

Maundy Thursday
St. John 13:1-15
April 6th, 2023
Sts. Peter and Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, UAC
Simpsonville, SC
Pastor Jerald Dulas

Jesus Knowing That His Hour Was Come

In Nomine Iesu!

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

Sermon Text:

Now before the feast of the passover, Jesus knowing that His hour was come that He should depart out of this world unto His Father, having loved His own that were in the world, He loved them unto the end.

Prayer in Pulpit before Sermon:

We thank Thee, O Lord Jesus Christ, the Savior of all men, that Thou hast given Thyself into death for us to make atonement for our sins, and hast also left us an example of mutual service by humbly washing Thy disciples' feet; and we heartily beseech Thee, govern and direct our hearts by Thy Holy Spirit that we may in true faith firmly cling to Thee as our Savior, faithfully serve our neighbor with works of love, and obtain eternal salvation through Thy merit, 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.

Our Lord + Jesus, the Christ, knows full well the day of His death. He knows when He will die and in what manner. The events of this week are happening according to His design. These events are not directing Him, but He is directing them. He does this all so that He might redeem us from sin and death. He desired to save all mankind from the power of the devil. The devil had falsely claimed the rule of this world. But our Lord + Jesus shows that He is the true power and authority of this world; that He is the true Ruler and Prince of this world, for He lays down His life when He desires and in what manner He desires.

He had already come down from Heaven—He had humbled Himself—to be born of a virgin, having taken upon Himself our flesh. He became man in order that He might redeem mankind from their sins and trespasses. He did this because He loved His own. He loved His creation. He loves those whom He has made, and who cling to Him in faith. He had chosen out twelve Apostles who would preach the good news of what He had done to the whole world, so that all those who hear and believe might have everlasting life. Now knowing that the time was come for Him to depart this world and go to the heavenly Father, He shows His love for His own once again. He loves His own to the end.

He loves His own to the end of the world. There is no limit to His love. Such love is exhibited in His first taking upon Himself our flesh. He left the glory of Heaven, to humble Himself as a man; to be a part of His creation. Now He humbles Himself by being a servant to His Apostles. He takes upon Himself the task of a servant—of a slave. He washes the feet of the Apostles as a servant. By this He shows us an example of love. For love is not boastful or haughty, but love is humble and submissive. Love acts as a servant and not as a lord. This is the kind of Lord that we have. We have a Lord Who humbles Himself to be our servant. He serves us by bringing us life and salvation. He serves us by

washing us clean and pure from sins and trespasses.

He serves us by giving us a meal that grants to us forgiveness and remission of sins. He gives to us His very own Body and Blood in bread and wine. We eat this meal, and receive forgiveness for our sins. For we remember His suffering and death on the tree of the holy cross. We remember and give thanks that He offered up His Body and Blood as a sacrifice for us, so that we might eat and drink His Body and Blood in bread and wine in a blessed sacrament. By this meal He shows us what true love is. It is the sacrifice of one's self for the benefit of the one he adores. He sacrifices Himself for us on account of His love for us. He loves us to the very end. He loves us so much that He lays down His life for us when He desires and in the fashion He desires.

The Lord sits down to eat and drink with us when we come to this holy altar in a meal of fellowship. He communes with us by giving us of Himself. He communes with those whom He loves. Through this meal we are granted to have faith toward Him, and fervent love toward one another. In this meal we are given to believe on Him, and to learn to love each other as He loves us.

The institution of the Lord's Supper is done with just Christ and His twelve Apostles. We are told by St. John, the Apostle and Evangelist, who was there with the Lord + Jesus in the Upper Room, and who reclined on the Lord at the meal, that the Feast of the Jews called the Passover was near. The Passover would take place the next day. The Passover of the Jews called to mind the salvation that the Lord God extended to the Israelites who painted their doorposts and lintels with the blood of a sacrificial lamb. The lamb would be sacrificed at twilight on the fourteenth day of the month of Nisan; the day in our Church calendars known as Good Friday.

Our Lord prepares for His death—for His sacrifice as the Lamb of God—by showing His Apostles what it means to be a loving servant. The Lord knew that the time was come for Him to depart this world and go to the Father. He knows when He is to offer up His life as a ransom for the sins of the whole world. He knows when He is to atone for the sins of the whole world. He knows when He is to depart from this life and go to the heavenly Father. And St. John indicates the mode of the Lord's departure with the Greek word that He uses for "depart." For in the Greek this word literally means to pass over from one place to another. The departing of our Lord is a passing over from this world to the heavenly Father.

He passes over from life to death. He is the Firstborn Son Who is killed so that the people of Israel might be saved from the power of the enemy. The Firstborn Son of God is killed so that we might be no longer held in the bonds of slavery to sin and death; we are freed from our captivity to the devil. By His death, we are given life and immortality.

He does all this for those He loves. He loves His own to the end. The time of the Passover was at hand. The time for His sacrifice to redeem mankind from sin, death, and the power of the devil. He takes the place of a servant, and humbly dies cursed for our sins upon the tree of the cross. The sacrificial Lamb is offered up by the High Priest to atone for the sins of the whole world. Now He offers to all those who cling to Him in faith—all those who are His own—the very Body and true Blood which He offered up for our sins upon the tree of the holy cross. We receive His Body and Blood given in bread and wine.

By this meal we receive forgiveness of sins, eternal life and salvation. By this meal we are cleansed of our sins. We are given a sign of His love for us. He loved us to the end. He became a servant so that we might become sons of the Lord God. We are now gifted with an eternal Kingdom in Heaven. Therefore, we follow our Lord's example, and come to this holy altar in humility, taking the form of a servant. And we leave this altar desiring to show fervent love for each other. We share in a blessed communion—a glorious fellowship—which seeks not our own will, but rather seeks the benefit

of our fellow believer in Christ.

We desire to be as forgiving to each other as our Lord and Savior + Jesus, the Christ is to us. For He humbled Himself to the point of death, in order to give us life. Let us therefore, my dearly beloved, love each other fervently by readily and willingly offering forgiveness to one another. Let us not look upon the sins of each other, but rather confess our sins, and cling in faith to the One Who can forgive those sins. For our Lord + Jesus has left us an example that we should do even as He has done. He has become a servant for our sakes. Let us become servants of one another, and in this way show our love for each other. 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!