Harmonized History of the Suffering & Death of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the Four Evangelists → by Dr. Johann Bugenhagen

Compiled from the New King James Version ©1979, 1980, 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved. [compiled by M. DeGarmeaux]

FOURTH READING

Jesus' Suffering at the Hand of the Spiritual Authorities

Then the band of soldiers and their captain and the officers of the Jews arrested Jesus and bound Him. And they led Him away to Annas first, for he was the father-in-law of Caiaphas who was high priest that year. Now Caiaphas was he who gave counsel to the Jews that it was expedient that one Man should die for the people. And they led Him away to Caiaphas the high priest and with him were assembled all the chief priests, the elders, and the scribes.

And Simon Peter followed Iesus, and so did another disciple. That disciple was known to the high priest, and went with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest. But Peter stood at the door outside. Then that other disciple who was known to the high priest, went out and spoke to her who kept the door, and brought Peter in. And the servants and officers who had made a fire of coals stood there. for it was cold, and they warmed themselves. And Peter stood with them and warmed himself, so that he could see the end. Then the servant girl who kept the door, seeing Peter in the light as he warmed himself, looked intently at him and said: And vou were also with Iesus of Galilee! You are not also one of this Man's disciples, are you? He denied before all and said: Woman, I am not: I do not know Him: I do not know what you are saying.

The high priest then asked Jesus about His disciples and His doctrine. Jesus answered him: I spoke openly to the world. I always taught in the synagogues and in the temple. where the lews always meet, and in secret I have said nothing. Why do you ask Me? Ask those who hear Me what I have said to them. Indeed they know what I said. And when He had said these things, one of the officers who stood by struck Jesus with the palm of his hand, saving: Do You answer the high priest like that? Jesus answered him: If I have spoken evil, bear witness of the evil; but if well, why do you strike Me? Then Annas sent Him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

And Simon Peter stood and warmed himself. And a little while after the first denial, when he had gone out to the entrance. the rooster crowed and another girl saw him and again began to say to those who were there: This fellow was also with Jesus of Nazareth. Then they said to him: Aren't you one of His disciples? And another said: You are also one of them. And he denied again and swore to it and said: Man. I am not and I do not know the Man. And after about the space of one hour another confidently affirmed, saying: Surely you are also one of them, for you are a Galilean and your speech betrays you. One of the servants of the high priest, a relative of him whose ear Peter cut off, said: Did I not see you in the garden with Him? Then he began to curse and swear: I do not know this Man, of whom you speak, And immediately, while he was still

Our Savior Lutheran Church Lakeland, FL RELS Lent-4 Midweek Jesus' Suffering Before Church Authorities Wednesday, March 14^{th,} 2018 \$\psi\$ 4:30 pm

speaking, the rooster crowed a second time. And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered Jesus' word, how He had said to him: Before the rooster crows twice, you will deny Me three times. And he went out and wept bitterly.

Now the chief priests, the elders, and all the council sought false testimony against Jesus to put Him to death, but found none, even though many false witnesses came forward, for their testimony did not agree. But at last two false witnesses came forward and gave false testimony against Him and said: We heard Him say: I can and will destroy the temple of God that is made with hands, and within three days I will build another made without hands. And not even then did their testimony agree.

And the high priest stood up in the midst and asked Jesus, saying: Do You answer nothing? What is it these men testify against You? But Jesus kept silent and answered nothing. Again the high priest asked Him, saying to Him: Are You the Christ, the Son of the Blessed? I adjure You by the living God that You tell us if You are the Christ, the Son of God? Jesus said to him: It is as you said; I am. Hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven. Then the high priest tore his clothes, saying: He has spoken blasphemy; what further need do we have of witnesses? Look, now you have heard His blasphemy! What do

you think? And they all condemned Him and said: He is guilty of death.

And the men, who held Jesus, mocked Him and spat in His face and beat Him; and others blindfolded Him and struck Him in the face, saying: Prophesy to us, Christ! Who is it that struck You? And many other things they blasphemously spoke against Him.

When morning came, all the chief priests and elders of the people came together and took counsel concerning Jesus to put Him to death, and they led Him into their council. saving: If You are the Christ, tell us. And He said to them: If I tell you, you will not believe Me. And if I also ask vou, vou will by no means answer Me or let Me go. Hereafter the Son of Man will sit on the right hand of the power of God. Then they all said: Are You then the Son of God? And He said to them: You rightly say that I am. And they said: What further testimony do we need? For we ourselves have heard it from His own mouth.

(End of 4th Passion History Reading)

Responsory (after the reading)

P: \$ O Lord, have mercy upon us.

C: J Thanks be to You, O Lord!

OPENING HYMN Alas and Did My Savior Bleed ELH #282 (6v) SOUTHWELL

- The PSALMODY: Penitential Psalm 51 Please read responsively
- *P:* ¹ Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your unfailing love; according to Your great compassion blot out my transgressions.
- C: 2 Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.
- ³ 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, so that You are proved right when You speak and justified when You judge.
- ⁵ Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.
- ⁶ Surely You desire truth in the inner parts; You teach me wisdom in the inmost place.
- Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.
- Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones You have crushed rejoice.
- ⁹ Hide Your Face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity.
- 10 Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
- Do not cast me from Your presence or take Your Holy Spirit from me.
- ¹² Restore to me the joy of Your Salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.
- ¹³ Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, and sinners will turn back to You.
- Save me from bloodguilt, O God, the God Who saves me, and my tongue will sing of Your Righteousness.
- ¹⁵ O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare Your praise.
- 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.
- ¹⁸ In Your good pleasure make Zion prosper; build up the walls of Jerusalem.
- ¹⁹ Then there will be righteous sacrifices, whole burnt offerings to delight You; then bulls will be offered on Your altar.
- (All) Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost, One True God, now and forever. Amen.

CHIEF HYMN On My Heart Imprint Thine Image ELH #593+ (209 verses!)

- 15. On my heart imprint Thine Image, Blessed Jesus, King of Grace, That life's riches, care, and pleasures Have no power Thee to efface.

 This the superscription be: Jesus, Crucified for me, Is my Life, my Hope's Foundation, And my Glory and Salvation.
- 3 Annas, scoundrel, was not sleeping. Wide awake, when they did walk In his house with Jesus creeping. As a Dove before the hawk. Then to Caiaphas they came. Where they brought more grief and shame; Power and time for Him was taken, All with evil hatred waken.

4 Though the sun was still in hiding, Yet the Sun of righteousness, Jesus, takes His stand beside them, While they mock in wickedness, Now true Light has entered in Though their minds and hearts are dim, Questions of His teaching taking, All the while their jokes still making.

...3 Greatest saints must also live in Adam's flesh and sin's array; Even highest gifts of Heaven He must bear in mortal clay. Come and see how Peter fails Naught his faithful pledge avails All his promises negating Into smoke and vapor fading. A-men.

EVENING HYMN All Praise to Thee My God This Night #565 (3 double verses)

FOURTH READING & COMMENTS

The Scriptures are the **inerrant**, **inspired Word of God**. This is one of our core beliefs. It's such an important part of our beliefs that we put in our church webpage and anywhere (else) we have even just two or three sentences of space or more "We believe that the Bible is entirely God's Word, without error and therefore the only source of what we teach and believe." We want visitors to know this about our church right up front, and we don't let anyone join this church unless they believe it too.

But this teaching of our church is not some doctrine that is handed down from authority and forced upon us. Although the Bible does teach very clearly about itself that it is inspired, we don't read it and accept it solely because of an argument from authority. Rather, we read the Scriptures and they convince us that this book is unlike other books. Throughout this **Bible**, it **proves itself worthy of being called inspired because** it shows such genius in its teachings that it simply must be of divine authorship. There's just no other explanation. Nobody could have written something so perfect, and therefore God must have done it Himself. The account we read tonight is one of those accounts that shows such perfection in the events it describes that it convinces us that it is the very Word of God.

(Sadly but necessarily obviously and honestly) Another one of our core beliefs brought out **throughout the Bible is Sin**. In the Passion history that we read tonight, we saw several very clear pictures of sin. Over and over again, we see Jesus caused to suffer because of crafty, self-preserving mankind. **Judas** had handed Jesus over for thirty pieces of silver, even though he had known the Savior for three years. **Peter** denied Jesus because he feared the mob more than God, even though he knew who Jesus was and even though Jesus had predicted that this would happen. The **Jewish leaders** were having Jesus killed solely in order to preserve their own religious and political power. They continued to prosecute Him with evidence even though they knew that that evidence was completely manufactured. They knew Jesus was innocent, but they went after His death anyway solely out of self-interest.

We see these sins against Jesus and we have to admit that **we have much in common with all these characters in the Passion account**, and we have them in common with each other too. This is the way things go in this world. We've gotten used to our sin and our world of sin. But then Jesus comes along. It says in the reading that "Jesus looked straight at Peter," and then Peter knew his sin and felt remorse about it. He looks at us, too. We live in a world of lies, filled with sin. As soon as Jesus was born into this world as a Man who was Holy and Blameless, it was really a foregone conclusion that we would eventually kill Him. This is true of us just as much as it is true of the various people who betrayed Jesus in the reading.

But, thanks be to God, there is so much more for us both in the Bible and here in Lent than sin and guilt. Guilt makes us feel bad, but Jesus Christ came into this world as God's truth incarnate, even though He knew from eternity that the result of His coming would certainly be His death. He did this because He loved us and wanted to save us from our sin. This plan of salvation involves a mind-boggling number of twists and turns throughout Jewish history, as He brought salvation to earth among sinful mankind. God's own Son suffered our punishment so that we would be saved through faith in Him. Through His love, He overcomes our jealousy, hatred, and deceit. (Earlier) In the Gospels, the High Priest, Caiaphas, said that it would be better for one man to die for the people. Caiaphas said that out of his own selfish reasons, but God the Father decided to agree with that statement out of love for us, even though we had sinned against Him in every way. That look that Jesus gave to Peter and is meant for us too, but it is not a look of condemnation. It is the look of the Good Shepherd who knows all of us well. He is not surprised by our sins. His look hits us like a thunderbolt that dashes to pieces all of our lies and false-hopes and puts His grace and mercy there instead. He looks at us and we see our Savior. Thanks be to Gool. JI'N. Amen.