

HANDS OF MISGUIDED ZEAL (PETER)

Abiding Word Evangelical Lutheran Church Guest Preacher: Tom Westra March 10th, 2021

HYMN: CHRIST BE MY LEADER



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Tune: SLANE (Irregular) Irish folk tune.

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 37



Lord, let your mer-cy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

M: Do not fret because of evil men or be envious of those who do wrong;

C: for like the grass they will soon wither, like green plants they will soon die away.

M: Trust in the Lord and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture.

C: Delight yourself in the Lord and he will give you the desires of your heart.

M: Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him and he will do this:

C: He will make your righteousness shine like the dawn, the justice of your cause like the noonday sun.

M: I was young and now I am old, yet I have never seen the righteous forsaken or their children begging bread.

C: Turn from evil and do good; then you will dwell in the land forever.

M: For the Lord loves the just and will not forsake his faithful ones.

C: The salvation of the righteous comes from the Lord; he is their stronghold in time of trouble.

M: The Lord helps them and delivers them; he delivers them from the wicked and saves them, because they take refuge in him.

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: Lord God, in this changing world we look to you as our unchanging rock of refuge and hope. Hear us as we plead for your mercy, and grant us your saving grace and protection; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

PASSION HISTORY FROM MARK 14:43-65

⁴³ Just as he was speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, appeared. With him was a crowd armed with swords and clubs, sent from the chief priests, the teachers of the law, and the elders.

⁴⁴ Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them: "The one I kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard." ⁴⁵ Going at once to Jesus, Judas said, "Rabbi!" and kissed him. ⁴⁶ The men seized Jesus and arrested him. ⁴⁷ Then one of those standing near drew his sword and struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his ear.

⁴⁸ "Am I leading a rebellion," said Jesus, "that you have come out with swords and clubs to capture me? ⁴⁹ Every day I was with you, teaching in the temple courts, and you did not arrest me. But the Scriptures must be fulfilled." ⁵⁰ Then everyone deserted him and fled.

⁵¹ A young man, wearing nothing but a linen garment, was following Jesus. When they seized him, ⁵² he fled naked, leaving his garment behind.

⁵³ They took Jesus to the high priest, and all the chief priests, elders and teachers of the law came together. ⁵⁴ Peter followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest. There he sat with the guards and warmed himself at the fire.

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 man-made temple and in three days will build another, not made by man.' " 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 Christ, the Son of the Blessed One?"

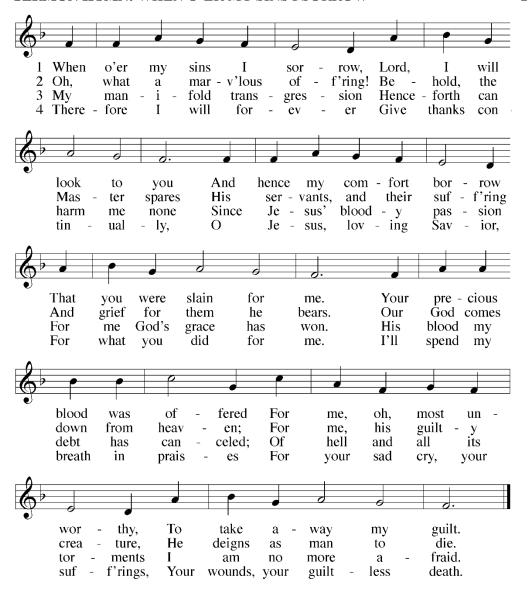
⁶² "I am," said Jesus. "And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven."

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, "Prophesy!" And the guards took him and beat him.

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.



Text: Justus Gesenius, 1601-73, abr.; tr. composite.

Tune: HERR CHRIST, DER EINIG GOTTS SOHN (76 76 776) Eyn Enchiridion oder Handbüchlein, Erfurt, 1524, alt.

SERMON ON JOHN 18:4-11

Hands of Misguided Zeal

⁴Jesus, knowing all that was going to happen to him, went out and asked them, "Who is it you want?"

⁵ "Jesus of Nazareth," they replied.

"I am he," Jesus said. (And Judas the traitor was standing there with them.) ⁶ When Jesus said, "I am he," they drew back and fell to the ground.

⁷ Again he asked them, "Who is it you want?"

And they said, "Jesus of Nazareth."

⁸ "I told you that I am he," Jesus answered. "If you are looking for me, then let these men go." ⁹ This happened so that the words he had spoken would be fulfilled: "I have not lost one of those you gave me."

¹⁰ Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant, cutting off his right ear. (The servant's name was Malchus.)

¹¹ Jesus commanded Peter, "Put your sword away! Shall I not drink the cup the Father has given me?"

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



6 Abide, O faithful Savior, Among us with your love; Grant steadfastness and help us To reach our home above.

Text: Josua Stegmann, 1588-1632; tr. August Crull, 1845-1923, alt.

Tune: Christus, der ist mein Leben (76 76) Melchior Vulpius, c. 1570–1615, alt.