

The Hands of Brutality

Lent Midweek 5

March 17, 2021





ST. JOHN

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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 Brutality

Opening Hymn

CW 123

"Lord Jesus Christ, You Set us Free"

**Lord Jesus Christ, you set us free--
Accept our thanks eternally!
Forgiven through your precious blood,
We now are reconciled to God.**

**By virtue of the wounds you bore,
True God and Man, our hope restore.
Give courage when we yield our breath;
Deliver us from hell and death.**

**Defend us, Lord, from sin and shame;
Help us by your almighty name
To bear our crosses patiently,
Consoled by your great agony.**

**For thus the certainty we gain
That you will always true remain
And not forsake us in our strife
But lead us out of death to life.**

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 38

(Sung in Unison)

Refrain: Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

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

**For your arrows have pierced me,*
And you hand has come down upon me.**

**My guilt has overwhelmed me*
Like a burden too heavy to bear.**

Refrain

**All my longings lie open before you, O LORD;*
My sighing is not hidden from you.**

**I wait for you, O LORD;*
You will answer, O Lord my God.**

**Come quickly to help me,*
O Lord my Savior.**

**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: God of might and compassion, open your ears to the prayers of your people, who wait for you. Do not leave us in the depths of our sins, but listen to your Church pleading for the fullness of your redemption; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Passion Reading

Mark 14:66-15:15

⁶⁶ While Peter was in the courtyard below, one of the servant girls of the high priest came there. ⁶⁷ When she saw Peter warming himself, she looked directly at him and said, "You were also with the Nazarene, Jesus!"

⁶⁸ But he denied it, saying, "I don't know or understand what you are saying," and he went out to the entryway. Then a rooster crowed.

⁶⁹ When the servant girl saw him, once more she began to tell those standing there, "This is one of them."

⁷⁰ But again he denied it. After a little while those who were standing there said to Peter, "Surely you are one of them, because you are a Galilean."

⁷¹ But he began to curse and to swear, "I do not know this man you are talking about!" ⁷² Just then, the rooster crowed for the second time. Then Peter remembered what Jesus had said to him: "Before the rooster crows twice, you will deny me three times." And he broke down and wept.

15 As soon as it was morning, the chief priests, along with the elders, the experts in the law, and the whole Sanhedrin, reached a decision. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. ² Pilate asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?"

He answered him, "It is as you say."

³ The chief priests accused him of many things. ⁴ Pilate questioned him again, "Are you not going to answer anything? See how many charges they are bringing against you!"

⁵ But Jesus still did not answer anything, so Pilate was amazed.

⁶ At each Festival, Pilate used to release to the people one prisoner whom they requested. ⁷ There was one named Barabbas, who was imprisoned with the rebels and had committed murder in the rebellion. ⁸ The crowd came up and began to ask Pilate to do for them what he usually did.

⁹ Pilate replied, "Do you want me to release the King of the Jews to you?" ¹⁰ In fact, he knew that it was because of envy that the chief priests had handed him over.

¹¹ But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas to them instead.

¹² Again, Pilate replied to them, "Then what do you want me to

do with the man you call the King of the Jews?"

¹³ "Crucify him!" they shouted back.

¹⁴ But Pilate said to them, "Why? What has he done wrong?"

But they shouted even louder, "Crucify him!"

¹⁵ Since he wanted to satisfy the crowd, Pilate released Barabbas to them. After he had Jesus flogged, he handed him over to be crucified.

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

"Deep Were His Wounds"

CW 107

**Deep were His wounds, and red
On cruel Calvary
As on the cross he bled
In bitter agony
But they whom sin has wounded sore
Find healing in the wounds He bore.**

**He suffered shame and scorn
And wretched, dire disgrace
Forsaken and forlorn
He hung there in our place
But all who would from sin be free
Look to His cross for victory**

**His life, His all, He gave
When He was crucified
Our burdened souls to save
What fearful death, He died
But each of us though dead in sin
Through him eternal life may win.**

Sermon "Hands of Brutality" Matthew 27:27-31

²⁷ Then the governor's soldiers took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole cohort of soldiers around him. ²⁸ They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him. ²⁹ They twisted

together a crown of thorns and put it on his head. They put a staff in his right hand, knelt in front of him, and mocked him by saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" ³⁰ They spit on him, took the staff, and hit him repeatedly on his head.

³¹ After they had mocked him, they took off the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

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: Kris Kienitz

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MIDWEEK LENT SCHEDULE

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