

The Scriptures are Fulfilled

Matthew 26-27

Palm Sunday, April 14, 2019, Confirmation Day

Immanuel Lutheran Church Broadlands

Mary, Libby, Adena, Kelsey, and Raena, in a few short moments you will stand before this altar. You will stand before me. You will stand before the congregation. By standing before this altar and before me and before the congregation you will be standing before God. God is present here. Your Lord Jesus Christ is present wherever two or three are gathered in His name. While you are standing before God you will confess your faith. In addition to confessing the faith which God gave you in your baptism you will also acknowledge the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the inspired, infallible, and inerrant Word of God.

Do not acknowledge that lightly.

Judas Isacriot leads a crowd out to the Garden of Gethsemane to arrest Jesus. They go out to Him with swords and clubs to arrest Him. When someone tries to defend Jesus by cutting off the ear of the servant of the chief priest, Jesus rebukes that person and tells him that anyone who takes up the sword and lives by it will also perish by it. Jesus also rebukes the crowd. I taught in the temple for days and you did not arrest Me. Then Jesus explains why they are arresting Him now as opposed to earlier that week when He stirred up such anger. They are arresting Him then even though they had ample opportunity to do so earlier because the Scriptures must be fulfilled.

Think of it. The Scriptures must be fulfilled.

In the past I have emphasized rightly the authentic humanity of our Lord. I also, and rightly so, emphasize the authentic divinity of our Lord. And even the divine Lord of glory who has the power to command the wind and the sea and they obey Him, and has the power to command twelve legions of angels, still will submit to the Holy Scripture. The Scriptures must be fulfilled.

This Jesus was just praying in the Garden of Gethsemane. He was just praying to His heavenly Father. He was just praying to the One who together with Himself gave the Holy Scripture. In the agony of His soul at bearing the wrath of God, Jesus cries out, "If it is possible, let this cup pass from Me." He doesn't want to bear the woe. He does not want to bear the wrath. He does not want to bear the wrath for fallen sinners like you. But then He adds, "Nevertheless, not My will, but Yours be done."

And where is the will of God made known to Jesus or any of us. The will of God is made known in the Holy Scriptures. The Holy Scriptures must be fulfilled. The Holy

Scriptures contain the will of God. The Holy Scriptures infallibly and inerrantly record the will of God. The will of God must be done.

And so they arrest Jesus so that the Scriptures may be fulfilled. Even the incarnate God is put to trial and false witnesses are brought against Him so that the Scriptures will be fulfilled. He is found guilty of blasphemy. They spit on Him. They punch Him. They slap Him. They turn Him over to Pilate to crucify Him.

Peter denies Him. Pilate finds Him innocent, but sentences Him to crucifixion anyway. Barabbas gets away. They flog Jesus. They press the crown of thorns upon His head. They force Him to carry His own cross. They force Him to the place of the skull. They crucify Him. They mock Him. They spit on Him. They shake their head at Him and they tempt Him to come down from the cross.

But if He comes down from the cross the Scriptures will not be fulfilled. And Jesus will have the Scriptures fulfilled that say that it is necessary for things to be this way.

Even the authentic, incarnate God bows before the Word of God as contained in the Holy Scriptures and He suffered all things all your behalf and for your salvation so that the Scripture would be fulfilled. And then on the third day He rose again from the dead. The authentic human does what is impossible, but then the impossible must be done so that the Scripture will be fulfilled.

When He dies and when He rises Jesus demonstrates that the prophetic and apostolic Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the inspired, infallible, and inerrant Word of God. They will be fulfilled. Jesus will see to it.

So do not stand here before this altar, me, and this congregation and acknowledge that the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testament are the inspired, infallible, and inerrant Word of God, and then go to bed tonight without reading them. Do not spend this next week or next month or next year without reading them. They contain the will of God. They contain the will of God for the incarnate God, your Lord Jesus Christ. And if they contain the will of God for Him they contain the will of God for you. And whatever the will of God is that is contained in them will come to pass. If it is a commandment that He wills you to obey, then you need to know it. If it is a promise like of forgiveness and everlasting life, then who would not want to know it?

It is all there, the will of God, whole and entire and inevitable so inevitable that even the Son of God did not resist arrest in order to fulfill them. It is there in the Holy Scriptures. It is there for you.

In the Name of Jesus. Amen.