

**“Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”  
Lent and Holy Week Meditations, 2023  
Zion Lutheran Church, Ridgeville Corners, Ohio**

For Lent and Holy Week this year at Zion Lutheran we will reflect on the many meanings and teachings from Scripture about our Lord Jesus being, and having the title, “The Lamb of God.” Throughout the Old Testament it is clear that God would atone for all of humanity’s sins through a sacrifice He would choose. The Old Testament animal sacrifices pointed to this final saving sacrifice. The prophets foretold of the human who would be this sacrifice. The Gospels clearly identify Jesus as this sacrifice and the New Testament epistles give teachings that Jesus as the Lamb of God gives us forgiveness, life and salvation. Finally in Revelation, Jesus is honored and praised as the Lamb of God.

Good Friday, April 7

“The Lamb, with the Spirit and the Father, Overcomes All for Us”  
John 16

John chapters 13 – 17 record Jesus’ teachings to His disciples in the upper room where He instituted His Holy Supper. Jesus was preparing His disciples to go through the experiences of His suffering and death. Jesus also clearly taught for the time after He rose from the dead and would ascend into heaven. Jesus promised to send His disciples the Holy Spirit; they would not be left alone. Moreover, the Holy Spirit would remind and instruct the disciples in all that Jesus had taught them. Jesus’ teachings would be strong among them.

Whoever believes that the suffering, dying and rising Jesus is the Son of God is loved by God. Human works are not the foundation of salvation and God’s love – rather to receive Jesus as the Son of God and Savior is the foundation of God’s love for us. Moreover, to pray in the name of Jesus is a prayer heard and answered by the Father. In our relationship with the Son, Father and Holy Spirit, Jesus gives peace with Him. There is trouble in this world, but Jesus has overcome this world.

Sermon Notes - “The Lamb, with the Spirit and the Father,  
Overcomes All for Us” John 16

I. Jesus Leaves His Eternal Teachings with His Disciples

- Jesus as the Lamb of God does not do His work as a mystery.
- Jesus teaches right up to His betrayal and separation from the disciples.
- How does one understand all that Jesus had done and taught, and would suffer and die?
- If doubts about Jesus, then the disciples are left on their own
- But the Holy Spirit would...
  - Remind them, guide them into truth, speak to them Jesus’ own teachings.
  - Glorify Jesus by taking all teachings from Jesus and the Father, and give to the disciples.

II. The Disciples Can Continue to Talk to the Father in Jesus’ Name

- To believe in Jesus is to know He was sent by the Father to be “The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.”
- To believe in Jesus is to...
  - receive Jesus from the Father,
  - receive the Father’s love,
  - is to love Jesus and to love the Father,
  - is to talk to the Father in the name of Jesus.

III. The Disciples’ Eternal Reality is Not What this Sinful, Passing World Says Is Reality

- Jesus will appear to be alone, but the Father is with Jesus.
- Jesus gives the harmony and love (peace) that He has with the Father to also be with the disciples.
- The troubles and trials of this world can seem to overcome His disciples, but that it not possible – Jesus has overcome all of this world’s evils.

*“Behold, the hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home, and will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone, for the Father is with me. I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.” John 16:32-33*