

Who Has Redeemed Me a Lost and Condemned Person

The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ: *Gethsemane*

Trinity Lutheran Church – Kearney, Missouri

Wednesday of Lent 2 – February 28, 2018

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In the name of the Father, and of † the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. In II Samuel it's reported how on one occasion Israel's greatest king journeyed to the Mount of Olives to find shelter and protection – a place where he could pray to the Lord that His will might be done. That king was David, and his son, Absalom, had become his cruelest enemy – greedily declaring himself king and leading a rebellion against his father – a civil war to take over the kingdom! And as if that wasn't enough, one of the king's most trusted advisors, Bathsheba's grandfather, had also deserted and betrayed David by supporting Absalom against him!

As you might imagine, King David's suffering on the Mount of Olives that day was intense. He had been double-crossed, victimized and exiled. His life was in grave danger. But here's the part that's hard to understand. He suffers it all, willingly! Of course, eventually Absalom's rebel forces were defeated. And when that happened Bathsheba's grandfather despaired, believing there could be no forgiveness for him. He was certain King David would put him on trial and find him guilty of treason. So he took matters into his own hands and committed suicide. And King David returned to Jerusalem as king.

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The devil used Judas' weakness and greed to turn this Apostle against his King! Greed is the root of all evil, and what a great evil it was that was perpetrated against Jesus to dethrone Him from His rightful throne! And how did Judas do it? He did it with a kiss, with a detachment of military might – with lanterns, torches, bows, arrows, cold steel, javelins, swords and daggers – and for even more insurance, all the spiritual power he could muster! He brought with him the chief priests and Pharisees all armed in their glorious vestments.

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in such distress? Why are His arms limp? Why was an angel sent from heaven to strengthen Him?

Listen again to His words: ***“My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death.”*** Jesus has just been given the news that He’s terminal! The end is near and will come quickly. On Friday He will drink to the bottom the cup of the Father’s wrath against every sin and all sinners, bearing its full burden! He will bear in His Body the sin of the entire world – your sin and mine – and receive what we rightly deserve: death and damnation! He will suffer the agony of hell because of our sin! All the vicious energy pouring from the gates of hell, death and the devil will be unleashed against Him! The great day of the Lord against all rebellion and unbelief will come upon Him as He carries all our sin to the cross!

The cup Jesus will be given to drink from is that His Father will treat Him as the greatest of all sinners! ***“God made Him who had no sin to be sin,”*** and so He will be punished accordingly! Can this really be the divine plan, Jesus wonders aloud? And so He prays: ***“Father, is there another way? Can this cup pass Me by? Will You remove it? Do I really have to drink it? But not My will be done, but Yours, Father!”*** What kind of Messiah is this? You might wonder. What kind of King refuses to fight back and willingly allows all this to happen? After seeing what the Father does to His Son – without knowing the reason for it – you might find yourself ready to call the authorities in and charge God with Child abuse! After all, how could the Father do this to His one and only Son! But believe it or not, that is a question that’s often put to us Christians when talking about this blackest of Fridays.

But be careful! Think about it! Would you ***really*** want to remove your sin from Jesus?

Would you really divorce Him from all your transgressions? Would you spare Him the humiliation and hurt of being treated as the worst Sinner the world has ever known? Would you release Him from God’s wrath and the curse of hell? Well, let me ask you, do you have a better plan? Do you really think you can impose your will upon God? And when you discover you can’t, are you willing to run away and have nothing to do with this pitiful, wretched King?

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The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ: *Gethsemane*

Trinity Lutheran Church – Kearney, Missouri

Wednesday of Lent 2 – February 28, 2018

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The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ: *Gethsemane*

Trinity Lutheran Church – Kearney, Missouri

Wednesday of Lent 2 – February 28, 2018

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Who Has Redeemed Me a Lost and Condemned Person

The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ: *Gethsemane*

Trinity Lutheran Church – Kearney, Missouri

Wednesday of Lent 2 – February 28, 2018

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As you might imagine, King David's suffering on the Mount of Olives that day was intense. He had been double-crossed, victimized and exiled. His life was in grave danger. But here's the part that's hard to understand. He suffers it all, willingly! Of course, eventually Absalom's rebel forces were defeated. And when that happened Bathsheba's grandfather despaired, believing there could be no forgiveness for him. He was certain King David would put him on trial and find him guilty of treason. So he took matters into his own hands and committed suicide. And King David returned to Jerusalem as king.

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The devil used Judas' weakness and greed to turn this Apostle against his King! Greed is the root of all evil, and what a great evil it was that was perpetrated against Jesus to dethrone Him from His rightful throne! And how did Judas do it? He did it with a kiss, with a detachment of military might – with lanterns, torches, bows, arrows, cold steel, javelins, swords and daggers – and for even more insurance, all the spiritual power he could muster! He brought with him the chief priests and Pharisees all armed in their glorious vestments.

There on the Mount of Olives in Gethsemane's garden Jesus would fall under attack while almost all the other Apostles stood helplessly watching the entire sordid affair! All their bragging about how they would willingly put their own lives on the line for Jesus quickly turned to sleeping, swordplay, and desertion. Our Lord's suffering is radically intense as He experiences the daring, craven attack of Satan through one of His own. However, there's another matter on our Lord's mind that shakes Him to the core! His mental anguish is acute, agonizing and excruciating. His heart is heavy. His body shakes and shivers so much so that sweat seeps as great drops of blood from His body. What's wrong? What's causing Him to tremble and shudder? Why is He so numb and

in such distress? Why are His arms limp? Why was an angel sent from heaven to strengthen Him?

Listen again to His words: ***“My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death.”*** Jesus has just been given the news that He’s terminal! The end is near and will come quickly. On Friday He will drink to the bottom the cup of the Father’s wrath against every sin and all sinners, bearing its full burden! He will bear in His Body the sin of the entire world – your sin and mine – and receive what we rightly deserve: death and damnation! He will suffer the agony of hell because of our sin! All the vicious energy pouring from the gates of hell, death and the devil will be unleashed against Him! The great day of the Lord against all rebellion and unbelief will come upon Him as He carries all our sin to the cross!

The cup Jesus will be given to drink from is that His Father will treat Him as the greatest of all sinners! ***“God made Him who had no sin to be sin,”*** and so He will be punished accordingly! Can this really be the divine plan, Jesus wonders aloud? And so He prays: ***“Father, is there another way? Can this cup pass Me by? Will You remove it? Do I really have to drink it? But not My will be done, but Yours, Father!”*** What kind of Messiah is this? You might wonder. What kind of King refuses to fight back and willingly allows all this to happen? After seeing what the Father does to His Son – without knowing the reason for it – you might find yourself ready to call the authorities in and charge God with Child abuse! After all, how could the Father do this to His one and only Son! But believe it or not, that is a question that’s often put to us Christians when talking about this blackest of Fridays.

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