

Good Friday  
St. John 18:1—19:42  
April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2026  
Sts. Peter and Paul Ev. Lutheran Church, UAC  
Simpsonville, SC  
Pastor Jerald P. Dulas

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!’ Pilate saith unto them, ‘Take Him yourselves, and crucify Him: for I find no crime in Him.’ The Jews answered him, ‘We have a law, and by that law He ought to die, because He made himself the Son of God.’”

**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.

Dearly beloved, there are many people today who will easily confess that the Lord + Jesus, the Christ, died for them. Many, however, will also not be able to articulate why He died for them. They will say it was because of His love for them, or because of His mercy. Neither of which is untrue, but it does not actually get to the point of why our Lord + Jesus, the Christ, died for us. His love and mercy for us is because we are poor, miserable sinners. Our Lord died for our sins and trespasses. He suffers mockery, shame, spitting, beating, scourging, and crucifixion, because of our sins and iniquities. Our sins must be punished. Our transgressions must be atoned. The penalty of our iniquities is death. A death must occur for our trespasses.

Indeed, my dear friends, this is why every one of us will die. Because sin entered into the world through one man, through our first parent Adam. He disobeyed the Lord God’s command in the Garden of Eden to not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Now, he and all his children, that is, we are doomed to die. This was the lie and deception that Satan, in the form of a serpent, by which our first parents deceived. Yes, they would know good and evil. They learned that by their disobedience to the command of the Lord God that they were now the evil. So too, are all of Adam’s children—so too are us—we are the evil, for we disobey the command of the Lord God. Adam was given one express command by the Lord God: to not eat from a tree. But the Law of the Lord God was written on his heart.

This Law was later written down on two tablets of stone. It was written with the very finger of the Lord God, and given to Moses the prophet to give to the people of Israel. It was the same Law that was written in our hearts, for we know what is truly right and wrong. This was the result of eating from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. We not only know the right, but we also now know the wrong. We know when we are sinning, for it is written in our hearts. But the Law is also written in the Word of the Lord God, in the Ten Commandments. These commandments of our Lord stand as a testament

against us, for we daily break them. The Law accuses us of our transgressions, of our sins, especially after we learn that not just the outward tenets of the Law need to be fulfilled, but all of the spiritual implications. The Law does not just demand that we do not take another's life, but that we do not even hate another person. It demands that we help our neighbor in his every bodily need. The Law does not just demand that we do not take our neighbor's stuff, but that we should help him to improve and protect his property and income.

When we learn how exact the Law of the Lord God must be followed in order for us to be considered righteous and holy, we also learn that we are not anywhere close to being righteous and holy. Therefore, because of our unrighteousness and our unholiness—because of our sins and iniquities—we deserve to die. We deserve to face our Lord God's eternal wrath and displeasure. We can certainly try to face this on our own, by our own merits and good works, but those will never measure up to the requirements that our Lord God has set. For He requires perfection. He requires that His Law be fulfilled perfectly.

This is why our Lord + Jesus, the Christ, dies for us. Our very own Lord God comes down from heaven, and takes upon Himself our flesh—He becomes a man—so that what we are unable to do, He can do for us, and do it for us perfectly. Indeed, my dear friends, our Lord + Jesus has fulfilled the whole will and Law of the heavenly Father. He has obeyed the Law perfectly. He has done it for us. He has done it as one of us. But our transgressions, our breaking of the Law of the Lord God, still require a death. Our Lord + Jesus offers up His life as a ransom for us. He dies in our place. He takes our punishment upon Himself. He Who is without sin, becomes sin for us, so that by His death He might make satisfaction with the heavenly Father for our sins. He is crucified for us. He dies for us. He dies so that our sins may be atoned.

The chief priests and officers, when they saw the Lord + Jesus clothed in a purple robe and wearing a crown of thorns when Pontius Pilate brought Him out cried out to "Crucify Him!" They meant it for His demise, but it was for the good of mankind, for His crucifixion means our forgiveness from sins. It means our life and salvation. Our Lord was mocked as the king of the Jews by having a purple robe placed upon Him and a crown of thorns placed upon His head. They meant it for mockery, but they still dress Him in the Office that He bears. He is still a King. They still dressed Him as a King. They even placed Him upon a throne. His throne is the tree of the holy cross.

For from this tree, He wins salvation for all of mankind. He wins forgiveness, life, and salvation for all those who cling to Him in faith. We cling in faith to our crucified Lord, for in His crucifixion He dies for us. He dies for our transgressions. Moreover, He dies so that we may no longer be held in bondage to sin. He has freed us from the penalty of our sins and transgressions. He has freed us from death and the grave. For His death conquers death once and for all. He defeats death, for He defeats the ruler of death, the devil and Satan. The serpent that led mankind into death and the grave by His prevarication of our first parents has been crushed and destroyed.

This is what our Lord + Jesus, our King, does for us upon the tree of the holy cross. He is a victorious King Who defeats all of enemies, and makes us His subject free from sin and shame. This is why we are not ashamed of the cross. We are not ashamed to see our Lord + Jesus hanging bodily and dead upon the tree of the holy cross, for in His death, death is defeated. This is why we should give due reverence when we see the cross, when we see the crucifix, for in seeing our Lord's lifeless body, we know that we now have life. We have eternal life and salvation. Our Lord + Jesus confirms that we have eternal life on account of His death, when He rises again from the dead on the third day.

In Him is life and immortality, for He has defeated death and the grave. He willingly and gladly gives us this life and immortality on account of our faith and trust in Him. When we turn away from our will, from our desire to live a sinful and corrupt life, a life contrary to the Law of the Lord God, we turn

in contrition, that is, sorrow over our sins, to faith in the Lord + Jesus, the Christ. For our sins and transgression; our desire to do whatever is pleasing and satisfying to us contrary to the will and Law of the Lord God only brings us death and pain. This is why we daily and humbly confess our sins and transgressions to our Lord God. This is why in our pain and misery over our sinful lives; we turn to our Lord + Jesus. For in Him is the forgiveness of all our sins. Where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation.

Therefore, my dearly beloved, let us look upon Him Whom we have pierced with our sins and iniquities. Let us look upon the One Whose sacred head is now wounded. Let us sorrow over our sins. For our sins have brought us death. Our sins have nailed our Lord + Jesus to the tree of the holy cross. It is for our sins and iniquities for which He is willing to suffer and die upon the tree of the holy cross, so that He might give us life and immortality. He has died for us. He has died so that He may redeem us back from sin and death, and that by our faith in Him, we may eternal life with Him and all the saints and angels in heaven forever and ever, world without end. Death has been defeated, and we will forever go free because He was crucified for us. 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!*