

The Hands of the Misguided Zeal

Lent Midweek 2

February 24, 2021





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MIDWEEK LENT 2
FEBRUARY 24, 2021

THEME: THE HANDS OF MISGUIDED ZEAL

When we consider Jesus and the people around him in his Passion, we can't help but think of their hands-- the hands that beat their breast, accepted money for betrayal, petulantly swung swords, pointed in accusation, beat and disavowed, praised, washed, were pierced, and offered eternal life. In short, we can't help but think about how we sinners have had the same sinful hands of those who surrounded Jesus in his Passion, and how Jesus our Savior has touched us with his hands of grace.

THE HANDS OF THE PASSION

The Hands of Misguided Zeal

Opening Hymn

CW 104 vv. 1-3

"Go to Dark Gethsemane"

**Go to dark Gethsemane,
All who feel the tempter's pow'r;
Your Redeemer's conflict see.
Watch with him one bitter hour;
Turn not from his griefs away;
Learn of Jesus Christ to pray.**

**Follow to the judgment hall;
View the Lord of life arraigned.
Oh, the wormwood and the gall!
Oh, the pangs his soul sustained!
Shun not suff'ring, pain, or loss;
Learn of him to bear the cross.**

**Calv'ry's mournful mountain climb;
There, adoring at his feet,
Mark that miracle of time,
God's own sacrifice complete.
"It is finished!" hear him cry;
Learn of Jesus Christ to die.**

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

M: This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you:

C: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.

M: If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness,

C: We lie and do not live by the truth.

M: If we claim to be without sin,

C: We deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

C: Father, I have sinned against you and am no longer worthy to be called your child. Yet in mercy you sacrificed your only Son to purge away my guilt. For his sake, O God, be merciful to me, a sinner, and in the joy of the Holy Spirit let me serve you all my days.

Silence for private confession.

M: If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. Upon this, your confession, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Thanks be to God. Amen.

Prayer

M: Lord God, we thank you for this day of grace now drawing to a close. Stay with us and warm our hearts with your forgiving love in Christ. May your Word keep our faith burning brightly that we may walk in the light of your presence through the darkness of this world.

Come and bless us as we worship you: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Psalm 143

(Sung in unison)

Refrain: Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

**O LORD, hear my prayer, listen to my cry for mercy;*
In your faithfulness and righteousness come to my
relief.**

**Do not bring your servant into judgment,*
For no one living is righteous before you.**

**My spirit grows faint within me;*
My heart within me is dismayed.**

Refrain

**Answer me quickly O LORD,*
Do not hide your face from me.**

**Let the morning bring me word of your unfailing love,*
For I have put my trust in you.**

**Teach me to do your will, for you are my God;*
May your good Spirit lead me on level ground.**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son*
And to the Holy Spirit,
As it was in the beginning,*
Is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Refrain

Psalm Prayer

M: Lord Jesus, you bring light to those who dwell in darkness and make your love known to them. Enter not into judgment with your servants, but strengthen us in the saving faith and guide us into the land of perfect peace where with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Passion Reading

Mark 14:1-26

It was two days before the Passover and the Festival of Unleavened Bread. The chief priests and the experts in the law were looking for some deceptive way to arrest Jesus and kill him. ²“Certainly not during the Festival,” they said, “or there will be a riot among the people.”

³ While Jesus was in Bethany, in the house of Simon the leper, as he was reclining at the table, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, made from pure nard. She broke the alabaster jar and poured it over his head. ⁴ But there were some who were indignant and said to one another, “Why has this perfume been wasted? ⁵ Certainly this perfume could have been sold for more than three hundred denarii and given to the poor!” And they began to scold her.

⁶ But Jesus said, “Leave her alone. Why are you bothering her? She has done a beautiful thing for me. ⁷ In fact, you always have the poor with you, and whenever you want, you can do good for them. But you are not always going to have me. ⁸ She did what she could. She anointed my body beforehand for burial. ⁹ Amen I tell you: Wherever the gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman did will also be told in memory of her.”

¹⁰ Judas Iscariot, one of the Twelve, went to the chief priests in order to betray Jesus to them. ¹¹ When they heard this, they were glad and promised to give him money. So he began to look for an opportunity to betray him.

¹² On the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb is sacrificed, his disciples asked him, “Where do you want us to go and prepare for you to eat the Passover?” ¹³ He sent two of his disciples and said to them, “Go into the city, and there a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him. ¹⁴ Wherever he enters, tell the owner of the house that the Teacher says, ‘Where is my guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?’ ¹⁵ He will show you a large upper room, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there.”

¹⁶ His disciples left and went into the city and found things just as he had told them; and they prepared the Passover.

¹⁷ When it was evening, he arrived with the Twelve.

¹⁸ While they were reclining and eating, Jesus said, “Amen I tell you: One of you will betray me, one who is eating with me.”

¹⁹ They began to be sorrowful and said to him one by one,

"Surely not I?"

²⁰ He said to them, "It is one of the Twelve, one who is dipping bread with me in the dish. ²¹ Indeed, the Son of Man is going to go just as it has been written about him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born."

²² While they were eating, Jesus took bread. When he had blessed it, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "Take it. This is my body."

²³ Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them. They all drank from it. ²⁴ He said to them, "This is my blood of the new testament, which is poured out for many. ²⁵ Amen I tell you: I will certainly not drink again of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God." ²⁶ After they sang a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Seasonal Response

All: All we like sheep have gone astray, and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. By his wounds we are healed.

Hymn

CW 444

"If You But Trust in God to Guide You"

**If you but trust in God to guide you
And place your confidence in him,
He'll give you strength and stand beside you
When days are dreary, dark, and dim.
For those who trust his changeless love
Build on the rock that does not move.**

**How can these anxious worries aid you,
These never-ceasing moans and sighs?
Will not his wings of mercy shade you
Whenever troubled times arise?
Our cross and trials do but press
The heavier for our bitterness.**

**Be patient and await his leisure
In cheerful hope, with heart content;
Then take whate'er your Father's pleasure
And his discerning love have sent.
Doubt not; your inmost wants are known
To him who chose you for his own.**

**Sing, pray, and keep his ways unswerving,
Perform your duties faithfully,
And trust his Word; though undeserving,
You'll find his promise true to be.
God never yet forsook in need
The soul that trusted him indeed.**

Sermon "The Hands of Misguided Zeal" **John 18:4-11**

⁴ Jesus, knowing everything that was going to happen to him, went out and asked them, "Who are you looking for?"

⁵ "Jesus the Nazarene," they replied.

"I am he," Jesus told them.

Judas, the betrayer, was standing with them. ⁶ When Jesus told them, "I am he," they backed away and fell to the ground.

⁷ Then Jesus asked them again, "Who are you looking for?"

"Jesus the Nazarene," they said.

⁸ "I told you that I am he," Jesus replied. "So if you are looking for me, let these men go." ⁹ This was to fulfill the statement he had spoken: "I did not lose any of those you have given me."

¹⁰ Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it, struck the high priest's servant, and cut off his right ear. The servant's name was Malchus.

¹¹ So Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword into its sheath. Shall I not drink the cup my Father has given me?"

Prayers and Lord's Prayer

M: Lord God, all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works come from you. Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments. Defend us also from the fear of our enemies that we may live in peace and quietness, through the merits of Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

**C: Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.**

Evening Prayer

**All: All praise to you, our God, this night for all the blessings
of the light.
Keep us, yes, keep us, King of kings beneath your own
almighty wings.
Forgive us, Lord, through your dear Son for sins that we
this day have done,
that as we sleep, peace we would hold with all, with you,
within our souls. Amen.**

Blessing

M: Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and from Jesus
Christ, the Father's Son, will be with us in truth and love.

C: Amen.

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SERVING THE LORD BY SERVING HIS PEOPLE TODAY:

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