

(cont...) Then He took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying, "Drink from it all of you, for this is My Blood of the New Testament, which is poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me. "Dear children, I am going to be with you only a little longer. You will look for me, but just as I told the Jews, so I tell you now: Where I am going, you cannot come. "A new Commandment I give you: Love one another. Just as I have loved you so also love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, where are You going?"

Jesus answered, "Where I am going you cannot follow Me now, but you will follow later." Peter asked, "Lord, why can't I follow You now? I will lay down my life for You!" Jesus replied, "Will you really lay down your life for Me? Simon, Simon, pay attention: Satan has asked to have you all, so that he may sift you as wheat. But I prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have returned to me, strengthen your brothers." Peter answered him, "Even if all fall away because of you, I will never fall away." Jesus said to him, "Amen I tell you, tonight before the rooster crows you will deny me three times." Peter said to him, "Even if I have to die with you, I will never deny you." And all the disciples said the same. He said to them, "When I sent you out without money bag, traveler's bag, and sandals, did you lack anything?" "Nothing," they said. Then he said to them, "But now, whoever has a money bag, let him take it, and likewise a traveler's bag. And let the one who has no sword sell his cloak and buy one. For I tell you that this Scripture must be fulfilled in me: 'He was counted with transgressors. For what is written about me has its fulfillment.'" They said, "Lord, look, here are two swords." He said to them, "That is enough."

Then Jesus said to them, "This night you will all fall away because of me, for it is written, 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered. But after I have been raised, I will go ahead of you into Galilee. After they sang a hymn, Jesus went out with his disciples across the Kidron Valley, to the Mount of Olives, where there was a garden called Gethsemane. He and his disciples went into it. Now Judas, who was betraying him, also knew the place, because Jesus often met there with his disciples. When he reached the place, he said to his disciples, "Sit here, while I go over there and pray. Keep praying that you may not enter into temptation." Then he took Peter, James, and John along with him and began to be troubled and distressed. He said to them, "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow, even to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch."

He withdrew from them about a stone's throw, knelt down, and prayed, "Father, if you are willing, take this cup away from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will. Not my will, but yours be done." When he rose from prayer, he went to the disciples and found them sleeping from sorrow. He said to Peter, "Simon, are you sleeping? Were you not strong enough to keep watch for one hour? Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak." He went away a second time and prayed, "My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to pass from me unless I drink it, may your will be done." Again he returned and found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy. They did not know what they should answer him. He left them again, went away, and prayed a third time. He said the same words as before. An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him. As he was in agony, he prayed more fervently. His sweat became like great drops of blood falling to the ground.

Then He returned to His disciples and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? Look, the hour is near, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Rise. Let us go. Look, My betrayer is near!"

(Here ends the **Second Passion History Reading**)



I. The Service of Vespers ELH p.120



WELCOME: 02/17/16 LENT-1 MIDWEEK INVOCATION (Please rise!)

P: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son ✠, and of the Holy Spirit. C: Amen.

THE CONFESSION OF SINS *P: Dearly beloved! We have come together in the presence of God our heavenly Father, to render thanks for the great benefits that we have received at His hand, to set forth His most worthy praise, to hear His holy Word, and to ask for ourselves and on behalf of others, those things that are necessary for our life and salvation. O come, let us worship Him! Let us kneel and bow down before Him. Let us confess our sins with penitent hearts, and obtain forgiveness by His infinite grace and mercy.*

C: Almighty and most merciful Father, we have strayed from Your ways like lost sheep. We have followed the devices and desires of our hearts. We have offended against Your holy Law. We have done those things which we should not have done, and we have not done those things which we should have done. Have mercy on us, O Lord! Spare us and restore us, according to the promises You have declared to us in Jesus Christ, our Lord. For His sake grant that we may live a godly, righteous and sober life, to the glory of Your holy Name.

THE ABSOLUTION

P: The almighty and merciful Lord has granted us pardon and forgiveness of all our sins, grace for true repentance and amendment of life, and the comfort of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

OPENING HYMN "Lift High the Cross" ELH #194 TUNE: CRUCIFIER

**Refrain: Lift high the Cross, the love of Christ proclaim,
Till all the world adore His sacred Name.**

1. Led on their way by this triumphant sign,
The hosts of- God in conqu'ring ranks combine. *Refrain: Lift high...*
2. Each newborn soldier of the Crucified
Bears on his- brow the seal of Him who died. *Refrain: Lift high ...*
3. This is the sign which Satan's legions fear
And angels- veil their faces to revere. *Refrain: Lift high ...*
4. Saved by this Cross where-on their Lord was slain,
The sons of- Adam their lost home regain. *Refrain: Lift high*
5. For Thy blest Cross which doth for all atone
Creation's- praises rise before Thy Throne. Final Refrain Lift high...

The VERSICLES ELH, p.120

P: ♪ O Lord, open my lips. C: ♪ And my mouth will show forth Your praise.

P: ♪ Make haste, O God, to deliver me. C: ♪ Make haste to help me, O Lord.

The GLORIA PATRI C: ♪ Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and- to- the Holy Ghost. - As it was in the beginning; is now, and ever shall be, for-ev-er-more. - A-men.

📖 Here are the words to **Psalm 6** - Please READ along! 📖
O LORD, do not rebuke me in Your anger, Nor chasten me in Your hot displeasure.

² Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I am weak; O LORD, heal me, for my bones are troubled.
³ My soul also is greatly troubled; But You, O LORD – how long?
⁴ Return, O LORD, deliver me! Oh, save me for Your mercies' sake!
⁵ For in death there is no remembrance of You; In the grave who will give You thanks?
⁶ I am weary with my groaning; All night I make my bed swim; I drench my couch with my tears.
⁷ My eye wastes away because of grief; It grows old because of all my enemies.
⁸ Depart from me, all you workers of iniquity; For the LORD has heard the voice of my weeping.
⁹ The LORD has heard my supplication; The LORD will receive my prayer.
¹⁰ Let all my enemies be ashamed and greatly troubled; Let them turn back and be ashamed suddenly.
All: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost, one True God, now and forever. Amen

PASSION HISTORY: 2ND READING ✕ *Supper Over; Judas Iscariot Betrayal*
RESPONSORY P: O LORD have mercy upon us. C: Thanks be to You, O LORD!

CHIEF HYMN *Glory Be to Jesus* ELH #283 Viva! viva! Gesù

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Glory be to Jesus,
Who in bitter pains
Poured for me the Life-Blood
From His sacred Veins! | 2. Grace and life eternal
In that Blood I find;
Blest be His compassion,
Infinitely kind! |
| 3. Blest through endless ages
Be the precious stream
Which from endless torments
Did the world redeem! | 4. Abel's blood for vengeance
Pleaded to the skies;
But the blood of Jesus
For our pardon cries. |
| 5. Off as earth exulting
Wafts its praise on high,
Angel hosts rejoicing
Make their glad reply. | 6. Lift we, then, our voices,
Swell the mighty flood,
Louder still and LOUDER
PRAISE THE PRECIOUS BLOOD! |



SERIES “IRONIES OF THE PASSION” TONIGHT “ONE SHOULD DIE FOR ALL”

The VERSICLE P: ♪ Let my prayers rise before you as incense:

C: ♪ And the lifting up of my hands-- As the ev'ning sacrifice.

NUNC DIMITTIS (“Lord, Let Us Depart in Peace” ...music on page 124)

- C: ♪** 1. Lord, now You let Your servant ... de-part in peace:
 Accord-... .. -ing to You Word.
2. For mine eyes have seen... Your Sal-va-tion;
 Which You have prepared before the face... of all peo-ple.
3. A-- Light to light- ... -en the Gen-tiles:
 And the glory of Your... peo-ple Isra-el.
4. **Glory be to the Father ... and to the Son / And to... the Holy Ghost;**
5. As it was in the beginning, is now, and.. ever shall be / Forev-.. er-more, A-men.

KYRIE ELEISON (Lord Have Mercy) C: ♪ Lord, have mercy upon us.
 Christ, have mercy upon us. - Lord, have mercy upon us.

The LORD’S PRAYER C: ♪ *Our Father, Who art in heaven...* A- -men.

The (Evening) COLLECT (Pastor prays, Cong. Amen) C: ♪ A- -men.

The BENEDICAMUS P: ♪ Let us bless the Lord. C: ♪ Thanks be to God.

The BENEDICTION P: ♪ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, And the love of God,
 And the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. C: ♪ A- -men.

CLOSING HYMN *Now the Light Has Gone Away* ELH #570 MÜDE BIN ICH

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

2. Jesus, Savior, wash away - All that has been wrong today;
 Help me every day to be - Good and gentle, more like Thee.

3. Let my near and dear ones be - Always near and dear to Thee.
 Oh, bring me and all I love - To Thy happy home above.

4. Now my evening praise I give; - Thou didst die that I might live.
 All my blessings come from Thee; - Oh, how good Thou art to me!

5. Thou, my best and kindest Friend, - Thou wilt love me to the end.
 Let me love Thee more and more, - Always better than before. Amen.

Silent Prayer (Candles out.) You may be seated. FELLOWSHIP

History of the Suffering & Death of our Lord Jesus Christ
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SECOND READING ✕ *Supper Over; Judas Iscariot Betrayal*

While they were reclining and eating, Jesus said, “Amen I tell you, one of you will betray Me, one who is eating with Me.” They were very sad, and each one began to say to Him, “Surely, not I, Lord?” He said to them, “It is one of the Twelve, one who is dipping with Me in the dish. For the Son of Man is going just as it has been written about Him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would be better for that man if he had not been born.” The disciples started looking at each other, uncertain which of them He meant.

One of His disciples, the one Jesus loved, was reclining at Jesus’ side. So Simon Peter motioned to him to find out which one he was talking about. Leaning back against Jesus, he asked, “Lord, who is it?” Jesus replied, “It is the one to whom I will give this piece of bread, after I have dipped it in the dish.” Then He dipped the piece of bread and gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot. As soon as Judas took the bread, Satan entered into him. So Jesus told him, “What you are about to do, do quickly.” None of those reclining at the table understood why Jesus said this to him. Since Judas kept the money bag, some thought that Jesus was telling him, “Buy what we need for the festival,” or to give something to the poor. As soon as Judas had taken the bread, he went out. And it was night. After Judas had left, Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man is glorified, and God is glorified in him. If God is glorified in him, God will also glorify the Son in himself and will glorify him at once.

While they were eating, on the night when He was betrayed, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to the disciples. He said, “Take, eat, this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” ... (Passion History continues ↗)

(LENT.1W) **WEDNESDAY John 11:45-53 "ONE MUST DIE FOR ALL" 02.17.16**

INTRODUCTION During the Vietnam War, **an army press officer is supposed to have said**, *"We had to destroy the village to save it."* There's some controversy about whether or not he actually said that. But if he did, do you think he was trying to contradict himself? More likely, in the heat of questioning, he failed to see the irony of his statement. **This year during Lent, we're talking about irony - about situations that are different from what you would expect.** Tonight, I want to focus on **unintentional irony.**

Sometimes we do and say things that are ironic without even realizing it. Tonight we have just such a situation before us. **Caiaphas, the high priest**, makes one of the clearest statements of Gospel you'll ever find - and he never even realized it. His words are today's **Irony of the Passion:**

THEME: IT IS BETTER THAT ONE MAN DIE FOR THE PEOPLE.

I. Caiaphas said this several weeks before Jesus' last trip to Jerusalem. Ordinarily during Lent we focus on events that took place during the week before Jesus died. But this incident lays the foundation for so much that was going to happen that it's worth our attention today. The death of Christ was more than just a tragedy. Its significance goes far beyond the all-too-common realities of injustice and human cruelty. Caiaphas helps us to see what God had in mind. But Caiaphas was making a very different point. **It is better that one man die for the people. This shows the guilt of Jesus' enemies.**

John tells us that many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary believed in Jesus because they saw what He did. Do you know what Jesus had just done? He had just raised Lazarus from the dead. It was one of those things you wish you could've seen. Jesus told the bystanders to roll the stone away and then shouted, *"Lazarus, come out!"* A man four days dead came out of the tomb - alive. Many people saw that Jesus indeed had the power to free them from death, and so they believed in him. There's no irony in that.

Yet John says, *"Some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done."* You'd think they would've been moved by seeing a dead man now alive. But all they could do was tattle. Then the Pharisees called an emergency meeting of the Sanhedrin, the Jewish ruling council. The council was divided between Pharisees and Sadducees, and they usually disagreed about everything. But now they spoke with one voice: *"What are we accomplishing?" they asked. 'Here is this man performing many signs. If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and then the Romans will come and take away both our temple and our nation.'"*

Jesus' enemies recognized that He was doing miracles. They didn't deny that Lazarus had been dead and now he was alive. They understood that Jesus had raised him for the purpose of creating faith. What was their response? *"Everybody's going to believe in him!"* They were terrified that Jesus was going to convert the whole nation of Israel to His Gospel! They thought that would be a tragedy. It would spell the end of their understanding of the law and of Israel's unique place in history. They couldn't imagine that their country would continue in those circumstances. But more than that, they feared for themselves. From the very beginning of Jesus' ministry, these

religious leaders had understood that Jesus was a threat to their authority. They claimed the right to interpret the Scriptures. But Jesus was constantly telling them they were wrong, that their hearts were hard, that their religion of works was false. If they had lost their hold on the people, the Romans would get rid of them.

However, Caiaphas had a solution to their problem. He said, *"You know nothing at all! You do not realize that it is better for you that one man die for the people than that the whole nation perish."* That statement ended the discussion. **From that time forward, they plotted to take Jesus' life.** It was the only solution that seemed to make sense. Of course, it wasn't the only solution that made sense. But these teachers of Israel felt they had to kill him.

Why did they reach that conclusion? It wasn't politics. It was hatred. In the next chapter we learn they even plotted to kill Lazarus. That's how much they hated Jesus and His message. Where did that hatred come from? **Unbelief. The Bible tells us that the sinful mind is God's enemy - and all unbelievers have sinful minds.** Jesus Himself tells us that the world will hate us because it hated Him. This is simply the most concrete example of that truth. So in the face of Jesus' greatest miracle, His enemies wanted to kill Him.

That's pretty ironic. Behind the appearance of faith lay hearts that were dead and cold. (And,) What killed those hearts? **Sinful human pride. Pride kills faith. Faith says, "I need God to do everything for me." Pride says, "I can do it all myself."** If we constantly tell ourselves how good we are, how dedicated we are, how lucky our church is to have us, then, my friends, we're on the **road to becoming Pharisees.** If pride takes control of our hearts, hatred of the Gospel will ultimately take control too, even if it hides itself behind the image of concern for our church, our traditions, or our children.

Are we guilty of pride? (Luther said) Well, pinch yourself. Did it hurt? Do you have flesh and blood? Then you are guilty of pride, because pride lives in the heart of **every sinner.** That sinful pride should carry us all down to hell. But pride is not the point John was making. Rather, the pride of these men became the means to an end - **Jesus had to die in Jerusalem.** That's why He came. God had determined to take the hate and unbelief of these men and **turn it into a Gospel blessing**, a blessing for all people. Because Jesus let these men kill Him, our sin is paid for - even our sins of pride - and **we are forgiven.** Because the Holy Spirit comes to us when we hear that Good News, **God wages war against the pride in our hearts**, day by day.

II. Caiaphas proclaimed that **very Gospel of God** even though all he intended to communicate was hatred and self-serving pragmatism. Caiaphas was not in control that day. God was. God really made this statement to us: **It is better that one Man die for the people. This shows the LOVE of God.**

John says, *"He did not say this on his own, but as high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the Jewish nation."* 1,500 years earlier, God told Moses to make his brother Aaron the first high priest. By Jesus' day, the high priests still went into the temple once a year and made intercession before God. St. Paul calls preaching the Gospel a "priestly duty" (**Romans**

15:16). God always intended His Old Testament priests to speak for Him to His people.

Caiaphas was unaware of what the Holy Spirit was doing. **That was ironic because God had given the priesthood to point to Jesus.** For 1,500 years the high priest like an actor brought blood sacrifices to God to show that **Jesus, the Messiah, would one day come and sacrifice Himself to pay for our sins.** Here, this one last time, God spoke through a high priest (Caiaphas) to close out the Old Covenant and **bring an end to symbols and sacrifices and to replace them with their fulfillment.** After this prophecy was fulfilled, the Old Testament priesthood ended. There was no more need for sacrifices.

Caiaphas “preached a sermon” that told **WHY Jesus had to die.** It was better in God’s sight that **One Man die so that the whole people would not perish.** That sinful pride in our hearts is a universal human condition. All sinners have it. It condemns all of us to die and go to hell. But God did not want that to happen. So He sent His Son to die and pay for our pride. **Jesus came as the true High Priest** that Israel was waiting for and offered the only Blood that could ever pay for our sins, the only Blood that could ever turn God’s anger away from us, the only Blood that could ever make us friends with God again - His own Blood, the Blood of the God-man.

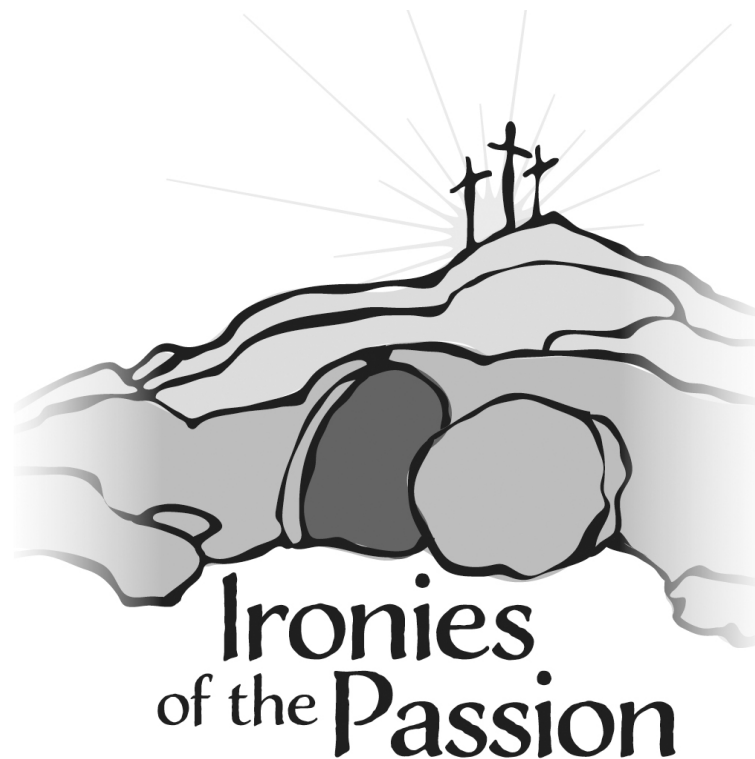
Jesus’ Blood - the **Blood of God - is worth more than the whole universe.** So it paid for so much more than just the nation of Israel, as John continues, “. . . and not only for that nation but also for the scattered children of God, to bring them together and make them one.” God always planned to save us Gentiles. **Caiaphas prophesied that Jesus would die for the whole Christian church, for every man, woman, and child who would ever live.**

Do your sins ever bother you? (They should. But) **In Jesus, we find peace.** In Jesus, God wiped out the hell that should happen to us. He replaced it with the Eternal Life Jesus won. In Jesus’ Blood, God declared us - strangers and Gentiles - to be his true people. Through faith in Christ, we, who are scattered thousands of miles and 20 centuries from Jerusalem and Caiaphas, **are now bought-and-paid-for children of God.**

CONCLUSION **Now God has made us one in Christ.** You see, the way God looks at it, there is only **One Christian church.** We can’t see into the heart. But God himself does look at the heart. Wherever He sees faith in Jesus, He sees a member of His One True Church. In Heaven, we will all be one. Nothing that separates us now will divide us from other Christians. We will enjoy God’s love together forever.

All that is ours because **One Man died for the people.** God loved His Son above all of us, but He willingly sacrificed Him to bring us to Heaven. **All those who trust what Jesus has done will live forever.** As far as we know, Caiaphas never understood what he said that day. So when he died, he went to hell in one last, sad bit of irony. But God has revealed to us the truth Caiaphas spoke. That truth means that through faith in Jesus we have eternal life. The great irony of the passion is God’s unending, undeniable love. He declared that love even through the mouth of an unbeliever. **I’N, Amen. SDG**

Our Savior Lutheran Church  Lakeland, FL  ELS
Lent-Midweeks 2016  *Ironies of the Passion*
February 10th – March 16th  2016  4:30 pm



Services

Ash Wednesday/Midweek 1	.....This Man Went Home Justified	.....Luke 18:9-14
Midweek 2	.....It Is Better That One Man Die for the People!	.....John 11:45-53
Midweek 3	.....Not During the Feast	.....Matthew 26:1-5
Midweek 4	.....He Had Been Wanting to See Jesus	.....Luke 23:6-12
Midweek 5	.....We Have No King but Caesar!	.....John 19:12-16a
Midweek 6	.....Don't You Fear God?	.....Luke 23:39-43
Palm Sunday	.....Do You Hear What These Children Are Saying?	.....Matthew 21:12-17
Maundy Thursday	.....Do This in Remembrance of Me	.....1 Corinthians 11:23-29
Good Friday	.....He Said, "I Will Rise Again"	.....Matthew 27:62-66
Easter Sunday	.....Why Do You Look for the Living Among the Dead?	.....Luke 24:4-8