freely does this because he has faith that the heavenly Father would raise his son from the dead. The heavenly Father freely offers up His Only-Begotten Son, the Lord + Jesus, as a sacrifice for the sins of the whole world.

Isaac, who represents our Lord + Jesus, also willingly follows his father, Abraham. When it came time to leave the servants, and go on alone, Abraham places the wood for the sacrifice on Isaac's shoulders. Just as our Lord + Jesus carried His cross—the means by which He will be sacrificed—Isaac carries the wood of his sacrifice. The difference between Isaac and our Lord + Jesus, of course, is that Isaac was not sacrificed on the altar that Abraham his father made. The Lord God provided a ram whose horns had been caught in a thicket. The heavenly Father spared Isaac. He did not, however, spare His own Only-Begotten Son, our Lord + Jesus, the Christ. He becomes the ram who is nailed to the horns of the tree of the holy cross.

Just as Abraham's sacrifice of the ram, that the Lord God provided, atoned for the sins of Abraham and his family. The sacrifice of the Lamb of God on the tree of the holy cross atones for the sins of the whole world. He willingly carries His cross, and willingly allows Himself to be led to the Place of the Skull, to Golgotha, to be crucified with two malefactors. He Who is innocent and holy; He Who is without sin or crime, is crucified with two criminals; He is crucified with the transgressors; He is numbered with the transgressors. Our Lord + Jesus is numbered among us. He suffers as we deserve to suffer. He feels the wrath of the heavenly Father, which we alone deserve to endure. Our Lord + Jesus suffers and dies for the sins of the whole world, and especially for those of us who cling to Him in faith.

Abraham had faith in the Lord God to raise his only son from death. Our Lord + Jesus suffers and dies on the tree of the holy cross so that He might pay the penalty of our sins—that He might redeem us, that is, buy us back, from sin, death, and the power of the devil. By His death, our Lord shows that our sins have been paid for; that He has won for us forgiveness from all our sins and transgressions. Our Lord goes into the ground as a seed of wheat; the Bread of Life offers His life for us, so that He might produce in this world much fruit. The fruit of faith in those who hunger and thirst after righteousness is produced in those who look to our Lord's crucifixion and believe that in that sacrifice, they have forgiveness of all their sins. We believe that we have forgiveness of all our sins by this blessed sacrifice. We have forgiveness of our sins because our Lord + Jesus was crucified. We also have eternal life and salvation, for these things are found wherever forgiveness of sins is granted on account of faith.

My dear friends, it is easy to blame all the instigators and perpetrators of the events of the first Good Friday, but it is our own sins for which our Lord + Jesus carried His cross to the Place of the Skull and was crucified between two robbers, and was numbered among the transgressors. Our Lord + Jesus does this for us, and all mankind, out of His great love for His creation.

When our Lord had accomplished the atonement of the whole world, He said, "It is finished!" He completed our atonement, and the atonement of the whole world by His sacrifice that He endured. He atones for the sins of the whole world by His whole burnt offering that He made on the tree of the holy cross. He took the place of the ram that Abraham had sacrificed as a whole burnt offering. He took the place of the daily sacrifices made in the temple made with hands. He became the once and for all time sacrifice for the sins of the whole world, so that all those who believe on Him—who cling to His works

and merits in faith—will have forgiveness, life and salvation in Him.

Just as Abraham believed that the Lord God would raise his only son from the dead. We believe that our Lord has risen from the dead. He will raise Himself up from the dead in three days. My dear friends in Christ, let us ponder His cross for our redemption today on this Good Friday, and look forward to His resurrection in three days, as we wait in Vigil with lighted candles until His resurrection on Easter morning, where we will see a foreshadowing of our own resurrection from the dead. 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 wholly 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 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!