Harmonized History of the Suffering & Death of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the Four Evangelists № by Dr. Johann Bugenhagen

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FIRST READING Preparation of the Passover Lamb

And it was near the feast of unleavened bread, which is called Passover. And Jesus said to His disciples: You know that after two days is the Passover, and the Son of Man will be betrayed, to be crucified.

Then the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders of the people assembled together in the palace of the high priest, who was called Caiaphas, and plotted that they might take lesus by trickery and kill Him, for they feared the people. But they said: Not during the feast, lest there be an uproar among the people. Now when Jesus was in Bethany at the house of Simon the leper, a woman came to Him, having an alabaster flask of very costly fragrant oil, and she broke the flask and poured it on His head as He sat at the table. When His disciples saw this, they were indignant, saving: To what purpose is this waste? For this fragrant oil could have been sold for more than 300 denarii and given to the poor, and they criticised her sharply. But when Jesus was aware of it. He said to them: Let her alone; why do you trouble the woman? For she has done a good work for Me. For you have the poor with you always, and when you wish, you may do them good, but Me you do not always have. She has done what she could. For in pouring this fragrant oil on My body, she has come beforehand to anoint My body for burial. Assuredly I say to you, wherever this Gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be told as a memorial to her. And Satan entered Judas

surnamed Iscariot, who was numbered among the Twelve, and he went his way and conferred with the chief priests and captains, how he might betray Him to them, and he said: What are you willing to give me if I deliver Him to you? When they heard it, they were glad, and they gave him 30 pieces of silver. And from that time he sought an opportunity to betray Him in the absence of the multitude. Now on the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, on which the Passover must be killed, the disciples came to Iesus and said to Him: Where do You want us to prepare for You to eat the Passover? And He sent Peter and John and said: Go into the city; behold, when you enter, a man will meet you, who is carrying a pitcher of water; follow him into the house where he enters and say to the owner of the house: The Master says to you: My time is at hand; I will keep the Passover at your house. Where is the guest room in which I may eat the Passover with My disciples? And he will show you a large furnished upper room; there make ready. They went and found it as He had told them, and they prepared the Passover.

And in the evening He came and sat at the table with the Twelve Apostles and said to them: With desire I have desired to eat the Passover with you before I suffer. For I tell you that I will no longer eat of it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.

And He took the cup, gave thanks and said: *Take this and divide it among yourselves, for I tell you: I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until*

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the Kingdom of God comes on the day when I will drink again with you in My Father's Kingdom.

And while they ate in the night that He was betrayed, the Lord Jesus took the bread, gave thanks, broke it and gave it to His disciples and said: Take, eat, this is My Body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me. In the same way also He took the cup after supper, gave thanks, gave it to them and said: Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the New Testament in My Blood, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me. And they all drank from it.

Now before the Feast of Passover, which is on the same evening, when Jesus knew that His hour had come, that He should depart out of this world to the Father, having loved His own, who were in the world, He loved them to the end.

And supper being ended, the devil having already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray Him, Jesus knew that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come from God and was going to God, rose from supper, laid aside His garments, took a towel and girded Himself. After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and dried them with the towel, with which He had girded Himself.

Then He came to Simon Peter. And Peter said to Him: Lord, are You washing my feet? Jesus answered and said to him: What I am doing you do

not understand now, but you will know after this. Peter said to Him: You shall never wash my feet! Jesus answered him: If I do not wash you, then you have no part with Me. Simon Peter said to Him: Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head. Jesus said to him: He who is bathed needs only to wash his feet, but is completely clean; and you are clean, but not all of you. For He knew who would betray Him; therefore He said: You are not all clean.

So when He had washed their feet, taken His garments and sat down again, He said to them: Do you know what I have done to you? You call Me Teacher and Lord and you say well, for so I am; I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you. Most assuredly I say to you: A servant is not greater than his master, nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him. If you know these things, happy are you if you do them. I do not speak concerning all of you. I know whom I have chosen; but that the Scriptures might be fulfilled: He who eats bread with Me has lifted up his heel against Me. Now I tell you before it comes, that when it comes to pass, you may believe that I am He. Most assuredly, I say to you: He who receives whomever I send receives Me; and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me.

Responsory (after the reading)
P: \$ O Lord, have mercy upon us.
C: \$ Thanks be to You. O Lord!

OPENING Sweet the Moments Rich in Blessing ELH #300 BROCKLESBURY

The PSALMODY: Penitential Psalm 32 Please read responsively

- P: Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, Whose sin is covered.
- C: Blessed is the man to whom the LORD does not impute iniquity, And in whose spirit there is no deceit.
- ³ When I kept silent, my bones grew old Through my groaning all the day long.
- ⁴ For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; My vitality was turned into the drought of summer.
- ⁵ I acknowledged my sin to You, And my iniquity I have not hidden. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," And You forgave the iniquity of my sin.
- ⁶ For this cause everyone who is godly shall pray to You In a time when You may be found; Surely in a flood of great waters They shall not come near him.
- ⁷ You are my hiding place; You shall preserve me from trouble; You shall surround me with songs of deliverance.
- 8 I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with My eye.
- ⁹ Do not be like the horse or like the mule, Which have no understanding, Which must be harnessed with bit and bridle, Else they will not come near you.
- Many sorrows shall be to the wicked; But he who trusts in the LORD, mercy shall surround him.
- ¹¹ Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, you righteous; And shout for joy, all you upright in heart!
- (All) Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost, one True God, now and forever. Amen

CHIEF HYMN On My Heart Imprint Thine Image ELH #593+ (209 verses!)

- 15. On my heart imprint Thine Image, Blessed Jesus, King of Grace, That life's riches, care, and pleasures Have no power Thee to efface.

 This the superscription be: Jesus, Crucified for me,
 Is my Life, my Hope's Foundation, And my Glory and Salvation.
- People out of every nation, All the earth's most wretched throng, Learn ye well sin's condemnation For God's Son must suffer long! God and Man for us today All the debt of sin must pay. God in flesh for us must suffer And Himself to death must offer.
- 28. Jesus, I Thy death am grieving For I caused Thy passion deep Yet Thy death is my relieving Even when in death I sleep. For Thy death my life doth make Though I oft Thy heart did break Still in grace Thy love doth brace me Sweetly unto life shall raise me.
- 29. O my Jesus, in my dying, Grant that it may ever be
 That I speak Thy words and sighing Which Thou spoke upon the tree.
 Bow Thy head in grace to me When in sweat of death I be;
 Kiss my soul, sweet grace imparting, Even in my last departing. A-men.

FIRST READING & COMMENTS

Tonight we began the reading of our Lord's Passion. This historical account begins in the upper room where Jesus gathers with His disciples. The account will end with Jesus' crucifixion and burial. As these thirteen men gather to celebrate the Passover meal, the Gospels had not yet been written. The Apostolic letters had not been written. The Acts of the Apostles had not yet been recorded, and indeed most of the ones who would later be the ones to do those acts - the disciples - were sitting there with no idea what was coming. But One of them, Jesus, did know what was coming. For Jesus, the cup of suffering that was coming to Him was very clear. In the reading, we saw no fewer than five times when Jesus predicted what was coming. For Him, the Gospel accounts were already familiar, so much so that they might just as well have been written long ago. He knew the full meaning and cosmic significance of the events transpiring around Him. As He instituted the Lord's Supper, He called it the "New Testament" in His blood. He told His disciples, "I confer on you a kingdom, just as My Father conferred one on Me, so that you may eat and drink at My table in My Kingdom." For Jesus, the history of the Christian Church was already written, from Acts chapter 1 right through the founding and complete history of a little church in (north) Lakeland, Florida, America, and all the way through the last chapter of the Book of Revelation which was shown to St. John. Jesus knew it all, but, for the disciples sitting there celebrating the Passover meal, it was all just beginning.

The Passover was instituted so that the chosen people would remember the day when the Lord led His children out of slavery in Egypt in approximately the year 1,500 B.C. It was the meal that the Israelites were to eat in haste, with their sandals on and their cloaks tucked into their belts. It was a last meal before beginning the long trip to the Promised Land. As the disciples gathered with Jesus, this meal was also a last meal before a long journey. Jesus said, "I tell you, I will not drink from this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it anew with you in My Father's Kingdom." This meal was the Last Supper before Christ began leading His chosen people, the Christian Church, into the Promised Land of heaven.

We, who are sitting here tonight, are still on the journey that Christ began that night, and we celebrate the Lord's Supper as food for the journey that we are on. On this journey, Christ is the One who leads, and we are the ones who follow. His journey led through the cross, and so does ours. We are never separated from the cross in this life. Each of us has a cross of suffering that we carry. The cross that we carry is made up of two parts. The first is the pole of the cross, the sinful nature that each of us has in ourselves. This is a part of the cross that we carry, and we hate our sin in every way as long as we live. The cross beam of our cross is made up of the sufferings that we endure as a result of sin in the world. These sufferings are also a part of this cross that we carry. Each of us carries our own cross, but all of us are given the privilege of knowing by faith that we carry our cross in the blessed shadow of the one Cross of redemption that our Savior carried.

We gather together during Lent to be reminded that our sufferings are, by grace, joined together so that we are not alone in carrying the cross in this life. We have fellow Christians who also know the suffering of the cross and who pray for relief from suffering, looking forward to the Day when we can lay our cross at His feet and celebrate anew with Him in the Father's Kingdom. We come here to be reminded of the hope that is to be found in knowing that our suffering is joined with His suffering.

Our journey during this Lenten season is far from over. When the Israelites were led with joy out of Egypt, they had 40 years of wandering in the wilderness ahead of them. That is why the season of Lent is 40 days long. There is a great deal of suffering in this life, which is a time of testing and a time of grace and, in all things, a time of the Cross. But, thanks be to God, we look forward to the resurrection. We look forward to seeing what lies in store for us past the Cross, when we shall see with our own eyes the triumph of Heaven that lies at the end of the journey. (In the words of the great hymn)

Now I will cling forever to Christ my Savior true; My Lord will leave me never whate'er He passes through.

He rends death's iron chain; He breaks through sin and pain; He shatters hell's dark thrall; I follow Him through all.

He brings me to the portal that leads to bliss untold, Whereon this rhyme immortal is found in script of gold:

"Who there My Cross hath shared finds here a crown prepared; Who there with Me hath died shall here be glorified. Thanks be to God. IJ'N, Amen.