

Thursday, March 30th 2023



PRESERVICE SONGS: Jesus Loves Me --Chris Tomlin
I Repent—Steve Green

PASTOR'S GREETING

THE INVOCATION

THE PASSION HISTORY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST – LESSON FIVE

Pilate called together the chief priests, the rulers, and the people, and said to them, “You brought this man to me as one who is misleading the people. Look, I have examined him in your presence. I have found in this man no basis for the charges you are bringing against him. Herod did not either, for he sent him back to us. See, he has done nothing worthy of death. So I will have him flogged and release him.”

At the time of the Festival the governor had a custom to release to the crowd any one prisoner they wanted. At that time they were holding a notorious prisoner named Barabbas, who had been thrown in prison for a rebellion in the city and for murder. The crowd came up and began to ask Pilate to do for them what he usually did. So when they were assembled, Pilate said to them, “Do you want me to release the King of the Jews to you? Which one do you want me to release to you? Barabbas—or Jesus, who is called Christ?” For Pilate in fact knew that they had handed Jesus over to him because of envy. While he was sitting on the judgment seat, Pilate’s wife sent him a message. “Have nothing to do with that righteous man,” she said, “since I have suffered many things today in a dream because of him.” But the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus put to death. The governor asked them, “Which of the two do you want me to release to you?” They all shouted together with one voice: “Take him away! Release Barabbas to us!” Pilate said to them, “Then what do you want me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews? What should I do with Jesus, who is called Christ?” They all said to him, “Crucify him!” But the governor said, “Why? What has he done wrong?” But they kept shouting even louder: “Crucify him!” Pilate addressed them again, because he wanted to release Jesus. But they kept shouting, “Crucify! Crucify him!” He said to them the third time, “Why? What evil has he done? I have found no grounds for sentencing him to death. So I will whip him and release him.” But they kept pressuring

him with loud voices, demanding that he be crucified. And their voices were overwhelming.

Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. The governor's soldiers took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole cohort of soldiers around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him. They twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head. They put a staff in his right hand, knelt in front of him, and mocked him by saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" They spit on him, took the staff, and hit him repeatedly on his head. They also kept hitting him in the face.

Pilate went outside again and said to them, "Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no basis for a charge against him." So Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, "Behold the man!" When the chief priests and guards saw him, they shouted, "Crucify! Crucify!" Pilate told them, "Take him yourselves and crucify him, for I find no basis for a charge against him." The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die, because he claimed to be the Son of God."

When Pilate heard this statement, he was even more afraid. He went back inside the palace again and asked Jesus, "Where are you from?" But Jesus gave him no answer. So Pilate asked him, "Are you not talking to me? Don't you know that I have the authority to release you or to crucify you?" Jesus answered, "You would have no authority over me at all if it had not been given to you from above. Therefore the one who handed me over to you has the greater sin."

From then on Pilate tried to release Jesus. But the Jews shouted, "If you let this man go, you are no friend of Caesar! Anyone who claims to be a king opposes Caesar!" When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus outside. He sat down on the judge's seat at a place called the Stone Pavement, or Gabbatha in Aramaic. It was about the sixth hour on the Preparation Day for the Passover. Pilate said to the Jews, "Here is your king!" They shouted, "Away with him! Away with him! Crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Should I crucify your king?" "We have no king but Caesar!" the chief priests answered.

When Pilate saw that he was accomplishing nothing and that instead it was turning into a riot, he decided that what they demanded would be done. He took water, washed his hands in front of the crowd, and said, "I am innocent of this righteous man's blood. It is your responsibility." And all the people answered, "Let his blood be on us and on our

children!" Since he wanted to satisfy the crowd, Pilate released Barabbas to them. So then Pilate handed Jesus over to them to be crucified. After they had mocked him, the soldiers took off the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

Jesus was carrying his own cross. As they were going out of the city, a certain man, Simon of Cyrene (the father of Alexander and Rufus), was passing by on his way in from the country. They placed the cross on him and made him carry it behind Jesus. A large crowd of the people was following him, including women who were mourning and wailing for him. Jesus turned to them and said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, stop weeping for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. Be sure of this: The days are coming when they will say, 'Blessed are the childless women, the wombs that never gave birth, and the breasts that never nursed.' Then they will begin to say to the mountains, 'Fall on us!' and to the hills, 'Cover us.' For if they do these things to the green wood, what will happen to the dry?"

SONG: "Why me Lord" Kris Kristofferson

Why me Lord, what have I ever done
To deserve even one
Of the pleasures I've known
Tell me Lord, what did I ever do
That was worth loving You
Or the kindness You've shown

Lord help me Jesus, I've wasted it
So help me Jesus, I know what I am
But now that I know that I've needed you
So Help me Jesus, my soul's in Your hands

Tell me Lord, if you think there's a way
I can try to repay
All I've taken from You
Maybe Lord, I can show someone else
What I've been through myself
On my way back to You

Lord, help me Jesus, I've wasted it
So Help me Jesus, I know what I am

Now that I know that I've needed you
So help me Jesus, my soul's in Your hand

Lord, help me Jesus, I've wasted it
So Help me Jesus, I know what I am
But now that I know that I've needed you
So help me Jesus, my soul's in Your hand

Jesus, my soul's in Your hand

THE MESSAGE: *Matthew 27:38-44*

Two rebels were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads and saying, "You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! Come down from the cross, if you are the Son of God!" In the same way the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders mocked him. "He saved others," they said, "but he can't save himself! He's the king of Israel! Let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God. Let God rescue him now if he wants him, for he said, 'I am the Son of God.' " In the same way the rebels who were crucified with him also heaped insults on him.

SERMON OUTLINE *Matthew 27:38-44* "He saved others, but he can't save himself."

Introduction: Crucifixion was meant not only to put people to death, but to humiliate them.

1. People mocked Jesus by saying the same things he was accused of at his trials.
2. Their words, "He saved others, he can't save himself," were meant to deride him.
3. Unlike people in general in our world, Jesus refused to use his power to help himself.
4. In an ironic twist, it was true: "He saved others. He can't save himself."

Conclusion: Thank God Jesus didn't show self-interest and exert his power.

THE OFFERING: *“Abide With Me”* by Atrim Mennonite Choir

THE PRAYERS

SONG: *“On Eagles Wings ”* Michael Joncas

You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord

Who abide in His shadow for life

Say to the Lord, "My refuge, my rock in whom I trust!"

... And He will raise you up on eagles' wings

Bear you on the breath of dawn

Make you to shine like the sun

And hold you in the palm of His hand

... The snare of the fowler will never capture you

And famine will bring you no fear

Under His wings your refuge, His faithfulness your shield

... And He will raise you up on eagles' wings

Bear you on the breath of dawn

Make you to shine like the sun

And hold you in the palm of His hand

... For to His angels He's given a command

To guard you in all of your ways

Upon their hands they will bear you up

Lest you dash your foot against a stone

... And He will raise you up on eagles' wings

Bear you on the breath of dawn

Make you to shine like the sun

And hold you in the palm of His hand

... And hold you, hold you in the palm of His hand

LUTHER'S EVENING PRAYER:

I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, your dear Son, that you have graciously kept me this day. Forgive me all my sins, and graciously keep me this night. Into your hands I commend my body and soul and all things. Let your holy angel be with me, that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen.

THE APOSTOLIC BLESSING

THE DOXOLOGY: *"Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"* by the Vagle Brothers

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTSERVICE SONG: *"O Sacred Head, Now Wounded"*

Lent 2023



Sermons Preached By Jesus' Enemies

MidWeek Worship

Thursdays at 3:30 & 7:00 pm

Feb 22/23:	Ash Wednesday 3:30 pm & Thursday 7:00 pm
March 2:	Lent 2 John 11:45-48 The Sanhedrin
March 9:	Lent 3 John 11:49-53 Caiaphas
March 16:	Lent 4 Luke 22:60-71 The Sanhedrin
March 23:	Lent 5 John 19:12-16 The Chief Priests
March 30:	Lent 6 Matthew 27:38-44 The Chief Priests

Holy Week & Easter

April 2:	Palm Sunday:	8:00 & 10:30 am
April 6:	Maundy Thur:	3:30 & 7 pm
April 7:	Good Friday:	1:00 pm
April 7:	Good Friday:	7:00 pm
April 9:	Easter Sunday:	7:00 am
April 9:	Easter Sunday:	9:30 am
