

Holy Tuesday  
St. John 12:24-43  
April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
Sts. Peter and Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, UAC  
Simpsonville, SC  
Pastor Jerald Dulas

## Now Is the Judgment of This World

*In Nomine Iesu!*

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

### **Sermon Text:**

“Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out. And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto Myself.” But this He said, signifying by what manner of death He should die.

### **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 prince and ruler of this world was cast out of Heaven. Lucifer having turned away from the Lord God, and having corrupted other angels with him, was cast out of Heaven with his angels. They came down to earth. When here they found the new creation of the Lord God; the new creation of the One Who they hated, and sought this new creation’s destruction. Mankind—Adam and Eve—were deceived by the devil—by the serpent in the Garden of Eden—and therefore by their disobedience allowed the devil to be their ruler. He usurped the rule of this world away from the Lord God, because mankind chose him to be their prince and ruler. His rule led mankind into sin and death.

Therefore, the Lord God in order to save mankind, became a man Himself. The Lord + Jesus—the Son of the Lord God Who was the Lord Himself—became a man. He entered into this world. He placed Himself in the kingdom where the ruler and prince of this world reigned over mankind. But the devil did not have any rule or authority over the Lord + Jesus. He tried to tempt into sin, like He did Adam and Eve, and the Lord + Jesus sent him away confounded. The ruler of this world had infected many people of this world. There were many who were possessed by demons; possessed by the evil angels who were cast out of Heaven with the devil. The Lord + Jesus showed His power and authority over them by casting the demons out of many who were inflicted by them.

From the moment of the Lord’s incarnation the battle lines were being drawn between the devil and the Lord + Jesus. The devil tried to kill Him as an infant through the rage and jealousy of King Herod. But the Lord’s parents, after St. Joseph received a warning in a dream from an angel, whisked Him away to the safety of Egypt. So, the signs of the forthcoming battle between the ruler of this world, and the Son of Man were evident from His incarnation. Now here in Holy Week our Lord + Jesus announces that the time for the judgment of this world was at hand. The judgment would be rendered against the ruler and prince of this world, for having corrupted it and mankind with it.

This judgment would be rendered on the tree of the holy cross. The Lord + Jesus signifies by

what death He would die. He shows that His death is not entered into ignorantly, but rather that He knows full well what He is doing, and why He is doing it. He suffers and dies to bring judgment against the world. He suffers and dies at the hands of evil men—the instruments of the devil—in order that He might defeat the devil once and for all. The devil must have the judgment. He must give an answer for killing the One Who knew no sin. The Lord + Jesus was without sin because He had perfectly fulfilled the Law. Therefore, He was not worthy of death. In killing the Lord + Jesus the devil kills the One Man who did not deserve to die.

On account of this the devil, the prince of this world, will be cast out. Just as he was cast out of Heaven because He turned against the Lord God. Now he will be cast out of the world because he led mankind to crucify the One Who was without sin. He killed the innocent and guiltless. Therefore, he must be cast out of this world. He will be cast into the fires of Hell which were prepared for him and his angels.

And because he has been cast out; because he has been bound in the chains that he intended to bind the Son of God, and because he is now bound in the chains in which he had bound mankind, mankind is now free from being in bondage to him. They are now no longer under his rule. The Lord + Jesus has freed mankind by suffering and dying innocently as a man. By the Lord's death mankind is freed from death, and the devil, the prince of this world, is cast out and bound in to suffer eternally in Hell. Since mankind is now without a ruler; since they are now no longer under the rule of Satan, the Lord + Jesus will draw all men to Himself.

We see the signs of this in the Gospel reading from the Apostle and Evangelist St. John, who related at the end of yesterday's pericope that certain Greeks wished to see the Lord + Jesus. The Lord + Jesus did not just free the Israelites from being in bondage to sin and death; from being in bondage to the devil. But He also freed the whole world, both Jews and Greeks alike. The whole world, which no longer was under bondage to the evil prince of this world, would be drawn to the Lord + Jesus. They would be drawn to the One Who was lifted up on the tree of the cross. They would be drawn to the One Who atoned for the sins of the whole world. We have been drawn to the Lord + Jesus in faith, and we cling to Him as our new Ruler and Prince of this world.

Indeed, our Ruler and Prince has prepared for us a Kingdom that is not of this world. He has prepared for us a Kingdom in Heaven. We have been drawn through the Word of God to cling in faith to the promise of an eternal reward and life in Heaven.

Our Lord + Jesus indicates this when He tells the crowds that He will be lifted up. For He literally says that He will be "lifted up out of this world." Yes, He is referring to His crucifixion, but He is also referring to His Ascension; to the day when He would be seated at the right hand of God the heavenly Father, and when He would rule over all those who believe on Him forever and ever. He would rise from the grave, and take His place upon the throne to rule forever and ever. There He would draw all men to Himself, so that He might judge both the quick and the dead.

This also embodies a warning to mankind. For even though the Lord has defeated Satan, and wrested this world away from the rule of the prince of this world, and desires to draw all men to Himself, so that they may live with Him in Heaven—in peace—for all eternity, there are still many who reject Him. Mankind in its unbelief still chooses to remain under the rule of the prince of this world. They still choose the same punishment that the devil deserves. For just as the Jews in today's reading loved the glory that is of men more than the glory that is of the Lord God, there are many in our society today who are the same. They choose to remain ignorant of the Lord's mercies, and choose death rather than life.

Therefore, my dear friends, let us give thanks that the Lord + Jesus has entered into this world

to defeat the devil, the ruler and prince of this world, once and for all. For we, having been bound in the chains of sin and death, could not free ourselves from the oppression to which the ruler of this world subjected us. Our Lord + Jesus in His love for us, came down from Heaven, and because as one of us in order to defeat the devil once and for all. He took upon Himself our chains, He suffered our punishment on the tree of the holy cross, He went into the grave, and He won the battle against the devil. Now the prince of this world has been judged and condemned. And we can now go free. For our Lord has freed us from the bondage of sin and death, and has become our Ruler and Prince. He has become our Savior and Redeemer.

Let us give Him thanks and praise that He has drawn us to Him through the pure preaching of the Word of God, in which we have heard of all of the good things He has done for us to free us from sin and death. This world has been judged. And we have been set free. We can now enter into a new Kingdom, an eternal Kingdom, to live in peace with all those who have gone before us in the faith. There we will live in the Kingdom of our Ruler and Prince forever and ever, world without end. Thanks be to the Lord God and the Lamb Who has defeated our enemies once and for all. In the Name of our Lord + Jesus, the Christ. Amen.

**Prayer in Pulpit after Sermon:**

Almighty God, be pleased to accompany Thy Word with Thy Holy Spirit and grant that Thy Word would increase faith in us; bring into the Way of Truth all such as have erred; turn the hearts of the unrepentant; and for sake of Thy Name grant succor to all heavy hearts and those who are heavy-laden, that they may through the mercy of the Lord Jesus Christ be relieved and preserved so that they succumb not to the temptation of despair but rather that they gain the victory over the world, the flesh, and the devil; through the same 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!*