

Holy Tuesday
St. John 12:24-43
March 31st, 2026
Sts. Peter and Paul Ev. Lutheran Church, UAC
Simpsonville, SC
Pastor Jerald P. Dulas

Who Is This Son of Man?

In Nomine Iesu!

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

Sermon Text:

“But this He said, signifying by what manner of death He should die. The multitude therefore answered Him, ‘We have heard out of the law that the Christ abideth forever: and how sayest Thou, ‘The Son of Man must be lifted up?’ who is this Son of Man?’”

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.

My dear friends, yesterday’s Gospel reading from the Apostle and Evangelist St. John ends with some Greeks wishing to see the Lord + Jesus. We are told that they approached St. Philip with this request, because he was from Bethsaida of Galilee. He in turn goes to St. Andrew, one of the first Apostles called by the Lord + Jesus, and they approach the Lord together. It is at this desire of the Greeks—the Gentiles—that our Lord + Jesus now proclaims that the hour of His glorification was at hand. This is how yesterday’s Gospel reading ends. Today’s Gospel pericope begins where yesterday’s left off. This whole Gospel reading from St. John for today is about our Lord’s glorification. What is His glorification? Our Lord tells us today.

Indeed, my dear friends, we hear a Voice out of heaven declaring that our Lord + Jesus has been glorified, and will be glorified. As we have heard recently, the Lord was glorified when He took upon Himself our flesh at His Incarnation. The Lord will also be glorified in His death and crucifixion. A grain of wheat must go into the ground in order for it to produce fruit. The Son of Man must be lifted, that is, crucified, in order that the prince of this world, the devil, will be cast out of his power and authority over mankind. The Stronger Man must defeat the strong man so that sin and death may no longer have power and authority. There must be a death for the transgressions of mankind. A punishment must be enacted against the crimes of mankind; against their sins and iniquities. The Son of Man, our Lord + Jesus, will glorify the Name of the Lord God by His suffering and death.

What an odd thing! We can certainly understand the connection of our Lord’s glorification at His Incarnation, at His taking upon Himself our flesh. That is a great and glorious thing! The Lord God does what no man could do. Indeed, my friends, He does what no other god could do, even if they were real. He becomes a part of His creation. He ensures that the covenant that mankind always breaks on account of sin dwelling in them, will never be broken again. For, He as both the Lord God, and as a Man, will keep the Law perfectly for us. He will uphold both sides of the covenant, both the Lord God’s and mankind’s. By this He will establish a new covenant, one that can never be broken. This is a great

and glorious thing! We can see why the Voice out of heaven from the reading for today says, that He His Name is already glorified. It is glorified because our Lord + Jesus has established a new, unbreakable covenant by taking upon Himself our flesh in His incarnation.

Howbeit, it is odd that the Voice out of heaven says that His Name will be glorified by the suffering and death of the Lord + Jesus. This is why the multitudes that heard our Lord + Jesus talking about His death are confused. You see, my dear friends, they understood when the Lord was talking about a seed going into the ground and dying to produce life, that He was talking about Himself. They even ask how the Messiah, the Son of Man, could die, because according to their understanding of the Scriptures that the Christ abideth forever. How can He abide forever if He dies? Was He possibly talking about someone else? Who is this Son of Man that you are talking about? How can the Lord + Jesus be the Son of Man if He dies. How can the Son of Man glorify the Lord's Name if He suffers and dies. There is no glory in a person's death.

The glory of our Lord + Jesus in His death is two-fold: first, by His death He atones for the sins of the whole world. He is the sacrificial Lamb that was chosen for us in yesterday's Gospel reading. His blood appeases the wrath of the Lord God. The sacrifice of bulls and rams satisfied the anger of the Lord God, but they did not fully atone for the sins of mankind. They were a shadow of things to come. This is why the animal sacrifices needed to continue daily, morning and evening, because they did not fully atone for the sins of mankind. But the Lord + Jesus, Who is both the Lord God and Man, can appease fully the wrath of the Lord God. For He has perfectly fulfilled the covenant between God and man, and He has paid the price of all other transgressions. Therefore, by His death, by His sacrifice for us, all those who by faith cling to His sacrificial death in faith, are forgiven and saved from eternal death.

And this leads to the second way our Lord is glorified in His death. For He does not stay dead! The true glorification of our Lord in His death is that He rises again from the dead. A grain of wheat goes into the ground and dies, but it shoots out of the ground alive again and produces much fruit. The Son of Man must be lifted up upon the tree of the holy cross; He must suffer and die; He must shed His blood upon the post and lintels of the tree of the cross, so that His blood atones for the sins of the whole. The Son of Man must be buried in the grave, so that in three days, before corruption sets in, He may rise again from the dead.

And this is the part where our Lord + Jesus is truly glorified; where the Lord God's Name is glorified in our Lord's death. For His death and resurrection is only the first fruits of life and immortality. His blood covers over all those who cling to His sacrifice in faith. We who cling to His works and merits in faith have been covered with His blood. Indeed, we have been covered with His blood and clothed with His righteousness in the waters of Holy Baptism. By baptism we have been buried with Him in His death, so that just as He was raised again from the dead, we too, may walk in newness of life. By faith, we have been made partakers of the new covenant which He created by His life and death. His death on the tree of the cross now means that all those who have been baptized into His Name will also rise again from the dead, just like He did.

His death means that the world now has the gift of life. Not just life for this world, but an eternal life. This is what the multitudes did not understand about our Lord's words about His death. How can there be an eternal Kingdom of the Christ, if He dies? He dies in order to produce life, and provide it abundantly. A single grain of wheat produces much grain. Our Lord's death gives life to all those who cling to Him in faith. All those who trust in His mercy. What the multitudes did not understand is that our Lord was not talking about an earthly kingdom. He was talking about an eternal Kingdom in heaven. This what our Lord + Jesus wins for us poor, miserable sinners by His death on the tree of the holy cross. He has taken upon Himself our flesh, and perfectly fulfilled the Law on our behalf. And, He has taken upon Himself our punishment, all that we deserved for our many sins and transgressions. He does all this to establish for us, and all those who cling to Him in faith, an eternal Kingdom in heaven.

In this way our Lord + Jesus is glorified. By this, the Name of the Lord God is glorified, for He has conquered sin and death. He has defeated the devil. They can harm us no longer.

This gift is not just for the people of Israel. It is not just for the Jews. Indeed, the Jews have rejected it. This gift is for all those who in faith cling to the Lord + Jesus. This is why our Lord says that the hour of His glorification was at hand. For not only was His Name known among the multitudes of the people of Israel, but the Greek—the Gentiles—also sought Him. They also sought forgiveness of their sins. They also sought life and salvation, even as we do today. Therefore, we can rejoice this day for our Lord + Jesus has glorified His Name by both taking upon Himself our flesh in His Incarnation, and atoning for our sins upon the tree of the holy cross. By these things He has brought life and immortality to light. We no longer need to walk in the darkness of sin. We can now walk under a new covenant; a covenant of life eternal. For our Lord's death has brought life and immortality to light for us. This is Who the Son of Man is. 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!