

Good Friday
St. John 18:1—19:42
April 7th, 2023
Sts. Peter and Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, UAC
Simpsonville, SC
Pastor Jerald Dulas

Crucify Him, Crucify Him!

In Nomine Iesu!

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

Sermon Text:

Jesus therefore came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple garment. And *Pilate* saith unto them, "Behold, the man!" When therefore the chief priests and the officers saw Him, they cried out, saying, "Crucify *Him*, crucify *Him*!"

Prayer in Pulpit before 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.

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

My dearly beloved friends, this week began with a victory parade. We carried our palm branches, as did the people who were in Jerusalem, in celebration that the Messiah had come to take possession of His Kingdom. We rejoiced that the Lord + Jesus had come to Jerusalem to defeat sin and death. We rejoiced that He had come to redeem mankind from their sins, and give to all those who believe on Him eternal life in Heaven. This is why our Lord + Jesus had come. He came to give us an eternal life with Him.

This was foreshadowed when we heard about Lazarus eating and drinking with the Lord + Jesus. He who had been dead for four days was alive again. The Lord + Jesus showed His power and authority over death. The prince and ruler of this world plunged mankind into sin and death. Our lives are filled with disease, persecution, pain, suffering, and death. But our Lord + Jesus had come into this world and took upon Himself our flesh, in order that He might defeat the prince of this world, Satan, by offering up His life as a ransom for ours. In the raising of Lazarus, we get a foretaste of what our Lord desires for all mankind. He desires to give us life and to give it to us abundantly. He desires to free us from the bonds of death, and give us eternal life.

And so, my dearly beloved friends, at the beginning of this week we rejoiced with the multitudes of Jerusalem that the Anointed One of the Lord God had come to defeat Satan and death once for all. But we cannot be rescued from the power of sin and death without the shedding of blood. A payment must be paid for our sins and trespasses. A death must be given in exchange for us to have an eternal life with our Lord and Savior + Jesus, the Christ.

Today, we no longer carry the victory fronds of palms. Today, we hang our heads and view the

consequences of our transgressions. We have heard from all four Evangelists the Passion of our Lord + Jesus Christ this week. We have heard the History of the Passion of our Lord + Jesus Christ this week. We have heard of His suffering, pain, mockery and shame. These are the things which we deserve on account of our manifold sins and trespasses. We deserved to be beaten, scourged, spit upon, and ridiculed. We are the guilty ones. We are deserving of our sentence. We are deserving of death.

But our Lord + Jesus is not guilty of sin. He is innocent. He has fully fulfilled the Law of God perfectly. In Him is no cause for the mockery and shame that He endures. There is no cause in Him for Him to be crucified. Yet, He willingly suffers these things we deserve for He loves us deeply, and desires for us to spend all of eternity with Him. He willingly suffers these things for us, so that we may have an eternal victory parade in Heaven, surrounded by all of our loved ones who have gone before us in the faith. He willingly suffers death in order to give us life eternal.

Therefore, my dearly beloved friends, we can look upon the crucifix and see punishment that we deserve. We deserve to be hung on a tree; we deserve to be cursed upon a tree. The powers of evil, the agents of the prince of this world, cried out to Pilate to have Him crucified. "Crucify Him, crucify Him!" they shouted. They thought they could defeat the Incarnate Lord God by nailing Him to a tree. But He willingly goes to the cross; He willingly offers up His life as a ransom for ours; He willingly is nailed to a tree, because He knows that death cannot hold Him. He willingly goes to the suffering of the cross so that we might be freed from the bonds of the ruler of this world. They sought to silence the Lord + Jesus by His death, but they only managed to accomplish a great victory.

For this is the moment to which this whole week—this Holy Week—has been leading. It has been leading to reason we can celebrate and have a victory parade. It has been leading to the moment when our Lord + Jesus offers up His life as a ransom for our lives. In His death, we now have life—eternal life—and we have it abundantly through faith. The faith created in us by the working of the Holy Ghost through the means of grace. He points our eyes to the crucifixion of the Lord + Jesus, and tells us that this sacrifice is for us. This death is for us poor, miserable sinners, in order to give us life and salvation. For eternal life and salvation follow everywhere forgiveness is won and offered.

Our Lord + Jesus wins forgiveness of sins for us on the tree of the holy cross, for He paid for our sins with His very own Body and Blood. His is the sacrifice that wins salvation for all of mankind. And He gives us a memorial of that sacrifice by giving us to eat and drink of His Body and Blood in bread and wine. Here we receive the forgiveness that He won for us on the tree of the holy cross. Here at this altar we kneel before our Lord + Jesus, and receive the spoils of the war He fought with the prince of this world. He defeated the devil, and bound him in the chains of Hell. Now he can no longer accuse us of our sins.

In this meal, which we share with one another, and with all the angels, and archangels, and all the company of Heaven, is a memorial to His victory over sin and death. This meal is our victory celebration. It is our victory feast.

We have looked upon the crucifix this week, and seen it veiled to hide the horrors of what our penalty for sin has warranted. But now, in a little while, we will see it unveiled. We will see fully the penalty of our transgressions. However, this is not the end of the story. This week may end in death; the death of the Creator and Maker of all life. We may see our Lord + Jesus dead on the cross in the crucifix, but this is only a sign of His ultimate victory. For He is indeed the Creator and Maker of life. He can restore to all life and immortality. He will claim life for Himself on the third day. He will raise Himself up from the dead.

He will give this life to all those who believe on Him. All those who have died in the faith will be

raised again on the Last Day with new and glorious bodies. No more will they suffer the pains, diseases and persecutions of this life. They are free from all pain and suffering. For this reason the crucifixion of our Lord + Jesus, the corpus of the Body of the Lord on the tree of the holy cross, becomes for all of us who cling to Him in faith a symbol of the glorious victory that was promised us at the beginning of this week.

Therefore, my dearly beloved friends, let us not sorrow this day as the world sorrows at death. For we have the hope of eternal life. Our Lord's death is the reason why we have the promise of eternal life. His death means our life. His death means His victory over death will be secured, for He will break the bonds of death, and open our graves, so that we may live with Him and all the saints and angels of Heaven for all eternity.

We began this week with rejoicing. Our rejoicing turned to sorrow when we heard through the Passion of our Lord + Jesus from the four Evangelists what the consequences of our sins have merited. We earned death on account of our manifold sins and trespasses. But our Lord + Jesus has defeated death with His death. And He promises to give us who believe on Him an eternal life with Him in Heaven. There we will celebrate eternally the victory parade which our Lord won for us by His death on the tree of the holy cross. 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 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!