**Everything Written Will Be Accomplished**

**Luke 18:31-43**

Quinquagesima – 2.14.2021

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

Most sermons you have heard on this text focused on the healing of the blind man, in fact, I would guess that almost all of them dealt with that portion of this text. Today, I would like to key in on the first part of this lesson from Luke’s Gospel, and especially Jesus’ words, “Everything written about the Son of Man by the prophets will be accomplished.”

Did you ever wonder what was written about Jesus in the prophets? Have you ever read all of the Old Testament? Ever spend much time in the prophets? Do you know where the prophetic writings are found? All of the Bible should be familiar to you. If it is not, maybe considering how you can do to fix that is in order. Bible reading guides for the Lent and Easter season are available in the narthex. You can choose one to read through either the whole Bible, or simply through the New Testament. Of course, attending Bible study is also another option.

As for prophesies about Jesus, the first one is in chapter 3 of Genesis. The first promise which concerns the Son of Man was given to Adam and Eve in the garden. He would crush Satan’s head, but Satan would only bruise His heel. Jesus crushed Satan’s head, destroyed Satan’s power of sin and death with His death on the cross, and in His rising the third day.

Passover prophesied to Christ the Lamb of God without blemish who was killed. His blood sprinkled doorposts and lintels, that is, the cross. We eat of the Lamb’s flesh and death passes over us that when we depart this life of slavery to sin, we enter the promised land of Paradise..

What was written about Christ that was fulfilled? One thousand years before Christ’s first advent, David prophesied in writing Psalm 22, listen closely to it.

*My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning?* Do you hear Jesus’ words from the cross? Do you see the prophecy fulfilled?

Psalm 22 continues… *But I am a worm and not a man, scorned by mankind and despised by the people. All who see me mock me; they make mouths at me; they wag their heads; “He trusts in the Lord; let Him deliver Him; let Him rescue him, for He delights in him!”* Pilate would have set Jesus free, he even flogged Him in order that the people might see Him punished and have compassion on Him. Instead, He was so despised by the Jewish leadership that they stirred up the crowds that they all begged and screamed to crucify Jesus? At the cross, they mocked Jesus, ridiculing Him and said, “He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he desires him. For he said, 'I am the Son of God.'”

Psalm 22 continues… *Yet you are he who took me from the womb; you made me trust you at my mother's breasts. On you was I cast from my birth, and from my mother's womb you have been my God. Be not far from me, for trouble is near, and there is none to help.* In the Garden of Gethsemane, when He is arrested, even Jesus’ best friends abandon Him, leaving all alone.

Psalm 22 continues… *Many bulls encompass me; strong bulls of Bashan surround me; they open wide their mouths at me, like a ravening and roaring lion. I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint; my heart is like wax; it is melted within my breast; my strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to my jaws; you lay me in the dust of death.* Hanging on the cross, although His bones were not broken, as all your body weight hangs from nails in your wrists, things will come out of joint. Crucifixion is a tiring ordeal. All His strength is wasted from the beating, the flogging, and trying just to breathe on the cross. There He hung, weak and thirsty, to die.

Psalm 22 continues… *For dogs encompass me; a company of evildoers encircles me; they have pierced my hands and feet. I can count all my bones. They stare and gloat over me; they divide my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots*. You know this is exactly the events at the crucifixion? The Jewish leaders stood beneath the cross and mocked him - his hands and feet were pierced by the soldiers who then divided his clothing among them and cast lots for His tunic.

Psalm 22 continues… *But you, O Lord, do not be far off! O you my help, come quickly to my aid! Deliver my soul from the sword, my precious life from the power of the dog! Save me from the mouth of the lion! You have rescued me from the horns of the wild oxen! I will tell of your name to my brothers; in the midst of the congregation I will praise you: You who fear the Lord, praise him! All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him, and stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel! For he has not despised or abhorred the affliction of the afflicted, and he has not hidden his face from him, but has heard, when he cried to him*. Jesus put up with all the afflictions of being a man, and came even to the aid of those afflicted. He did this until He Himself was afflicted with the pain and suffering of the cross. He embraced the affliction of our death, He was afflicted in our place, that we might be freed from sin and death.

Psalm 22 continues… *From you comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will perform before those who fear him. The afflicted shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the Lord! May your hearts live forever! All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord, and all the families of the nations shall worship before you. For kingship belongs to the Lord, and he rules over the nations. All the prosperous of the earth eat and worship; before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, even the one who could not keep himself alive. Posterity shall serve him; it shall be told of the Lord to the coming generation; they shall come and proclaim his righteousness to a people yet unborn, that he has done it.*

This is the purpose for all Christ did. In His perfect righteousness, He carried the sins of all and endured the sting of death in the pain of the cross – this is what is proclaimed to the ends of the earth. You and I are all part of the people yet unborn at the time David wrote this Psalm, all those to whom that righteousness of Christ has been proclaimed. Your children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren are those even yet unborn to whom the righteousness of Christ will be proclaimed unto life everlasting. It was prophesied three thousand years ago that you would be hearing this proclamation.

If the words in that beautiful Psalm are not enough to convince you, then hear what Isaiah wrote about Jesus almost 700 years before He walked the earth. (Isaiah 53:1‑12)

Isaiah wrote:

*Who has believed what they heard from us? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? For he grew up before Him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him.* Jesus lived His life from Mary’s womb as all other children. As He grew, He looked like any other man. When He came back to His hometown and preached, the people asked, “Isn’t this the carpenter’s son.”

Isaiah 53 continues… *He was despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.* Oh, how the Jews hated Him, how they plotted against Him. There are even times that we would rather deny that we are followers of Christ, than be teased by friends.

Isaiah 53 continues… *Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.*

What was Jesus preparing to endure when speaking the words of our text to the twelve disciples? What was He foretelling was about to take place? You and I have got our own sinful desires which pull us every which way. Our willpower wanes and we give in to the desires of our flesh, each of us going astray, turning to our own way. We excuse our sins. We like to think they are not so bad. Sometimes we make up our own rules or claim that the world is changing. These are the iniquities that the Lord God placed upon Jesus, which crushed Him. He was chastised in our place, just as Isaiah prophesied 700 years before Jesus birth.

Isaiah 53 continues… *He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth.* With but a word, Jesus could have called twelve legions of angels to protect Him. With but a Word from the mouth of Jesus, who created all that exists with but a word, He could have destroyed all who opposed Him – but He did not. He even stopped Peter when Peter tried to protect Him with the sword. Silently He went to be crucified for Peter, for you, and for me. And the only words Jesus spoke about those who led Him to slaughter was, “Father, forgive them, they know not what they do.”

Isaiah 53 continues… *By oppression and judgment he was taken away; and as for his generation, who considered that he was cut off out of the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people? And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth.* Do you see the prophecy fulfilled? Although the only One who was ever completely innocent, He was crucified between two thieves and laid in the tomb of a wealthy man.

Isaiah 53 continues… *Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for sin, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the Lord shall prosper in his hand. Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities.* It was the will of God from the beginning, that His own Son would take on flesh and die for the sins of all mankind. The perfect righteousness of Christ would be sacrificed upon the cross. Jesus would bear all the iniquities, of all mankind, in His own flesh – they would be crucified in Jesus. It is in Christ that you are then accounted righteous.

Isaiah 53 continues… *Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong, because he poured out his soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors.*

This coming Wednesday we celebrate Ash Wednesday, it is the beginning of Lent. We pause to consider God’s plan for our salvation, that from the beginning of time, as recorded in all of Scripture, it is all about God’s love for us, to redeem us from the wages of our sins and to grant unto us salvation. It is and always has been about God’s Son making intercession for the transgressors.

When Jesus stood with the disciples that day, He simply proclaimed what had been foretold about Him, the very Son of Man, “He will be delivered over to the Gentiles and will be mocked and shamefully treated and spit upon. And after flogging him, they will kill him, and on the third day he will rise.”

But it did not end there. Even today, everything written is still being accomplished. Everything that Jesus proclaimed would bring us life, will be accomplished. Sins are proclaimed forgiven in His name – and it is accomplished.

People are baptized into Christ’s death, born again of water and the word into the forgiveness of sins unto life everlasting – and it is accomplished.

At Christ’s invitation, you and I gather at the table He sets before us, we eat of His body and drink of His blood for the forgiveness of sins and the strengthening of faith – and it is accomplished.

Dearly beloved of God, in Christ ***for you and to you***, all that was written is accomplished ***in you*** today and unto life everlasting. Amen.