



The Hands of the Passion

St. Peter's Lutheran Church
March 10, 2021

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Hands of Hypocrisy

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Bells

Opening Hymn

What Wondrous Love Is This | Hymn 120 v 1-2, 4

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this That caused the Lord of bliss
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul!

When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down,
When I was sinking down, sinking down,
When I was sinking down Beneath God's righteous frown,
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul, for my soul,
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul.

And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on;
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on.
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing his love for me,
And through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
And through eternity I'll sing on.

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 51

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; **according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions.** Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. **For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.** Against you, you only, have I sinned **and done what is evil in your sight.** Surely I was sinful at birth, **sinful from the time my mother conceived me.** Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; **wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.** Hide your face from my sins **and blot out all my iniquity.** You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; **you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.** The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; **a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.**

Hymn

Before You, God, the Judge of All | Hymn 306 v 2

O Lord, my God, to you I pray: Oh, cast me not in wrath away!
Let your good Spirit ne'er depart, But let him draw to you my heart
That truly penitent I be: O God, be merciful to me!

Psalm Prayer

M: Almighty and merciful Father, you freely forgive those who, as David of old, acknowledge and confess their sins. Create in us pure hearts, and wash away all our sins in the blood of your dear Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Passion History

He Suffered Under Pontius Pilate

To avoid ceremonial uncleanness the Jews did not enter the palace; they wanted to be able to eat the Passover. So Pilate came out to them and asked, "What charges are you bringing against this man?" "If he were not a criminal," they replied, "we would not have handed him over to you." Pilate said, "Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law." "But we have no right to execute anyone," the Jews objected. This happened so that the words Jesus had spoken indicating the kind of death he was going to die would be fulfilled. And they began to accuse him, saying, "We have found this man subverting our nation. He opposes payment of taxes to Caesar and claims to be Christ, a king." Pilate then went back inside the palace, summoned Jesus, and asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?" "Is that your idea," Jesus asked, "or did others talk to you about me?" "Do you think that I am a Jew?" Pilate replied. "It was your people and your chief priests who handed you over to me. What is it you have done?" Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jews. But now my kingdom is from another place." "You are a king, then!" said Pilate. Jesus answered, "You are right in saying I am a king. In fact, for this reason I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me." "What is truth?" Pilate asked. With this he went out again to the Jews and said, "I find no basis for a charge against him." When Jesus was accused by the chief priests and the elders, he gave no answer. Then Pilate asked him, "Don't you hear how many things they are accusing you of?" But Jesus made no reply, not even to a single charge. The chief priests accused him of many things. So again Pilate asked him, "Aren't you going to answer?" But Jesus still made no reply, and Pilate was amazed. But the chief priests insisted, "He stirs up the people all over Judea by his teaching. He started in Galilee and has come all the way here." On hearing this, Pilate asked if the man was a Galilean. When he learned that Jesus was under Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him to Herod, who was also in Jerusalem at that time. When Herod saw Jesus, he was greatly pleased, because for a long time he had been wanting to see him. From what he had heard about him, he hoped to see him perform some miracle. He plied him with many questions, but Jesus gave him no answer. The chief priests and teachers of the law were standing there, vehemently accusing him. Then Herod and his soldiers ridiculed and mocked him. Dressing him in an elegant robe, they sent him back to Pilate. That day Herod and Pilate became

friends – before this they had been enemies. Pilate called together the chief priests, the rulers and the people, and said to them, “You brought me this man as one who was inciting the people to rebellion. I have examined him in your presence and have found no basis for your charges against him. Neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us; as you can see, he has done nothing to deserve death. Therefore, I will punish him and release him.” Now it was the governor’s custom at the Feast to release a prisoner chosen by the crowd. At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Barabbas. So when the crowd had gathered, Pilate asked them, “Which one do you want me to release to you: Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?” For he knew it was out of envy that they had handed Jesus over to him. While Pilate was sitting on the judge’s seat, his wife sent him this message: “Don’t have anything to do with that innocent man, because I have suffered a great deal today in a dream on account of him.” But the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus executed.

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

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross | **Hymn 125 v 1-2, 4**

When I survey the wondrous cross On which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss And pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast Save in the death of Christ, my God.
All the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to his blood.

Were the whole realm of nature mine, That were a tribute far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine, Demands my soul, my life, my all.

Sermon Text

Mark 14:55-65

⁵⁵The 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. ⁵⁶Many testified falsely against him, but their testimonies did not agree. ⁵⁷Some 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.’” ⁵⁹Yet even on this point, their testimony did not agree. ⁶⁰The high priest stepped forward[a] and questioned Jesus, “Have you no answer? What is this they are testifying against you?” ⁶¹But 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.” ⁶³The high priest tore his robes and said, “Why do we need any more witnesses? ⁶⁴You have heard the blasphemy! What do you think?” They all condemned him as being worthy of death. ⁶⁵Then 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.

“Hands of Hypocrisy”

Pastor Michael J. Zuberbier

Presenting of Our Offering

“What Grace Is This!”

By Laurie F. Gauger

What grace is this! My Lord and King Has set his face to suffering.
My God eternal dies to bring Eternal life to me.

What grace is this – That very God Would stoop to lift a cross of wood
And walk a road of rock and blood, A sinner’s road, for me.

What grace is this! Though Lord of all, He yields to Pontius Pilate’s law
And lets the Roman hammers draw A rush of blood for me.

What grace is this! Rude agonies! With common thieves he hangs and bleeds.
The sinless Son bears each misdeed. He pays for all, for me.

What grace is this! Once wrapped in cloths And gently laid in manger trough,
He’s taken, dead, from wretched cross And wrapped again for me.

What grace is this! How can it be? He wears this raw humility
To lift me to eternity. Such grace sweet grace for me.

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

Abide with Me | **Hymn 588 v 1-2, 7**

Abide with me; fast falls the eventide. The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee, Help of the helpless, oh, abide with me!

Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day; Earth's joys grow dim;
its glories pass away. Change and decay in all around I see;
O thou who changest not, abide with me!

Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes; Shine through the gloom
and point me to the skies. Heav'n's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me!