



**The
Hands
of the
Passion**

**HANDS OF SELF-PRESERVATION
(PILATE)**

Abiding Word Evangelical Lutheran Church
Guest Preacher: Alex Groth
February 24, 2021

HYMN: MY SONG IS LOVE UNKNOWN



1 My song is love un - known, My Sav - ior's love to
 2 He came from his blest throne Sal - va - tion to be -
 3 Some - times they strew his way And his sweet prais - es
 4 Why? What has my Lord done? What makes this rage and
 5 They rise and needs will have My dear Lord made a -



me, Love to the love - less shown That they might
 slow, But such dis - dain! So few The longed - for
 sing, Re - sound - ing all the day Ho - san - nas
 spite? He made the lame to run; He gave the
 way. A mur - der - er they save; The Prince of



love - ly be. Oh, who am I That for my
 Christ would know! But oh, my friend, My friend in -
 to their King. Then "Cru - ci - fy!" Is all their
 blind their sight. Sweet in - ju - ries! Yet they at
 life they slay. Yet cheer - ful he To suff'ring



sake My Lord should take Frail flesh and die?
 deed, Who at my need His life did spend!
 breath, And for his death They thirst and cry.
 these Them - selves dis - please And 'gainst him rise.
 goes That he his foes From death might free.

6 In life no house, no home
 My Lord on earth might have;
 In death no friendly tomb
 But what a stranger gave.
 What may I say?
 Heav'n was his home
 But mine the tomb
 Wherein he lay.

7 Here might I stay and sing;
 No story so divine,
 Never was love, dear King,
 Never was grief like thine.
 This is my friend,
 In whose sweet praise
 I all my days
 Could gladly spend!

Text: Samuel Crossman, c. 1624-83, alt.
 Tune: LOVE UNKNOWN (66 66 4444) John N. Ireland, 1879-1962. © John Ireland Trust.
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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

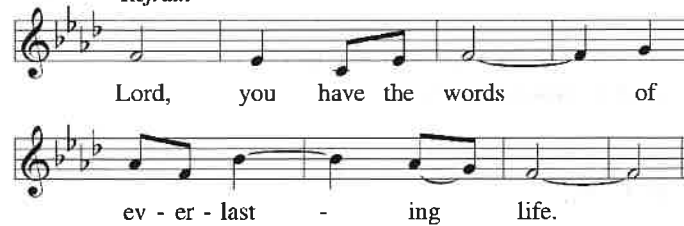
M: Lord God, we thank you for this day of grace now drawing to a close. Stay with us and warm our hearts with your forgiving love in Christ. May your Word keep our faith burning brightly that we may walk in the light of your presence through the darkness of this world. Come and bless us as we worship you: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

PSALM OF THE DAY

PSALM 119b

Refrain



M: Teach me, O Lord, to follow your decrees; then I will keep them to the end.

C: **Give me understanding,
and I will keep your law and obey it with all my heart.**

M: Direct me in the path of your commands, for there I find delight.

C: **Turn my heart toward your statutes and not toward selfish gain.**

M: Turn my eyes away from worthless things;
preserve my life according to your word.

C: **Fulfill your promise to your servant, so that you may be feared.**

M: Take away the disgrace I dread, for your laws are good.

C: **How I long for your precepts! Preserve my life in your righteousness.**

C: **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: O Lord, your Word is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness. Guide our footsteps by your Word so that we may remain steadfast in faith, love you with all our hearts, and love our neighbor as ourselves; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

PASSION HISTORY FROM MARK 14:1-26

¹ Now the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread were only two days away, and the chief priests and the teachers of the law were looking for some sly way to arrest Jesus and kill him. ² “But not during the Feast,” they said, “or the people may riot.”

³ While he was in Bethany, reclining at the table in the home of a man known as Simon the Leper, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, made of pure nard. She broke the jar and poured the perfume on his head.

⁴ Some of those present were saying indignantly to one another, “Why this waste of perfume? ⁵ It could have been sold for more than a year’s wages and the money given to the poor.” And they rebuked her harshly.

⁶ “Leave her alone,” said Jesus. “Why are you bothering her? She has done a beautiful thing to me. ⁷ The poor you will always have with you, and you can help them any time you want. But you will not always have me. ⁸ She did what she could. She poured perfume on my body beforehand to prepare for my burial. ⁹ I tell you the truth, wherever the gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her.”

¹⁰ Then Judas Iscariot, one of the Twelve, went to the chief priests to betray Jesus to them. ¹¹ They were delighted to hear this and promised to give him money. So he watched for an opportunity to hand him over.

¹² On the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, when it was customary to sacrifice the Passover lamb, Jesus’ disciples asked him, “Where do you want us to go and make preparations for you to eat the Passover?”

¹³ So he sent two of his disciples, telling them, “Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him. ¹⁴ Say to the owner of the house he enters, ‘The Teacher asks: Where is my guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?’ ¹⁵ He will show you a large upper room, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there.”

¹⁶ The disciples left, went into the city and found things just as Jesus had told them. So they prepared the Passover.

¹⁷ When evening came, Jesus arrived with the Twelve. ¹⁸ While they were reclining at the table eating, he said, “I tell you the truth, one of you will betray me—one who is eating with me.”

¹⁹ They were saddened, and one by one they said to him, “Surely not I?”

²⁰ “It is one of the Twelve,” he replied, “one who dips bread into the bowl with me. ²¹ The Son of Man will go just as it is written about him. But woe to that man who betrays the Son of Man! It would be better for him if he had not been born.”

²² While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take it; this is my body.”

²³ Then he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, and they all drank from it.

²⁴ “This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many,” he said to them. ²⁵ “I tell you the truth, I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it anew in the kingdom of God.”

²⁶ When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

SEASONAL RESPONSE

C: 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.

SERMON HYMN: IN THE HOUR OF TRIAL

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1 In the hour of tri - al, Je - sus, plead for me
2 With for - bid - den plea - sures Should this vain world charm
3 Should your mer - cy send me Sor - row, toil, and woe,
4 When my life is end - ing, Though in grief or pain,



Lest by base de - ni - al I un - wor - thy be.
Or its tempt - ing trea - sures Spread to work me harm,
Or should pain at - tend me On my path be - low,
When my bod - y chang - es Back to dust a - gain,



When you see me wa - ver, With a look re - call,
Bring to my re - mem - brance Sad Geth - sem - a - ne
Grant that I may nev - er Fail your cross to view;
On your truth re - ly - ing, Through that mor - tal strife,



Nor for fear or fa - vor Ev - er let me fall.
Or, in dark - er sem - blance, Cross-crowned Cal - va - ry.
Grant that I may ev - er Cast my care on you.
Je - sus, take me, dy - ing, To e - ter - nal life.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854, alt.

Tune: ST. MARY MAGDALENE (65 65 D) John B. Dykes, 1823-76.

SERMON ON MATTHEW 27:15-26

Hands of Self-preservation

¹⁵ Now it was the governor's custom at the Feast to release a prisoner chosen by the crowd. ¹⁶ At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Barabbas. ¹⁷ 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?" ¹⁸ For he knew it was out of envy that they had handed Jesus over to him.

¹⁹ 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, for I have suffered a great deal today in a dream because of him."

²⁰ But the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus executed.

²¹ "Which of the two do you want me to release to you?" asked the governor.

"Barabbas," they answered.

²² "What shall I do, then, with Jesus who is called Christ?" Pilate asked.

They all answered, "Crucify him!"

²³ "Why? What crime has he committed?" asked Pilate.

But they shouted all the louder, "Crucify him!"

²⁴ 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!"

²⁵ All the people answered, "Let his blood be on us and on our children!"

²⁶ Then he released Barabbas to them. But he had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified.

LORD'S PRAYER

**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

M: O Father of all mercies, be present with us this night. We give thanks for another day filled with Your grace, encouraged by Your promises, guided by Your wisdom, crowned with Your victories. Grant us now a night of rest and recuperation that we may serve You yet another day; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord.

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 DAY IS OVER

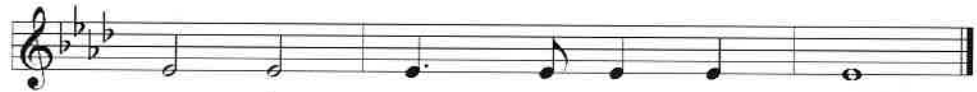
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1 Now the day is o - ver; Night is
2 Je - sus, give the wea - ry Calm and
3 Com - fort ev - 'ry suf - f'rer Watch - ing
4 Through the long night watch - es May your
5 When the morn - ing wak - ens, Then may



draw - ing nigh. Shad - ows of the
sweet re - pose; With your ten - d'rest
late in pain; Those who plan some
an - gels spread Their bright wings a -
I a - rise Pure and fresh and



eve - ning Steal a - cross the sky.
bless - ing May my eye - lids close.
e - vil, From their sin re - strain.
bove me, Watch - ing round my bed.
sin - less In your ho - ly eyes.

Text: Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834-1924, abr., alt.
Tune: MERRIAL (65 65) Joseph Barnby, 1838-96.