"Now it came to pass, when the time had come for Him to be received up, that He steadfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem..." That is what is written of Jesus in Luke 9:51. His "time had come for Him to be" crucified, resurrected, and to ascend to His Father in Heaven. His earthly ministry was coming to an end. He no longer would preach or teach on earth the Word of God. He would no longer work supernatural miracles that proved that He was who He said He was – the incarnate Son of God. It was time for His work to stop. His death was nigh and He knew it.

Of course it was true that He came to earth for the purpose of dying – to offer Himself as the only perfect sacrifice that would be accepted by His Father for the atonement of men’s sins. He knew this throughout His earthly ministry. Following His conversation with His disciples in Caesarea Philippi in Matthew 16 it is recorded that "From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day."

It is one thing to know that you are going to die – we all know this; it is quite another thing to know that your death is imminent. Those on death row know they have been sentenced to die and some know the date of their execution. But knowing all of this is different from it taking place in a few short days or hours. Such was the case with Jesus. "He steadfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem" where His crucifixion would take place.

After it is written that His face was "set...to go to Jerusalem," we are told that He had planned to go to a "village of the Samaritans" "But they did not receive Him, because His face was set for the journey to Jerusalem." "His face was set." The decision had been made. He had come to do the Father’s will and the Father’s will would be done regardless of the cost – including His own life.

Jesus is the perfect role model for the Christian in every facet of the Christian walk. He had a Divine determination to obey His Father. Nothing would deter Him in this. Can the same be said of us? Are our faces steadfastly set for the New Jerusalem? Before we ever get there we must be steadfastly set to do the Father’s will here on earth, including our assembling around the Lord’s Table "on the first day of the week."

Since the last time we met we have had seven days to decide where we would be at this hour on this morning. Have our faces been steadfastly set for the Table of our Lord since we removed ourselves from the Table last Lord’s Day? Have we been as determined to honor and glorify and revere our Lord at His Table this morning as was the Lord of the Table determined to complete the Father’s will that He be sacrificed on the New Testament altar, the cross? His determination was to go through with the crucifixion as horrible as it was. That
which is necessary for us to complete our Father's will is so small in comparison.

The early church continued "steadfastly" "in the breaking of bread." She was determined to be faithful in this. She set her face to the Lord's Supper Table every Lord's Day. Her commitment is a model for our commitment.

In Acts 21 we are told that Prophet Agabus warned the Apostle Paul that if he were to proceed to Jerusalem that he would be "delivered...into the hands of the Gentiles." When his friends and companions "heard these things" they "pleaded with him not to go up to Jerusalem." Paul's response was "...I am ready not only to be bound, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus." When they could not persuade him to go to Jerusalem they "ceased, saying, 'The will of the Lord be done.'" Paul's face was steadfastly set.

Now let us do "the will of the Lord" with a steadfast face. Let us sit at the Lord's Table and commune with Him. We have set our face toward this Table all week, and now we may eat the "loaf" and drink the "cup" that reminds us of the Lord's steadfastness on our behalf. Thank God for that!

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**Prayer**

Our Father in heaven, our inner man is stirred when we are reminded that Jesus was steadfastly set to go on to Jerusalem to suffer for us when He did not have to do that. We would blaspheme His Table not to remember Him and His obedience to your will on our behalf. We pray that you will bless the loaf which is His body and that you will receive our thanks for the cup which is His blood. We remember that it was His body, not ours, and His blood, not ours, that purchased our salvation. We do not deserve it. We are not worthy of it. But we most gladly receive it and praise you for it, in His name. Amen.