

Sermon Hymn: 3:45 – 396 – In Adam We Have All Been One
6:30 – Jr. Choir – Jesus Have Mercy

Sermon: Is it I?

Sermon Text: *Matthew 26: 20-25*

On Ash Wednesday, Christians are called to examine themselves – their sins – and the cause of the Savior’s passion. As Jesus reveals the truth of his own coming betrayal, the disciples all examine their own hearts but also turn in question to the one they know can accurately judge the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

When it was evening, he reclined at the table with the twelve. And as they were eating, he said, “Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me.” And they were very sorrowful and began to say one after another, “Is it I, Lord?” He answered, “He who has dipped his hand in the dish with me will betray me. The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born.” Judas, who would betray him, answered, “Is it I, Rabbi?” He said to him, “You have said so.”

Offering: *(Please remember to sign the Friendship Register.)*

Words of Institution and Distribution

Distribution Hymn: 377 – Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice

Benediction

Closing Hymn: 138 – Oh, Perfect Life of Love

Ash Wednesday – March 6th, 2019

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Organist: Ken Neipert & Wendy Winkler

We Welcome You!

Order of Worship: pg. 52

Opening Hymn: 302 – Lord, to You I Make Confession

Prayer of the Day:

M: Almighty and merciful God, you never despise what you have made and always forgive those who turn to you. Create in us such new and contrite hearts that we may truly repent of our sins and obtain your full and gracious pardon; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

First Lesson - Isaiah 59:12-20

The flood of offense has driven back justice, leaving the sinner cut off from righteousness. Appalled, literally desolated and ravaged in spirit, at our plight, it is the Lord who intervenes for the sake of righteousness. Seeing none of it in us and no one to work it for us, the Lord comes with his own flood of righteousness to sweep away his enemies and bring salvation to repentant hearts.

¹² For our offenses are many in your sight, and our sins testify against us. Our offenses are ever with us, and we acknowledge our iniquities: ¹³ rebellion and treachery against the LORD, turning our backs on our God, fomenting oppression and revolt, uttering lies our hearts have conceived. ¹⁴ So justice is driven back, and righteousness stands at a distance; truth has stumbled in the streets, honesty cannot enter. ¹⁵ Truth is nowhere to be found, and whoever shuns evil becomes a prey. The LORD looked and was displeased that there was no justice. ¹⁶ He saw that there was no one, he was appalled that there was no one to intervene; so his own arm worked salvation for him, and his own righteousness sustained him. ¹⁷ He put on righteousness as his breastplate, and the helmet of salvation on his head; he put on the garments of vengeance and wrapped himself in zeal as in a cloak. ¹⁸ According to what they have done, so will he repay wrath to his enemies and retribution to his foes; he will repay the islands their due. ¹⁹ From the west, men will fear the name of the LORD, and from the rising of the sun, they will revere his glory. For he will come like a pent-up flood that the breath of the LORD drives along. ²⁰ “The Redeemer will come to Zion, to those in Jacob who repent of their sins,” declares the LORD.

Psalm of the Day - Psalm 51a p. 86

Second Lesson - 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:2

Reconciliation between God and his creation has been accomplished through Jesus Christ. Sin is no longer counted against the sinner. For it has been replaced by righteousness through Jesus’ sacrifice. At the Lord’s imploring invitation through Paul, repentant hearts come not in vain self-righteousness, but in Spirit wrought confidence to experience again the message of reconciliation.

We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God. ²¹ God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

6 As God’s fellow workers we urge you not to receive God’s grace in vain. ² For he says,

“In the time of my favor I heard you,
and in the day of salvation I helped you.”

I tell you, now is the time of God’s favor, now is the day of salvation.

Verse of the Day: *Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love. (Joel 2:13)*

Gospel - Luke 18:9-14

Pointing to the offense of others, the Pharisee dares to stand before the throne of almighty God and justify his presence in God’s kingdom. Such self-exalting champions of “righteousness” will be humbled. But those who humble themselves before the Lord’s throne of grace will be justified and declared truly righteous before him.

⁹ To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everybody else, Jesus told this parable: ¹⁰ “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹ The Pharisee stood up and prayed about himself: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other men—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. ¹² I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.’

¹³ “But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner.’

¹⁴ “I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”