

Good Friday
St. John 18:1—19:42
March 30th, 2018
Sts. Peter & Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, UAC
Simpsonville, SC
Pastor Jerald Dulas

Jesus Was Crucified

In Nomine Iesu!

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

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 Passion from the Evangelist St. John picks up from where we left off last night. Our Lord + Jesus Christ had just finished instituting the meal of His Body and Blood given in bread and wine. They sang a hymn and went to the Garden of Gethsemane. After our Lord prays while His Apostles sleep, Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed Him, shows up with soldiers given to him by the chief priests, in order that they might arrest our Lord + Jesus Christ.

We are quite familiar with the rest of the story. Our Lord is put on trial by Annas, then Caiaphas, then the whole Sanhedrin. After they condemn Him to death, our Lord is then led to Pontius Pilate, where He is initially examined, then sent to Herod, and then sent back to Pilate. In all, our Lord + Jesus Christ has six trials throughout the night and into the early morning. All these numerous trials really only establish that our Lord is innocent of the crimes of which He is accused. No witnesses can be found to put any guilt on Him. Only two are found and they are false witnesses, because they cannot keep their facts straight, and even disagree among themselves as to what our Lord actually said. Our Lord is innocent; this much is made clear.

He is then condemned to death by Pontius Pilate; condemned to suffer and die by the most shameful means of death at that time, by crucifixion. He would hang on the cross from the third hour to the ninth hour, that is, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.; six hours of agony. Half of that time the earth was dark. For, from the sixth to the ninth hours there would be darkness over all the land. Even the world felt the pain and sting of sin in this world.

Our Lord endures this suffering for you. He is innocent when we are not. He fulfilled the Law perfectly, while we break it daily and constantly. He is condemned to die, when we, who deserve death, are set free and are given eternal life. He bears the sins of the whole world, while we receive forgiveness for our sins. The world is covered in darkness, while we are led into the light of salvation through our Lord + Jesus Christ's sacrifice on our behalf. He pays the penalty for our sins, while we are redeemed, that is, bought back from sin, death and the power of the devil, on account of His great love for us.

Our Lord's night of joy with His Apostles, where He celebrated the first Lord's Supper, ended badly, but it was all for us. Our Lord + Jesus was crucified. He was condemned and crucified all so that we might be free from the penalty of sin. So now we cling to our Lord's cross in faith, especially when

the torment of sin and shame assails us. For it is through the tree of the holy cross, where our redemption and life are won.

One of the features of this Divine Service is that when the Reproaches are being sung, the Altar Crucifix, which is now veiled, will be unveiled. As we sing about how our sins condemned an innocent Man to the tree of the holy cross, we will see that crucifixion in full view to contemplate one final time during this Lenten season, what the cost of our sins truly is.

After this, the next time that we gather together as a fellowship of believers, will be to move past the death of our Lord; to move past His burial in the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea, where no other persons had ever been buried, to His resurrection. But let us not jump ahead to soon. Let us, therefore, take this time and this opportunity to reflect upon what our Lord + Jesus Christ endured for us. Certainly reflect upon the cross, but also reflect upon all the stages leading up to His crucifixion and death. For all these things He did for you, so that you might have forgiveness, life and salvation.

Our sins nailed Him to a tree. He was crucified on account of our manifold transgressions. It was all our fault. But, He gladly and willingly suffers for six hours on a cross. He gladly and willingly participates in a sham trial. He gladly and willingly endures mocking, ridicule, beating and whipping. All this He does out of love for you, so that He might buy you back from sin, death and the devil, and you might enjoy forgiveness of sins, eternal life and salvation. He rightly deserves our thanks and praise. In the Name of our Lord + Jesus Christ. Amen.

Prayer in Pulpit after Sermon:

Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but unto Thy Name give glory! I will extol Thee, O Lord, and I will praise Thy Name forever and ever. Amen.

The Votum:

The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Amen.

Soli Deo gloria!