The Passion Of Our Lord Jesus Christ: The Lord's Supper

## Trinity Lutheran Church - Kearney, Missouri

February 21, 2018 – Wednesday of Lent I

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The Passion Of Our Lord Jesus Christ: The Lord's Supper

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The Passion Of Our Lord Jesus Christ: The Lord's Supper

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February 21, 2018 – Wednesday of Lent I

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In the name of the Father, and † of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. I don't know if you've ever thought about this before, but what you confess about Jesus says an awful lot about what you believe concerning yourself. In the Small Catechism we learn that Jesus is both true God and true Man, begotten of the Father from eternity, born of the Virgin Mary - born to be your Lord and Savior - the One "who has redeemed you, a lost and condemned person." So, it's time to admit it and tell the truth. You are a sinner. You have inherited the dreaded Adamic disease, and you are profusely good at being your own god. There's no use denying or spinning it. It's time to give up on the idea that although you aren't perfect, at least you're not as bad as - well, you can fill in that blank yourself. But God wants you know that this way of thinking is pure nonsense, for the Scriptures everywhere declare that all have sinned! So what part of "all" don't you understand?

The truth is that no one, no not even you, is excluded from the "all have sinned" classification. Don't even try to exempt or excuse yourself from the fact that, along with the rest of us, you've earned quite a hefty paycheck for being a sinner. And the take-home pay for sinning is eternal death, damnation and hell. What Luther wrote about all of us being

lost and condemned persons includes you, too. You see, you're no different from the Apostles who, on the night Jesus was betrayed, had a knock down, drag out, bare-knuckle verbal brawl right there in the middle of our Lord instituting His last will and testament – a fight that was focused on which of them would be greatest in the Kingdom of God. Can you imagine what you might have heard had been there?

"Thank God I'm not like you, Matthew - you weasel tax cheat - you chiseler. And Judas, I know why we're always short of funds, you dirty little thief. You're not buying groceries or donating to the poor, you're skimming some of our money and keeping it for yourself. And James and John, let me tell you a thing or two. You're too big for your britches - out of your league, wanting God to rain down fire down from heaven on people you don't like? And your mother, what a piece of work she is, trying to finagle a position of power for you in God's kingdom. And Peter, are you listening? Good grief, who do you think you are? I heard you just made an appointment at Cohen's in Jerusalem to get measured for a new pope's miter. What's all that about?

But don't you see? Don't you realize who you are? Yes, you are a sinner - a dead, damned, lost, condemned sinner who must be died for and saved by the Son of Man. That's what our Lord Jesus came for - to serve, not to be served. And now the hour has come for Him to go to the cross to give His life unto death for you – to atone for all sin and every sinner no matter how bad, reprehensible, or horrible. Because all have sinned - including you - our Lord Jesus had to do an all encompassing, "once for all" time and "once for all" people sin-sacrifice. So He Calvaries you and Good Fridays you with the one and only death that counts before God. He drinks to the very bottom of the cup of God's wrath, takes the wages you deserve, and suffers the damnation you earned. He redeems you, a lost and condemned person, hands

Himself over to be crucified, dies and buried. In death He puts into effect His last will and testament – simple, ordinary bread and wine given for us sinners to eat and drink with a promise that this bread is His body and this wine is His blood.

It's our Lord Jesus' will for you that you eat this body and drink this blood which was freely and lovingly given over unto death in order to win and achieve salvation for you - to redeem you, a lost and condemned person – to cleanse you, head to toe, from every vestige of sin. This is what our Lord Jesus wants you to know and believe: that in your eating and drinking of His true body and blood, you and your sins are forgiven, died for, bodied and bloodied in this Sacrament with the very same body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ that atoned for all your sin on Calvary's cross. You once were "lost," but now are found, redeemed, restored and renewed. You once were "condemned," but now you are freely forgiven. And you know this is so because Jesus says that it's so. He has given you His promise, and when our Lord Jesus promises something, you know it has to be true, for He doesn't lie, but always speaks the truth. In the Name of Jesus. Amen.