

Wednesday of Holy Week

6:30 pm

This day was formerly called “Spy Wednesday,” recalling the accounts in which Judas is identified as the betrayer of Jesus. As Jesus endured the suffering of the cross, we are to run the race of life with perseverance, confident of the joy to come.

+ *Congregation please stand if able*

+ **WELCOME**

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, † one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light, and our salvation. **Amen.**

+ **GATHERING HYMN - “Stay with Me”**

ELW 348

Stay with me,

watch and pray.

remain here with me,

Watch and pray.

+ **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray. Almighty God, your Son our Savior, at human hands and endured the shame of the cross. Grant that we may walk in the way of his cross and find it the way of life and peace through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

FIRST READING - Isaiah 50: 4-9a

⁴The Lord GOD has given me
the tongue of a teacher,
that I may know how to sustain
the weary with a word.

Morning by morning he wakens—
wakens my ear
to listen as those who are taught.

⁵The Lord GOD has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious,
I did not turn backward.

⁶I gave my back to those who struck me,
and my cheeks to those who pulled
out the beard;
I did not hide my face
from insult and spitting.

⁷The Lord GOD helps me;
therefore I have not been disgraced;
therefore I have set my face like flint,
and I know that I shall not be put to
shame;

⁸he who vindicates me is near.
Who will contend with me?

Let us stand up together.
Who are my adversaries?
Let them confront me.

^{9a}It is the Lord GOD who helps me;
who will declare me guilty?
The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 70

¹Be pleased, O God, to deliver me. O Lord, make haste to help me!

²**Let those be put to shame and confusion who seek my life. Let those be turned back and brought to dishonor who desire to hurt me.**

³Let those who say, "Aha, Aha!" turn back because of their shame.

⁴**Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you. Let those who love your salvation say evermore, "God is great!"**

⁵But I am poor and needy; hasten to me, O God!

⁶**You are my help and deliverer; please do not delay!**

Let us pray. Deliver us, Lord, from every evil, and grant us peace in our day. In your mercy, keep us free from sin and protect us from all anxiety as we wait in joyful hope for the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SECOND READING - Hebrews 12: 1-3

¹Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, ²looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

³Consider him who endured such hostility against himself from sinners, so that you may not grow weary or lose heart. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

+ GOSPEL - John 13: 21-32

The Gospel according to St. John, the 13th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord**

²¹Jesus was troubled in spirit, and declared, "Very truly, I tell you, one of you will betray me." ²²The disciples looked at one another, uncertain of whom he was speaking. ²³One of his disciples—the one whom Jesus loved—was reclining next to him; ²⁴Simon Peter therefore motioned to him to ask Jesus of whom he was speaking. ²⁵So while reclining next to Jesus, he asked him, "Lord, who is it?" ²⁶Jesus answered, "It is the one to whom I give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish." So when he had dipped the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas son of Simon Iscariot. ²⁷After he received the piece of bread, Satan entered into him. Jesus said to him, "Do quickly what you are going to do." ²⁸Now no one at the table knew why he said this to him. ²⁹Some thought that, because Judas had the common purse, Jesus was telling him, "Buy what we need for the festival"; or, that he should give something to the poor. ³⁰So, after receiving the piece of bread, he immediately went out. And it was night.

³¹When he had gone out, Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. ³²If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once.” The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

Pastor Brian

+ **HYMN OF THE DAY - O Lord, Hear my Prayer**

ELW 751

O Lord, hear my prayer,
O Lord, hear my prayer:
when I call, answer me.

O Lord, hear my prayer,
O Lord, hear my prayer:
come and listen to me.

CONFESSION

Friends in Christ, in this Lenten season, we have heard our Lord’s call to struggle against sin, death, and the devil – all that keeps us from loving God and each other. This truth is the struggle to which we were called at baptism. We have shared this discipline of Lent with new brothers and sisters in Christ who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil. Within the church community, God never wearies of forgiving sin and giving the peace of reconciliation. On this night, let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor and celebrate the three great days reconciled with God and one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you wholeheartedly; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us so we may delight in your will and walk in your ways to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

In the mercy of Almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake, God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ and by his authority, I declare to you the entire forgiveness of your sins, In the name of the Father and the † Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Almighty and gracious God, we pray for your presence, realizing our triumphant road leads to the cross. We ask that you bless us all as we observe Holy Week. Help us to empty ourselves as Christ Jesus did, serving in unselfish love. **Amen.**

Let us pray. O God, our Father, by the cross of your Son, you reconciled the world to yourself, enabling us to live in love and harmony. We praise you for the forgiveness of sins and the precious gift of peace. Help us to forgive each other and to establish justice and concord throughout the world through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Precious Lord, sustain those who rule the nations with your presence and guide them in the ways of peace and justice. Deliver us from greed, teach us to be obedient to your will, and lead us to seek out the lost and all who have strayed from you. **Amen**

O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works: Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments; and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, God forever. **Amen.**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

+ **CLOSING HYMN - Ubi Caritas et Amor**

ELW 642

Ubi caritas et amor,

ubi caritas, Deus ibi est.

+ **BENEDICTION**

Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

+ **DISMISSAL**

Leave in silence

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