

St. John's Lutheran Church  
Midweek Lenten Service 'II'  
March 03, 2021  
"Gethsemane II"

In the name of our risen Lord and Savior, ✠ Jesus Christ.  
Amen.

---

The Four Gospels: Theme: "Words of Life from The Cross!"

The purpose of Jesus' passion, crucifixion, and death is clear: **"He was delivered over to death for our sins;"** your sins, my sins. A Lamb had to be delivered over for our trespasses, or we would still be dead in our trespasses and sins. Jesus, the Lamb of God who took away the sins of the world was the once for all sacrificial Lamb. How ironic, the Good Shepherd became the Sacrificial Lamb. Who delivered Him over? Tonight's Passion reading answers that question well.

Even with all their bold words, Peter, James, and John allowed Jesus to suffer in silent prayer alone. While they slept!

Jesus prayed to the Father in agony: **"Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; nevertheless, not my will, but yours be done."** Jesus delivered Himself over to death according to the Father's will. The Father, who so loved the world, gave His only Begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

Judas betrayed Him for thirty pieces of silver. Judas delivered Jesus, the long-promised Messiah, with a kiss to those who wanted Him dead; to those who would murder the Savior of the world. All the disciples forsook Him and fled.

Caiaphas was the one who gave counsel to the Jews that it would be expedient that one man should die for the people. He had no idea, how prophetic his words were, **"that one man should die for the people."**

We too, delivered Him over to death. We too, drove those spikes through the flesh of Christ into the wood of the Cross.

We are poor miserable sinners. If we had no sins, we would not have had to die. Come to think of it, if we had no sins, Christ would not have had to die for us. We are not allowed to just blame the Romans, the Jews, or the Jewish leaders of Jesus' day. All of humanity is responsible, from Adam and Eve, to you and me, to all of humanity living and dead until the Lord returns in glory on the last great day.

**"O my Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will."** It is not an easy thing to pray **"Thy will be done."** Such a prayer takes our present and future out of our hands—out of our control. But were we really not in your control in the first place, are we? But when you do finally learn to place all things in your Heavenly Father's hands and trust in Him, life is so much easier and better, simply because God knows what is best for you and when it is best for you to have that for which you pray.

**"Thy will be done"** is a prayer that can only be prayed in faith—complete trust that the Lord is gracious and merciful, and that He knows what is best for you in the long term, no matter what happens to you in the short term.

Bad things do often happen to good people. Look at what happened to the only perfect man who ever lived! Jesus was killed, really murdered, for claiming to be who He really was, the Savior of the world.

Your Lord does allow things to happen to you. He does it to strengthen your faith and trust in Him. As James says, **"Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing."** (James 1:2-4) All things are possible, but not all things are beneficial. Your Father in heaven knows best. He cares for you! He loves you!

**"Abba, Father, all things are possible to you. Take this cup from me; nevertheless, not what I will, but what you will."**

Jesus actively obeyed the Ten Commandments. He kept the Law perfectly where we could not and cannot.

We see also His passive obedience. He did not run away from Jerusalem. He set His face toward Jerusalem. He did not resist those who came to arrest Him. He did not call for legions of angels. He did not put the Sanhedrin, high priest, Herod, or Pilate in their place at His feet. He did not come down from the Cross.

As a sheep before the shearers is silent, so was Jesus. There had to be a death to atone for our sins. And there was! Even in Lent, you can rejoice in the forgiveness of sins. Thank you, Jesus. Thank you, Jesus. I love You Jesus.

Praise be to God for His loving us so much that He sent His only begotten Son to die on a Cross in our place and rise back to life that we have life eternal in His name. In the name of Jesus. To God be the Glory. Be still and know He is God. Amen.

Next week, we follow our Lord to **THE PALACE OF THE HIGH PRIEST.**