



**St. Peter's Lutheran Church**

March 17, 2021

## **The Hands of the Passion**

Hands of Brutality

March 17, 2021

Bells

Opening Hymn

*Were You There | Hymn 119*

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?  
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?  
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?  
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?  
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?  
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?  
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

**Invocation**

(Pastor/Congregation)

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 130**

Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD; O Lord, hear my voice. **Let your ears be attentive to my cry for mercy.** If you, O LORD, kept a record of sins, **O Lord, who could stand?** But with you there is forgiveness; **therefore you are feared.** I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, **and in his word I put my hope.** My soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the morning, **more than watchmen wait for the morning.** O Israel, put your hope in the LORD, for with the LORD is unfailing love and with him is full redemption. **He himself will redeem Israel from all their sins.**

#### **Hymn**

*With Broken Heart and Contrite Sigh | Hymn 303 v 3-4*

Far off I stand with tearful eyes  
Nor dare uplift them to the skies,  
But you can all my anguish see O God, be merciful to me!

No gifts, no deeds that I have done  
Can for a single sin atone.  
To Calvary alone I flee O God, be merciful to me!

#### **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. Amen.

#### **The Passion History**

"Which of the two do you want me to release to you?" asked the governor. With one voice they cried out, "Away with this man! Release Barabbas to us!" (Barabbas had been thrown into prison for an insurrection in the city, and for murder.) Wanting to release Jesus, Pilate appealed to them again. But they kept shouting, "Crucify him! Crucify him!" Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. The soldiers led Jesus away into the palace (that is, the Praetorium) and called together the whole company of soldiers. They put a purple robe on him, then wove a crown of thorns and set it on him. And they began to call out to him, "Hail, King of the Jews!" Again and again they struck him on the head with a staff and spit on him. Falling on their knees, they worshiped him. Once more Pilate came out and said to the Jews, "Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no basis for a charge against him." When Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe, Pilate said to them, "Here is the man!" As soon as the chief priests and their officials saw him, they shouted, "Crucify! Crucify!" But Pilate answered, "You take him and crucify him. As for me, I find no basis for a charge against him." The Jews insisted, "We have a law, and according to that law he must die, because he claimed to be the Son of God." When Pilate heard this, he was even more afraid, and he went back inside the palace. "Where do you come from?" he asked Jesus, but Jesus gave him no answer. "Do you refuse to speak to me?" Pilate asked. "Don't you realize I have power either to free you or to crucify you?" Jesus answered, "You have no power over me that was not given to you from above. Therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin." From then on, Pilate tried to set Jesus free. But the Jews kept shouting, "If you let this man go, you are no friend of Caesar's. Anyone who claims to be a king opposes Caesar." When Pilate heard this, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judge's seat at a place known as The Stone Pavement (which in Aramaic is Gabbatha). It was the day of Preparation of Passover Week, about the sixth hour. "Here is your king," Pilate said to the Jews. But they shouted, "Take him away! Take him away! Crucify him!" "Shall I crucify your king?" Pilate asked. "We have no king but Caesar," the chief priests answered. When Pilate saw that he was getting nowhere, but that instead an uproar was starting, he took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd. "I am innocent of this man's blood," he said. "It is your responsibility!" All the people answered, "Let his blood be on us and on our children!" Then he released Barabbas to them and handed Jesus over to be crucified. The soldiers took off the purple robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him. As they led him away, they seized Simon from Cyrene, who was on his way in from the country, and put the cross on him and made him carry it behind Jesus. A large number

of people followed him, including women who mourned and wailed for him. Jesus turned and said to them, “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep for yourselves and for your children. For the time will come when you will say, ‘Blessed are the barren women, the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!’ Then, ‘they will say to the mountains: Fall on us; and to the hills: Cover us.’ For if men do these things when the tree is green, what will happen when it is dry?” Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed. They came to a place called Golgotha (which means The Place of the Skull). There they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall; but after tasting it, he refused to drink it. There they crucified him, along with the criminals – one on his right, the other on his left. Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.” Pilate had a notice prepared and fastened to the cross. It read, JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS. Many of the Jews read this sign, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and the sign was written in Aramaic, Latin and Greek. The chief priests of the Jews protested to Pilate, “Do not write, ‘The King of the Jews,’ but that this man claimed to be king of the Jews.” Pilate answered, “What I have written, I have written.”

#### Response

M: 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

#### *Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed | Hymn 129*

Alas! and did my Savior bleed, And did my Sov'reign die?  
Would he devote that sacred head For sinners such as I?

Was it for crimes that I had done He groaned upon the tree?  
Amazing pity, grace unknown, And love beyond degree!

Well might the sun in darkness hide And shut its glories in  
When God, the mighty Maker, died For his own creatures' sin.

Thus might I hide my blushing face While his dear cross appears,  
Dissolve my heart in thankfulness, And melt my eyes to tears.

But drops of grief can ne'er repay The debt of love I owe;  
Here, Lord, I give myself away – 'Tis all that I can do.

#### Sermon Text

#### Matthew 27:27-31

<sup>27</sup>Then the governor's soldiers took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole cohort of soldiers around him. <sup>28</sup>They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him. <sup>29</sup>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!” <sup>30</sup>They spit on him, took the staff, and hit him repeatedly on his head. <sup>31</sup>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.

#### “Hands of Brutality”

Pastor Oberg

#### Presenting of Our Offering

#### Prayers and Lord's Prayer

#### Evening Prayer

M: 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.

C: 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.

#### Closing Hymn

#### *Now the Light Has Gone Away | Hymn 593*

Now the light has gone away; Father, listen while I pray,  
Asking you to watch and keep And to send me quiet sleep.

Jesus, Savior, wash away All that I've done wrong today.  
Make me ever more like you, Good and gentle, kind and true.

Let my near and dear ones be Safe with you eternally.  
Oh, bring me and all I love To your happy home above.

Now my evening praise I give; You once died that I might live.  
All your precious gifts are free-Oh, how good you are to me!

Ah, my best and kindest Friend, You will love me to the end.  
Let me love you more and more, Always better than before.

