

ZION Lutheran Church

MARCH 6, 2024

W E L C O M E

What Christ's Coming Means to Me ...
Judas: The Man of Mystery



*Caring for others,
the more able and the less able caring for each other.*

PRELUDE

INVOCATION & CONFESSION

Pastor: In the name of the Father,

People: **Who enriches us with his creation;**

Pastor: and of the Son,

People: **Who enriches us with his redemption;**

Pastor: and of the Holy Spirit,

People: **Who enriches us with his sanctification. Amen! Amen!**

Pastor: As we continue this Lenten journey, we reflect on his enriching love, that he doesn't allow us to stay where we are, but keeps us going and growing. When we fall he leads us to repentance so that we can receive the solid food of his love. Let us now turn to him in repentance and faith that he may refresh and enrich us.

People: **Heavenly Father, I admit that I have become too comfortable with the status quo. I have not loved you with my whole heart. I have not loved my neighbor as myself. I have not grown in my love toward you or toward my fellow man. Instead I have regressed back into my sinful self. I am so sorry for rejecting your enriching love out of selfishness and sinfulness. Please forgive me.**

Pastor: Out of God's enriching love, he has brought you out of darkness and into his marvelous light. He has not given you what your sins deserve, but has forgiven you. As a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen! Amen!**

HYMN #532 — *Gather Us In*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray together the Prayer of the Day.

People: **Lord God, your mercies are new each day. Great is your faithfulness. Bring us your Word today and every day that we may be enriched in every way to do every good work you would have us to do. For you live and reign with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

WORD

Psalms 55

Give ear to my prayer, O God; do not hide yourself from my supplication. Attend to me, and answer me; I am troubled in my complaint. I am distraught by the noise of the enemy, because of the clamor of the wicked. For they bring trouble upon me, and in anger they cherish enmity against me. My heart is in anguish within me, the terrors of death have fallen upon me. Fear and trembling come upon me, and horror overwhelms me. And I say, "O that I had wings like a dove! I would fly away and be at rest; truly, I would flee far away; I would lodge in the wilderness; Selah.

I would hurry to find a shelter for myself from the raging wind and tempest." Confuse, O LORD, confound their speech; for I see violence and strife in the city. Day and night they go around it on its walls, and iniquity and trouble are within it; ruin is in its midst; oppression and fraud do not depart from its marketplace. It is not enemies who taunt me – I could bear that; it is not adversaries who deal insolently with me – I could hide from them. But it is you, my equal, my

companion, my familiar friend, with whom I kept pleasant company; we walked in the house of God with the throng. Let death come upon them; let them go down alive to Sheol; for evil is in their homes and in their hearts. But I call upon God, and the LORD will save me. Evening and morning and at noon I utter my complaint and moan, and he will hear my voice. He will redeem me unharmed from the battle that I wage, for many are arrayed against me. God, who is enthroned from of old, Selah will hear, and will humble them – because they do not change, and do not fear God. My companion laid hands on a friend and violated a covenant with me with speech smoother than butter, but with a heart set on war; with words that were softer than oil, but in fact were drawn swords. Cast your burden on the LORD, and he will sustain you; he will never permit the righteous to be moved. But you, O God, will cast them down into the lowest pit; the bloodthirsty and treacherous shall not live out half their days. But I will trust in you.

Matthew 26:1-25

When Jesus had finished saying all these things, he said to his disciples, You know that after two days the Passover is coming, and the Son of Man will be handed over to be crucified.

Then the chief priests and the elders of the people gathered in the palace of the high priest, who was called Caiaphas, and they conspired to arrest Jesus by stealth and kill him. But they said, “Not during the festival, or there may be a riot among the people.”

Now while Jesus was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, a woman came to him with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment, and she poured it on his head as he sat at the table. But when the disciples saw it, they were angry and said, “Why this waste? For this ointment could have been sold for a large sum, and the money given to the poor.” But Jesus, aware of this, said to them, “Why do you trouble the woman? She has performed a good service for me. For you always have the poor with you, but you will not always have me. By pouring this ointment on my body she has prepared me for burial. Truly I tell you, wherever this good news is proclaimed in the world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her.”

Then one of the twelve, who was called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said, “What will you give me if I betray him to you?” They paid him thirty pieces of silver. And from that moment he began to look for an opportunity to betray him.

On the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Where do you want us to make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?” He said, “Go into the city to a certain man, and say to him, ‘The Teacher says, My time is near; I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.’” So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover meal.

When it was evening, he took his place with the twelve; and while they were eating, he said, “Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me.” And they became greatly distressed and began to say to him one after another, “Surely not I, Lord?” He answered, “The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born.” Judas, who betrayed him, said, “Surely not I, Rabbi?” He replied, “You have said so.”

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

HYMN #513 — *Listen, God Is Calling*

SERMON — *Pastor Ludford*

PRAYERS

Pastor: Loving Lord, you enrich us with your love minute by minute and day by day. We are full to overflowing. Help us to acknowledge your love and to truly live in it, that we may be a blessing to a world that desperately needs to know your love too. Lord, in your mercy,

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Loving Lord, as we deal with a world that seems to be crumbling, because it is not enriched by you, keep us steadfast in your Word. Fill us with your love so that we are not destroyed by the changes and chances of this world, but that we may be examples of your faithfulness. Lord, in your mercy,

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Loving Lord, to show your loving power you heal people. According to your will, heal all those who are dealing with any earthly infirmity of body or mind. As they wait on your healing, give them peace, patience, and grace. Use their affliction to grow them in your love so they would know that all good things come from you. Lord, in your mercy,

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your enriching love, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: **Amen.**

THE OFFERING

LORD'S PRAYER *(Traditional)*

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

People: **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.**

SENDING

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord fill you with his enriching love and give you peace.

People: **Amen.**

HYMN #536 — *God Be with You Till We Meet Again*

DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go in peace. Share the bread.

People: **Thanks be to God.**



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