St. John Lutheran Church
The Sermon
Rev. Andy Rutrough

Sermon, April 2, 2023

Matthew 26:14-27:66

Today's sermon is going to be quite short, since we are reading the story of Jesus's crucifixion, and really, what can you say after that?

Who likes to watch shows about super heroes? Some people like superman, who saves the world with his huge strength. Some people like spider man, who can tie up people who are doing bad things with his special spider web. Some people like wonder woman, who has a rope which, if she puts it around you, makes you tell the truth. Some people like Captain America, who can fly huge distances through space and tear apart rocket ships with her bare hands. All these super heroes have movies about them where they save the world.

Who really saves the world? Who is the greatest super hero? Jesus. Jesus is the greatest super hero.

How does Jesus save the world? Does he do it with super strength like Superman? Does he tie up people who are doing bad things with spider web? Does he have a rope that makes people tell the truth? Does he tear apert space ships with his bare hands? No.

There is nothing wrong with strength. Sometimes you have to tie up people who are doing bad things to get them to stop. Things would be a lot better if folks told the truth, and flying through space is just cool.

But how does Jesus save the world? Jesus saves the world by dying on the cross, by trusting that God's power is beyond death, that God will raise him up. That's how Jesus saves all of us.

We are followers of Jesus. We use our strength to help people. When people do bad things, we speak up and say, "Hey, you can't do that." We make people tell the truth and not lie, and we might fly through space too.

We also give up things, like our time, or our money, or our bad mood, or our pride, or our lives, so that people and creation can live. Why? Because God is bigger than death, and that's how God saves the world.

Thanks be to God.