

SERMON FOR MARCH 28, 2021

TEXT: JOHN 12: 20-43

THEME: THE HOUR HAS COME

20 Now among those who went up to worship at the feast were some Greeks. **21** So these came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." **22** Philip went and told Andrew; Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. **23** And Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. **24** Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. **25** Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. **26** If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him.

In the name of Jesus:

What time is it? When someone asks you this question, you may look at your watch and tell them the time, such as now, it is now 10:30 am. We tell time and keep time chronologically, counting seconds, minutes, hours, and days. In keeping time, time rolls over into days, months, and years. Keeping time chronologically is just one way to keep time. Jesus speaks of such a time when He says in our text that: My Hour Has Come.

Jesus' life was all about the appointed time, the time, the right time, for Him to accomplish all that is necessary for our salvation. The Bible talks of such a time when Jesus was born, " In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2** He was in the beginning with

God. **3** All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made, And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.” And also that “when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, **5** to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.” This is the time to which Jesus speaks of in our text, when He says that “The Hour Has Come.” Jesus tells His disciples that He came to earth, appointed by His Father, chosen by Him for this particular time and purpose, to begin His final journey to the cross.

Jesus had prepared His disciples for this time, this moment. This is why Jesus repeatedly told His disciples that “ the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise.” Jesus came into the world to save the world from sin, Satan, and death, by first being welcomed in a parade for Kings, on Palm Sunday, coming not with might or armor, but coming in humility, riding on the back of a donkey. Later that week, He would be betrayed by Judas in the Garden, to then being hauled off to be tried as a criminal for crimes He did not commit, to be paraded through the streets of Jerusalem on the way to be crucified on a mount called Calvary, where nails would pierce His hands and feet. There, on the cross, God’s appointed time to glorify His Son came as the Son of Man came not to be

served but to serve and to give His life as a ransom for many. Christ came to be glorified in His crucifixion, where He who knew no sin became sin for us, so that we might be made right with God. Jesus came for such a time as this, to bear our griefs and carry our sorrows, to be pierced for our transgressions, wounded for our iniquities, so that by His shed blood we would be forgiven and restored to a right relationship with God.

Today the hour has come, this is God's appointed time for us to gather together as the children of God, to hear what God has done for us in Jesus Christ. God calls us to this appointed time to gather as saints, to receive the forgiveness of our sins in the absolution, to remember our baptism into the Lord Jesus Christ, and to receive His true Body and Blood for the forgiveness of our sins and for the strengthening of our faith. Now is the day of salvation, says the Lord, now is God's appointed time to believe in Jesus Christ and to serve Him in all we do. We are called by God to make the most of this time, to seize the moments and make the most of our opportunities to live for Him and to serve Him in loving one another even as He has loved us.

Today we begin Holy week, a time when we follow Jesus in His steps, journeying with Him with palm branches in our hands singing "blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord." Now is the time when we follow Christ to the Upper Room to hear and receive His New Covenant where Jesus gives

Himself in, with, and under the bread and wine for the forgiveness of our sins. We follow Christ to the cross, to hear His cry “My God My God why have you forsaken Me,” and hear Him give up His spirit saying” It is finished.” We weep tears of sadness when we realize that it was our sins that caused Jesus to come down from heaven, it was for our sins that Jesus was nailed to a tree.

But we do so knowing that this appointed time for Jesus to die is not the end. A new day is coming, Easter dawns in the shadows. Soon Christ will be raised from the grave to truly be glorified, giving life and salvation to all who believe, and we know too that soon, very soon, our time is also coming, when Jesus will call each of us home, to be with Him, to raise us from the grave so that we will be with Him in His Kingdom, where He will live and reign for all eternity.

The Hour has come for us to follow Jesus to the cross and empty tomb. The three most important days for us as Christians, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter, approach. The time for our Holy week celebration has come. A time that we didn't get to celebrate together last year. If you remember, and I am certain that you do, churches and public places were closed due to the Pandemic. We had to worship in fear of Covid alone in our homes, celebrating a private and quiet Easter.

But not this year! Today, thanks be to God, we can worship together, we have the opportunity to gather together to hear God's Word, receive His Gifts, and celebrate the new life we have in Christ. The Hour has come to follow Jesus to the cross and empty tomb! May we follow in faith, thankfulness, and repentant joy, for Christ has come to save us. Hosanna to God in the Highest! Blessed be to Him who comes in the name of the Lord!. Amen.

The hour has come for our Holy Week celebration.

We missed it last year due to the Pandemic, describe how things were closed, lives changed. But we still celebrated, albeit distantly