



The Hands of the Passion



Hands of Self-Preservation

March 24, 2021

The Hands of the Passion

Hands of Self-Preservation

March 24, 2021

Bells

Opening Hymn

Sweet the Moments, Rich in Blessing | Hymn 111 v 1, 2, 5

Sweet the moments, rich in blessing, Which before the cross we spend,
Life and health and peace possessing From the sinner's dying friend.

Here we rest in wonder, viewing All our sins on Jesus laid;
Here we see redemption flowing From the sacrifice he made.

Lord, in loving contemplation Fix our hearts and eyes on you
Till we taste your full salvation And your unveiled glory view.

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 143

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.** I spread out my hands to you; **my soul thirsts for you like a parched land.** Answer me quickly, O LORD; **my spirit fails.** Do not hide your face from me **or I will be like those who go down to the pit.** Let the morning bring me word of your unfailing love, **for I have put my trust in you.** For your name's sake, O LORD, preserve my life; **in your righteousness, bring me out of trouble.**

Hymn

Before You, God, the Judge of All | **Hymn 306 v 3**

O Jesus, let your precious blood Be to my soul a cleansing flood.
Turn not, O Lord, your guest away, But grant that justified I may
Go to my house at peace to be: O God, be merciful to me!

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. Amen.

The Passion History

Jesus' Death and Burial

When the soldiers crucified Jesus, they took his clothes, dividing them into four shares, one for each of them, with the undergarment remaining. This garment was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom. "Let's not tear it," they said to one another. "Let's decide by lot who will get it." This happened that the scripture might be fulfilled which said, "They divided my garments among themselves and cast lots for my clothing." So this is what the soldiers did. And sitting down, they kept watch over him

there. Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads and saying, "You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! Come down from the cross, if you are the Son of God!" In the same way the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders mocked him. "He saved others," they said, "but he can't save himself! He's the king of Israel! Let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God. Let God rescue him now if he wants him, for he said, 'I am the Son of God.'" One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: "Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself and us!" But the other criminal rebuked him. "Don't you fear God," he said, "since you are under the same sentence? We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." Jesus answered him, "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise." Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary of Magdala. When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Here is your son," and to the disciple, "Here is your mother." From that time on, this disciple took her into his home. At the sixth hour darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour, for the sun stopped shining. And at the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice. "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?" – Which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" When some of those standing near heard this, they said, "Listen, he's calling Elijah." Later, knowing that all was now completed, and so that the scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, "I am thirsty." A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus' lips. When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished." Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." With that, he bowed his head and gave up his life. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook and the rocks split. The tombs broke open and the bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life. They came out of the tombs, and after Jesus' resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many people. When the centurion and those with him who were guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and all that had happened, they were terrified, and exclaimed, "Surely he was the Son of God." When all the people who had gathered to witness this sight saw what took place, they beat their breasts and went away. Some women were watching from a distance. Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome. In Galilee these women had followed him and cared for his needs. Many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem were also there. Now it was the day of Preparation, and the next day was to be a special Sabbath. Because the Jews did not want the bodies left on the

crosses during the Sabbath, they asked Pilate to have the legs broken and the bodies taken down. The soldiers therefore came and broke the legs of the first man who had been crucified with Jesus, and then those of the other. But when they came to Jesus and found that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. Instead, one of the soldiers pierced Jesus' side with a spear, bringing a sudden flow of blood and water. The man who saw it has given testimony, and his testimony is true. He knows that he tells the truth, and he testifies so that you also may have faith. These things happened so that the scripture would be fulfilled: "Not one of his bones will be broken," and, as another scripture says, "They will look on the one they have pierced." Now there was a man named Joseph, a member of the Council, a good and upright man, who had not consented to their decision and action. He came from the Judean town of Arimathea and he was waiting for the kingdom of God. Now Joseph was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly because he feared the Jews. Going to Pilate, he asked for Jesus' body. Pilate was surprised to hear that he was already dead. Summoning the centurion, he asked him if Jesus had already died. When he learned from the centurion that it was so, he gave the body to Joseph. So Joseph took the body. He was accompanied by Nicodemus, the man who earlier had visited Jesus at night. Nicodemus brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds. Taking Jesus' body, the two of them wrapped it, with the spices, in strips of linen. This was in accordance with Jewish burial customs. At the place where Jesus was crucified, there was a garden and in the garden Joseph's own new tomb that he had cut out of the rock, in which no one had ever been laid. Because it was the Jewish day of Preparation and since the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there and rolled a stone against the entrance of the tomb. The women who had come with Jesus from Galilee followed Joseph and saw the tomb and how his body was laid in it. Then they went home and prepared spices and perfumes. But they rested on the Sabbath in obedience to the commandment. The next day, the one after Preparation Day, the chief priests and the Pharisees went to Pilate. "Sir," they said, "we remember that while he was alive that imposter said, 'After three days I will rise again.' So give the order for the tomb to be made secure until the third day. Otherwise, his disciples may come and steal the body and tell the people that he has been raised from the dead. This last deception will be worse than the first." "Take a guard," Pilate answered. "Go, make the tomb as secure as you know how." So they went and made the tomb secure by putting a seal on the stone and posting the guard.

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

Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain | **Hymn 106 v 1, 3, 4**

Come to Calv'ry's holy mountain, Sinners, ruined by the fall;
Here a pure and healing fountain Flows to you, to me, to all,
In a full, perpetual tide, Opened when our Savior died.

Come in sorrow and contrition, Wounded, paralyzed, and blind;
Here the guilty, free remission, Here the troubled, peace may find.
Health this fountain will restore; He that drinks shall thirst no more.

He that drinks shall live forever; 'Tis a soul-renewing flood.
God is faithful; God will never Break his covenant of blood,
Signed when our Redeemer died, Sealed when he was glorified.

Sermon Text

Matthew 27:15-26

¹⁵At the time of the Festival the governor had a custom to release to the crowd any one prisoner they wanted. ¹⁶At that time they were holding a notorious prisoner named Barabbas. ¹⁷So when they were assembled, Pilate said to them, "Which one do you want me to release to you? Barabbas—or Jesus, who is called Christ?" ¹⁸For Pilate knew that they had handed Jesus over to him because of envy.

¹⁹While he was sitting on the judgment seat, Pilate's wife sent him a message. "Have nothing to do with that righteous man," she said, "since I have suffered many things today in a dream because of him." ²⁰But the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus put to death. ²¹The governor asked them, "Which of the two do you want me to release to you?" "Barabbas!" they said. ²²Pilate said to them, "Then what should I do with Jesus, who is called Christ?" They all said to him, "Crucify him!" ²³But the governor said, "Why? What has he done wrong?" But they kept shouting even louder: "Crucify him!" ²⁴When Pilate saw that he was accomplishing nothing and that instead it was turning into a riot, he took water, washed his hands in front of the crowd, and said, "I am innocent of this righteous man's blood. It is your responsibility." ²⁵And all the people answered, "Let his blood be on us and on our children!" ²⁶Then he released Barabbas to them, but he had Jesus flogged and handed him over to be crucified.

"Hands of Self-Preservation"

Pastor Richard Zahn

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 Rest Beneath Night's Shadow | **Hymn 587 v 1, 3, 4**

Now rest beneath night's shadow The woodland, field, and meadow;
The world in slumber lies.
But you, my heart, awaken, With prayer and song be taken;
Let praise to your Creator rise.

Lord Jesus, since you love me, Oh, spread your wings above me
And shield me from alarm.
Though Satan would assail me, Your mercy will not fail me;
I rest in your protecting arm.

My loved ones, rest securely, For God this night will surely
From peril guard your heads.
Sweet slumbers may he send you And bid his hosts attend you
And through the night watch o'er your beds.