

The Hands of Betrayal

Lent Midweek 4

March 10, 2021





ST. JOHN

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LENT MIDWEEK 4 MARCH 10, 2021

THEME: THE HANDS OF REPENTANCE

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

Hands of Betrayal

Opening Hymn

"O Dearest Jesus"

CW 117:1-3

**O dearest Jesus, what law have you broken
That such sharp sentence should on you be spoken?
Of what great crime have you to make confession--
What dark transgression?**

**They crown your head with thorns, they smite, they scourge you;
With cruel mockings to the cross they urge you;
They give you gall to drink, they still decry you;
They crucify you.**

**Whence come these sorrows, whence this mortal anguish?
It is my sins for which you, Lord, must languish;
Yes, all the wrath, the woe that you inherit,
This I do merit.**

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 6

(Sung in Unison)

**Refrain: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.**

**O Lord, do not rebuke me in your anger*
Or discipline me in your wrath.**

**Be merciful to me, Lord, for I am faint;*
O Lord, heal me, for my soul is in anguish.**

**Turn, O Lord, and deliver me;*
Save me because of your unfailing love.**

Refrain

**I am worn out from groaning.*
My eyes grow weak with sorrow.**

**Away from me, all you who do evil,*
For the Lord has heard my weeping.**

**The Lord has heard my cry for mercy;*
The Lord accepts my prayer.**

**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 God, you are merciful and tenderhearted, abounding in love and faithfulness. Turn to us in our anguish over sin and hear our cry for mercy that we may be at peace; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Passion Reading

Mark 14:43-65

⁴³ Just then, while he was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, arrived. A crowd was with him, armed with swords and clubs. They were from the chief priests, the experts in the law, and the elders. ⁴⁴ Now his betrayer had given them a signal, saying, "The one I kiss is the man. Arrest him and lead him away under guard." ⁴⁵ He went right to Jesus and said, "Rabbi!" and kissed him. ⁴⁶ They laid hands on him and arrested him. ⁴⁷ But one of those who stood nearby drew his sword, struck the servant of the high priest, and cut off his ear.

⁴⁸ Jesus responded by saying to them, "Have you come out with swords and clubs to capture me as you would a criminal? ⁴⁹ Day after day I was with you, teaching in the temple courts, and you did not arrest me. But this happened so that the Scriptures may be fulfilled." ⁵⁰ Then the disciples all left him and fled.

⁵¹ A certain young man was following him, wearing just a linen cloth over his naked body. They seized him, ⁵² but he left behind the linen cloth and fled from them naked.

⁵³ They led Jesus away to the high priest. All the chief priests, the elders, and the experts in the law gathered together. ⁵⁴ Peter followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest. He was sitting with the guards and warming himself at the fire.

⁵⁵ The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for testimony against Jesus in order to put him to death, but they did not find any. ⁵⁶ Many testified falsely against him, but their testimonies did not agree. ⁵⁷ Some stood up and gave this false testimony against him: ⁵⁸ "We heard him say, 'I will destroy this temple made with hands, and in three days I will build another made without hands.'" ⁵⁹ Yet even on this point, their testimony did not agree.

⁶⁰ The high priest stepped forward and questioned Jesus, "Have you no answer? What is this they are testifying against you?"

⁶¹ But Jesus was silent and did not answer anything.

Again the high priest asked him, "Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed One?"

⁶² "I am," Jesus said. "And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of power and coming with the clouds of heaven."

⁶³ The high priest tore his robes and said, "Why do we need any

more witnesses? ⁶⁴ You have heard the blasphemy! What do you think?"

They all condemned him as being worthy of death. ⁶⁵ Then some began to spit on him. They covered his face and struck him with their fists, saying, "Prophecy!" The guards also took him and beat him.

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 117:4-7

"O Dearest Jesus"

**What punishment so strange is suffered yonder!
The Shepherd dies for sheep that loved to wander;
The Master pays the debt his servants owe him,
Who would not know him.**

**The sinless Son of God must die in sadness;
The sinful child of man may live in gladness;
We forfeited our lives, yet are acquitted—
God is committed.**

**I'll think upon your mercy without ceasing,
That earth's vain joys to me no more be pleasing;
To do your will shall be my sole endeavor
Henceforth forever.**

**And when, dear Lord, before your throne in heaven
To me the crown of joy at last is given,
Where sweetest hymns your saints forever raise you,
I too shall praise you.**

Sermon "Hands of Betrayal" John 13:21-30

²¹ After saying this, Jesus was troubled in his spirit and testified, "Amen, Amen, I tell you: One of you will betray me."

²² The disciples were looking at each other, uncertain which of them he meant.

²³ One of his disciples, the one Jesus loved, was reclining at Jesus'

side. ²⁴ So Simon Peter motioned to him to find out which one he was talking about.

²⁵ So leaning back against Jesus' side, he asked, "Lord, who is it?"

²⁶ Jesus replied, "It is the one to whom I will give this piece of bread, after I have dipped it in the dish." Then he dipped the piece of bread and gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot. ²⁷ As soon as Judas took the bread, Satan entered into him.

So Jesus told him, "What you are about to do, do more quickly."

²⁸ None of those reclining at the table understood why Jesus said this to him. ²⁹ Because Judas kept the money box, some thought that Jesus was telling him, "Buy what we need for the Festival," or to give something to the poor. ³⁰ As soon as Judas had taken the bread, he went out. And it was night.

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:

Presiding Minister/Preacher: Pastor Joshua Becker

Organist:

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MIDWEEK LENT SCHEDULE

- March 17 Guest Preacher: Pastor Mielke
 Theme: Hands of Brutality

- March 24 Guest Preacher: Pastor Tessmer
 Theme: Hands of Self-Preservation