

St. John's Lutheran Church
Midweek Lenten Service 'I'
February 24, 2021
"The Lord's Supper I"

In the name of our risen Lord and Savior, ✠ Jesus Christ.
Amen.

The Four Gospels: Theme: "Words of Life from The Cross!"

Peter would not be crucified next to Jesus—that was reserved for the two thieves. Peter would deny Jesus, this we know, but Peter's outcome would be different than that of Judas. Peter would remember Jesus' words. After the Resurrection, Peter would again follow Jesus. He would say that he loved Jesus and would feed Jesus' lambs and sheep beginning at Jerusalem. The message spread to the ends of the earth—even Rome. And Peter would follow our Lord to a Cross. Scripture is silent on this point, but reliable ancient historians say that Peter would follow his Lord in a martyr's death at Rome—crucified upside-down. He allegedly requested this—to differentiate his suffering from that of Jesus.

In the Words of Institution of Holy Communion Jesus speaks about His suffering to come. "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. This do in remembrance of me." "Drink of it, all of you; this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Christians Remember the Lord's death when we partake of His Body and Blood. You know that a sacrifice has taken place when Body and Blood are separated. We remember His death when we see a Cross or crucifix.

But even more important is how Jesus remembers us. "This do in remembrance of Me," He said. That could also be translated in this way: "Do this in My Remembrance." Who is doing the remembering? Most importantly, it is Christ who does the remembering. He remembers His Passion, crucifixion, and

death for you. He remembers His Resurrection. For you, too will rise by your Baptism into Christ's death and resurrection. Jesus remembers His promises to you, His people, to be gracious, merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

No, Jesus is no longer in the manger! He is no longer on the Cross! He is no longer in the tomb! Jesus was born in Bethlehem to die on Calvary—for you and your salvation. By His shed blood on the Cross and by His resurrection you are forgiven, and heaven is your eternal home. That is why the Cross and the empty tomb are important to see and remember. For Jesus showed His love for you with His arms open wide on the Cross.

That is why Jesus suffered betrayal as He was stricken, smitten, and afflicted. That is why He came to wash the disciples' feet. He came as a servant, not to be served but to serve. We serve others best only when Jesus fills your heart with Himself and His love.

Lent is a time for personal examination, repentance, and faith, but the focus is not on ourselves. It is always on Jesus, Jesus, only Jesus. In the name of Jesus. To God be the Glory. Be still and know He is God. **Amen.**

Next week, we follow our Lord to **GETHSEMANE.**