

MIDWEEK LENTEN
WORSHIP FOUR

HANDS OF
HYPOCRISY
(CAIAPHAS)



*St. Luke Ev. Lutheran Church
Little Chute WI*

www.stlukeslittlechute.com

Rev. Ronald C. Szep, pastor

Wednesday, March 10, 2021

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Midweek Lenten Worship 4

The Hands of the Passion

Hands of Hypocrisy (Caiaphas)

OPENING HYMN: CW Hymn 359

"Jesus, My Great High Priest"

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, abr., alt.

Tune: BEVAN (66 66 88) John Goss, 1800–80.



1 Je - sus, my great High Priest, Of - fered his blood and
2 To Christ, my sub - sti - tute, Will I com - mit my
3 My ad - vo - cate ap - pears For my de - fense on
4 Should all the hosts of death And pow'rs of hell un -



died; My guilt - y con - science seeks No sac - ri -
cause; He an - swers and ful - fills His Fa - ther's
high; A gra - cious Fa - ther hears And lays his
known Put their most dread - ful forms Of rage and



fice be - side. His pow'r - ful blood did once a -
bro - ken laws. Be - hold my soul at free - dom
thun - der by. Not all that hell or sin can
mis - chief on, I shall be safe, for Christ dis -



tone, And now it pleads be - fore the throne.
set— My Je - sus paid the dread - ful debt!
say Shall turn his heart, his love, a - way.
plays Su - pe - rior pow'r and guard - ian grace.

Please Stand

Minister: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: 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.

ALL: 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 FOR PEACE:

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.

Please Be Seated

THE PASSION HISTORY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST-Lesson 3

Compiled from the Four Gospels- Evangelical Heritage Version of the Holy Bible (EHV)

While Jesus was still speaking, suddenly Judas (one of the Twelve) arrived. With him was a large crowd with lanterns, torches, swords, and clubs, who came from the chief priests and elders of the people. Judas was leading them.

Jesus, knowing everything that was going to happen to him, went out and asked them,

“Who are you looking for?” “Jesus the Nazarene,” they replied.

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

Then Jesus asked them again, “Who are you looking for?” “Jesus the Nazarene,” they said.

“I told you that I am he,” Jesus replied. “So if you are looking for me, let these men go.”

This was to fulfill the statement he had spoken: “I did not lose any of those you have given me.”

Now the betrayer had given them a sign: “The one I kiss is the man. Arrest him.” Immediately he went to Jesus and said, “Greetings, Rabbi!” and kissed him.

Jesus said to him, “Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?” Then they advanced, took hold of Jesus, and arrested him. When those who were around him saw what was about to happen, they said to him, “Lord, should we strike with a sword?” 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. But Jesus responded, “Stop! No more of this! Put your sword back into its place, because all who take the sword will die by the sword. Do you not realize that I could call on my Father, and at once he would provide me with more than twelve legions of angels? But then how would the Scriptures be fulfilled that say it must happen this way?” Then he touched the servant’s ear and healed him.

At that same time Jesus said to the crowd, “Have you come out to arrest me with swords and clubs as if I were a robber? Day after day I was sitting in the temple courts teaching, and you did not arrest me. But all this has happened so that the writings of the prophets would be fulfilled.” Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.

The company of soldiers, their commander, and the Jewish guards arrested Jesus and bound him. First they led him to Annas, because he was father-in-law to Caiaphas, who was the high priest that year. Now it was Caiaphas who had advised the Jews, “It is better that one man die for the people.”

Simon Peter and another disciple kept following Jesus. That disciple was known to the high priest, so he went into the high priest’s courtyard with Jesus. But Peter stood outside by the door. So the other disciple, the one known to the high priest, went out and talked to the girl watching the door and brought Peter in. The servants and guards were standing around a fire of coals that they had made

because it was cold. While they warmed themselves, Peter was standing with them, warming himself too.

One of the servant girls of the high priest came there. When she saw Peter warming himself, she looked directly at him and said, "You were also with Jesus the Galilean." But he denied it in front of everyone, saying, "I don't know what you are talking about. Woman, I do not know him."

When Peter went out to the entryway, someone else saw him and said to those who were there, "This is one of them. This fellow was with Jesus of Nazareth." Again Peter denied it with an oath and said, "I do not know the man." After a little while those who stood by came and said to Peter, "Surely you are also one of them, because even your accent gives you away. You are a Galilean!"

Then he began to curse and to swear, "I do not know this man you are talking about! I do not know the man!"

At that very moment, while he was still speaking, the rooster crowed. The Lord turned and looked at Peter. Then Peter remembered the Lord's word, how he had said to him, "Before the rooster crows today you will deny me three times." He went outside, broke down, and wept bitterly.

The high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching.

Jesus answered him, "I have spoken openly to the world. I always taught in a synagogue or at the temple, where all the Jews gather. I said nothing in secret. Why are you questioning me? Ask those who heard what I told them. Look, they know what I said."

When he said this, one of the guards standing there hit Jesus in the face. "Is that how you answer the high priest?" he demanded.

"If I said something wrong," Jesus answered, "testify about what was wrong. But if I was right, why did you hit me?"

The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for false testimony against Jesus so that they could put him to death. They found none, even though many false witnesses came forward. Finally two came forward and said, "This fellow said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God and rebuild it in three days.'" Yet even on this point, their testimony did not agree.

The high priest stood up and said to him, "Have you no answer? What is this that these men are testifying against you?" But Jesus remained silent. Then the high priest said to him, "I place you under oath by the living God: Tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God!"

Jesus said to him, "It is as you have said. But I tell you, soon you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of power and coming on the clouds of heaven."

Then the high priest tore his robes and said, "He has spoken blasphemy! Why do we need any more witnesses? See, you have just heard the blasphemy! What do you think?"

They answered, "He is deserving of death!" Then some began to spit on him.

They covered his face, struck him with their fists, and said, "Prophecy to us, Christ! Who hit you?" The guards also took him and beat him. And they went on saying many other blasphemous things against him.

As soon as it was day, the council of the elders of the people met together, both chief priests and experts in the law. They brought Jesus into their Sanhedrin and said, "If you are the Christ, tell us."

But he said to them, "If I tell you, you will not believe, and if I ask you, you will not answer me or release me. But from now on, the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the power of God." They all said, "Are you then the Son of God?" He said to them, "I am what you are saying."

Then they said, "Why do we need any more testimony? For we ourselves have heard it from his own mouth!" Then the chief priests with the elders and experts in the law, together with the whole Sanhedrin, reached a decision. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pontius Pilate, the governor.

Then when Judas, who had betrayed him, saw that Jesus was condemned, he felt remorse. He brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders and said, "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood."

But they said, "What is that to us? That's your problem."

He threw the pieces of silver into the temple and left. Then he went out and hanged himself. The chief priests took the pieces of silver and said, "It is not lawful to put these into the treasury, since it is blood money." They reached a decision to buy the potter's field with the money, as a burial place for foreigners. So that field has been called The Field of Blood to this day.

Then what was spoken through Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled:

They took the thirty pieces of silver, the price the sons of Israel had set for him, and they gave them for the potter's field, just as the Lord commanded me.

Early in the morning, the Jews led Jesus from Caiaphas to the Praetorium. They did not enter the Praetorium themselves, so that they would not become ceremonially unclean. (They wanted to be able to eat the Passover meal.) So Pilate went out to them and said, "What charge do you bring against this man?" They answered him, "If this man were not a criminal, we would not have handed him over to you."

Pilate told them, "Take him yourselves and judge him according to your law."

The Jews said, "It's not legal for us to put anyone to death."

This happened so that the statement Jesus had spoken indicating what kind of death he was going to die would be fulfilled. They began to accuse him, saying, "We found this fellow misleading our nation, forbidding the payment of taxes to Caesar, and saying that he himself is Christ, a king."

Pilate asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?"

"It is as you say," Jesus replied. The chief priests accused him of many things. When he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he answered nothing.

Pilate questioned him again, "Are you not going to answer anything? See how many charges they are bringing against you!"

But Jesus still did not answer anything, so Pilate was amazed. Pilate went back into the Praetorium and summoned Jesus. He asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?"

Jesus answered, "Are you saying this on your own, or did others tell you about me?"

Pilate answered, "Am I a Jew? Your own people and chief priests handed you over to me. What have you done?"

Jesus replied, "My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would fight so that I would not be handed over to the Jews. But now my kingdom is not from here."

"You are a king then?" Pilate asked.

Jesus answered, "I am, as you say, a king. For this reason I was born, and for this reason I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice."

"What is truth?" Pilate said to him. After he said this, he went out again to the Jews and told them, "I find no basis for a charge against him."

But they kept insisting, "He stirs up the people, teaching all through Judea, beginning from Galilee all the way here."

When Pilate heard this, he asked if the man was a Galilean. When he learned that he was under Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him to Herod, who was also in Jerusalem during those days.

When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad. For a long time he had wanted to see him, because he had heard many things about him. He hoped to see some miracle performed by him. He questioned him with many words, but Jesus gave him no answer.

The chief priests and the experts in the law stood there, vehemently accusing him. Herod, along with his soldiers, treated him with contempt and ridiculed him. Dressing him in bright clothing, Herod sent Jesus back to Pilate. Herod and Pilate became friends with each other on that day. Before this they had been enemies of each other.

SEASONAL RESPONSE

M: All we like sheep have gone astray, and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

C: **By his wounds we are healed.**

HYMN OF THE DAY: CW Hymn 115

"He Stood Before the Court"

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Tune: MARLEE (66 66 88) Leland B. Sateren, b. 1913. © 1958 *Service Book and Hymnal*. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission of Augsburg Fortress.



1 He stood be - fore the court On trial in - stead of
2 These are the crimes that tell The tale of hu - man
3 The sen - tence must be passed, The un - known pris - 'ner
4 Shall we be judged and tried? In Christ our trial is



us; He met its pow'r to hurt, Con - demned to
guilt; Our sins, our death, our hell— On these the
killed; The price is paid at last, The law of
done; We live, for he has died, Our con - dem -



face the cross— Our King, ac - cused of treach - er -
case is built. To this world's pow'rs the Lord stays
God ful - filled. He takes our blame, and from that
na - tion gone. In Christ are we both dead and



y; Our God, a - bused for blas - phe - my!
dumb. The guilt is ours; no an - swers come.
day Th' ac - cu - ser's claim is wiped a - way.
raised, A - live and free— his name be praised!

SERMONETTE by Pastor John Raasch of Bethel, Menasha:

based on Mark 14:55-65 "Hands of Hypocrisy"

⁵⁵ *The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for evidence against Jesus so that they could put him to death, but they did not find any.*

⁵⁶ *Many testified falsely against him, but their statements did not agree.*

⁵⁷ *Then some stood up and gave this false testimony against him:*

⁵⁸ *"We heard him say, 'I will destroy this temple made with human hands and in three days will build another, not made with hands.'"*

⁵⁹ *Yet even then their testimony did not agree.*

⁶⁰ *Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus, "Are you not going to answer? What is this testimony that these men are bringing against you?"*

⁶¹ *But Jesus remained silent and gave no answer.*

Again the high priest asked him,

"Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?"

⁶² “I am,” said Jesus. “And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven.”

⁶³ The high priest tore his clothes.

“Why do we need any more witnesses?” he asked.

⁶⁴ “You have heard the blasphemy. What do you think?”

They all condemned him as worthy of death.

⁶⁵ Then some began to spit at him; they blindfolded him, struck him with their fists, and said, “Prophecy!” And the guards took him and beat him.

Please Stand

THE PRAYERS and LORD’S PRAYER:

M: Blessed Savior Jesus Christ, though men reviled and persecuted you, though they accused you of blasphemy and of deceiving the people, though they laughed at your claims of being the anointed Savior and eternal Son of God, nevertheless we rejoice to know and trust you as our Lord who has brought us salvation. There is none other on whom we can rely.

C: Your words inviting our hearts to faith are indeed words of eternal life. How can our hearts express all the praise that we owe you for becoming flesh and blood, dying on the cross for our sins!

M: Prince of Peace, because of the victory you won for us over sin, death, and hell, we now ask you to rule over us with your grace, forgiving all our sins and filling us with every spiritual blessing. Grant that we may be devoted to you in our hearts and lives as you were devoted to the will of your Father. Help us conduct ourselves in a manner always befitting the heirs of everlasting glory.

C: Let us not be consumed by the affairs of this life, nor fall prey to Satan, nor yield to the desires of the flesh. Grant us willingness to bear our crosses and, if need be, suffer for you as you so willingly suffered your cross for us.

Special Prayers and Intercessions (optional, read by the minister)

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

(Silent Prayer)

M: May the salvation that you purchased for sinners at the price of your own blood move us to songs of joy and thankfulness. Raise up in our hearts a childlike faith that will compel us to come boldly to your throne of grace to seek mercy and help in every time of need. Be near us to bless us as our individual needs require.

C: To you we make confession of our sins, and of your mercy we ask forgiveness. As our gracious High Priest, plead our cause before your heavenly Father. All glory to your name, now and forever. Amen.

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

THE 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.

Please Be Seated

CLOSING HYMN:

"Evening Prayer"



1 All praise to you, our God this night
2 For - give us, Lord, through your dear Son
for all the bless - ings of the light. Keep
for sins that we this day have done, that
us, yes, keep us, King of kings be -
as we sleep, peace we would hold with
neath your own al - mighty wings.
all, with you, with - in our souls.