

Holy Wednesday
St. Luke 22:1—23:43
April 16th, 2025
Sts. Peter and Paul Ev. Lutheran Church, UAC
Simpsonville, SC
Pastor Jerald Dulas

Woe unto That Man!

In Nomine Iesu!

In the Name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

Sermon Text:

“But behold, the hand of him that betrayeth Me is with Me on the table. For the Son of Man indeed goeth, as it hath been determined: but woe unto that man through whom He is betrayed!’ And they began to question among themselves, which of them it was that should do this thing.”

Prayer in Pulpit before Sermon:

O Lord, send out Thy Light and Thy Truth, let them lead us. O Lord, open Thou my lips, that my mouth may show forth Thy praise. O Lord, graciously preserve me, lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be rejected. Amen.

Grace, mercy, and peace be to you from God our Father and from our Lord and Savior + Jesus Christ. Amen.

My dear friends, all of holy Scripture points to the Christ—to our Lord + Jesus. He is prophesied of by the prophets. He is preached about by the Apostles. He Himself also reveals Himself to be the Messiah, the Son of God in the holy Scriptures. He is the Life and Light of all the world; all those who cling to Him in faith for their salvation. The prophecies and the preaching of the biblical saints focus on the events of this week. They point our Lord’s work of redemption of all of mankind. Even those which speak of Incarnation ultimately point to our Lord’s suffering and death, for that is the reason why our Lord + Jesus takes upon Himself our flesh. The Lord God becomes man so that He may offer up His sinless life as a ransom for ours.

Our Lord’s sacrifice is a payment for our sins and transgressions. He pays the penalty of our trespasses and iniquities. He offers up His life as a ransom for ours. This is what the Lord God promised to Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden after they had first sinned. He promised that He would send a Seed from their own flesh to crush the head of the serpent, the devil, the one who deceived Adam and Eve into sin and shame.

The devil has always been at war with the Lord God’s most prized creation. He has hated mankind from the beginning. He has sought our death and eternal destruction. Many have been led away and deceived by him into their eternal ruin. One such individual is the focus tonight. The Church has historically focused upon Judas Iscariot on Holy Wednesday. It was on a Wednesday when he went to the chief priests and Pharisees and sought out how much they were willing to pay him to betray the Lord + Jesus in the absence of the crowds. They agreed to give him thirty pieces of silver. Therefore, the son of perdition also plays a role in our Lord’s crucifixion and death.

Holy Scripture points to our Lord, but throughout holy Scripture the Lord + Jesus, the Messiah, the Christ of the Living God, has an enemy. The devil and his agents are that enemy, who not only attack the Anointed One, but all those who cling in faith to Him. All those who by faith follow the Lord

and His Messiah, experience the wrath and persecution of the devil and his agents throughout the world. Holy Scripture points out that these enemies of the Lord's are even found among those closest to Him. Judas Iscariot is one of the twelve. He is in a position of favor by the Lord. He is also in a position to easily betray the Lord + Jesus. The son of perdition is prophesied in holy Scripture. Judas Iscariot is foretold by the Old Testament prophets.

Specifically, we find descriptions of him in the Psalms. There are psalms which are called "predicatory" psalms. These are psalms that call down the wrath of the Lord God upon the enemies of the faithful. It calls down the Lord God's wrath upon His enemies. These words of destruction geared at the enemy are ultimately prophecies of Judas Iscariot. Here are some of the things that the Word of God prophesies will happen to the son of perdition, to Judas Iscariot:

"Let his days be few, and let another take his office." "Let his children be fatherless, and his wife a widow." "Let his children be continually vagabonds, and beg: Let them seek their bread also out of their desolate places." "Let his posterity be cutout; and in the generation following let their name be blotted out." "As he clothed himself with cursing like as with his garment, so let it come into his bowels like water, and like oil into his bones." "Let there be none to extend mercy unto him: neither let there be any favor to his fatherless children." "Let their eyes be darkened, that they see not; and make their loins continually to shake." "Pour out Thine indignation upon them, and let Thy wrathful anger take hold of them." "Let their habitation be desolate; and let none dwell in their tents." "Let them be blotted out of the book of the living, and not be written with the righteous."

These are harsh statements against the son of perdition. This is what has been prophesied against Judas Iscariot. Our Lord + Jesus in the Gospel from the Evangelist St. Luke for this evening says of His betrayer, "Woe unto that man through whom He is betrayed!" And in another place, "It would have been better if he had never been born." Woe unto him because he chases after his own eternal destruction. He seeks his demise diligently. The devil has deceived Judas Iscariot into believing in a different god than what our Lord + Jesus would offer. Judas Iscariot chose the god of Mammon, or the Lord + Jesus, over the Lord God. One cannot serve God and mammon. He has replaced the reward of eternal life with the Lord + Jesus, and all the saints and angels, with a god which will rust and decay. He has exchanged the gates of Heaven, for thirty pieces of silver. He has purchased his own eternal ruin in hell.

Our Lord is pointing out His betrayer not only warns the other Apostles of this, but is also making a plea with Judas to find mercy in Him. Judas still could have been forgiven if He had turned to the Lord + Jesus for mercy and forgiveness. But, Judas lacks faith. When the Lord is sentenced to death he is compelled into great despair. He loses all hope and hangs himself. His bowels spilled out upon the ground, for hanging in those days was not done by rope, but by being impaled upon a spike. We should look upon the betrayal of Judas with compassion. Like our Lord + Jesus, we should say "Woe unto that man!" For the lies and deception of the devil can deceive any of us who do not remain faithful unto death.

But this is why the holy Scriptures have been given to us. We have the Word of God continually preached into our ears whenever we take the opportunity presented to us. When we come to this holy house and open our ears and joyfully receive the pure preaching of the Word of God, the Holy Ghost creates, renews, and strengthens our faith in our One and Only Savior. For all of holy Scripture points to the Christ. It points to the One Who saves us from our sin. The pure preaching of the Word of the Lord shows us that we are poor, miserable sinners in need of the grace of the Lord + Jesus. On account of our manifold sins and trespasses, we have no hope of saving ourselves. Woe unto us if we would rely upon our own works and merits. For we can in no wise redeem ourselves out of sin and death.

But there need not be any woe directed at us, for we cling in faith to our Lord and Redeemer,

the Christ, the Son of the Living God. He has become man, and taken upon Himself all our sins, and endures the cup of His heavenly Father, so that He might win forgiveness of sins for all of us who cling to Him in faith. He endured the turmoil of the soul—so much turmoil of soul that He sweat great drops of blood. He also endured the agony of the body, being beaten, slapped, spit upon, scourged, and a crown of thorns shoved on His head. He was crucified with nails driven into His hands and feet. And He endured mockery, shame and ridicule, as He endured the agonies of the cross.

He did all of this to redeem us back from our enemy, and His. He paid the payment for our transgressions so that His Blood now covers over our sins, and the sins of all of our children who also cling to Him in faith. He has won forgiveness for us. We receive that forgiveness in the means of grace by the work of the Holy Ghost. Here in the Church where the Word of God is taught in its truth and purity, and the Sacraments are administered according to the Christ's institution, we receive the remission of all of our sins. There now awaits for us an eternal life in Heaven, for our Lord + Jesus has saved us from the deceiving serpent.

Therefore, my dear friends, let us give thanks to the Lord + Jesus Who though He was betrayed into the hands of sinful men, has fulfilled the prophecies that were foretold about Him. The Apostles preached to the whole world that these prophecies were fulfilled in the Christ. And we hear the same preaching today. Our Lord + Jesus has taken away all our woe, by gifting us with the hope of an everlasting life. In the Name of our Lord + Jesus, the Christ. Amen.

Prayer in Pulpit after Sermon:

Almighty God, be pleased to accompany Thy Word with Thy Holy Spirit and grant that Thy Word would increase faith in us; bring into the Way of Truth all such as have erred; turn the hearts of the unrepentant; and for sake of Thy Name grant succor to all heavy hearts and those who are heavy-laden, that they may through the mercy of the Lord + Jesus Christ be relieved and preserved so that they succumb not to the temptation of despair but rather that they gain the victory over the world, the flesh, and the devil; through the same + Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord, Who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Ghost, ever One God, world without end. Amen.

The Votum:

The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds through Christ + Jesus. Amen.

Soli Deo Gloria!