



# THE crucial Hours

## The Semblance of Legality Luke 22:66

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Lent Midweek 2

March 9, 2022

### *Welcome to Shepherd of the Lakes*

We're here to shepherd Christ's flock and seek the lost sheep by sharing the good news of Jesus Christ with all. Come, let us worship!

### *For Your Convenience...*

A room for any parents with children in need of a quiet place is located just outside of the back of the sanctuary. Restrooms are located in the hallway toward the front of the sanctuary. Please ask if you have any further questions or concerns..

### *Prayer Before Worship*

Heavenly Father, as I worship you today, curb my wandering thoughts. Speak to my heart. Encourage me with your Word, that my faith is strengthened, my confidence and hope renewed, and I am recommitted to serve you faithfully. In Jesus' name. Amen.

## Midweek Lent

**OPENING HYMN: CW 104.....Go to Dark Gethsemane**

*PLEASE STAND*

**M:** In the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

**C:** **Amen.**

**M:** This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you:

**C:** **God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.**

**M:** If we claim to have fellowship with him, yet walk in the darkness,

**C:** **We lie and do not live by the truth.**

**M:** If we claim to be without sin,

**C:** **We deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.**

**ALL:** **Father, I have sinned against you and am no longer worthy to be called your child. Yet in mercy you sacrificed your only Son to purge away my guilt. For his sake, O God, be merciful to me, a sinner, and in the joy of the Holy Spirit let me serve you all my days.**

*Silence for private confession.*

**M:** If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. Upon this, your confession, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

**C:** **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

### PRAYER

**M:** Lord God, we thank you for this day of grace now drawing to a close. Stay with us and warm our hearts with your forgiving love in Christ. May your Word keep our faith burning brightly, that we may walk in the light of your presence through the darkness of this world. Come and bless us as we worship you: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**C:** **Amen.**

*PLEASE BE SEATED*

**PSALM OF THE DAY: CW Psalm 130** (*p. 114 in the front part of your hymnal*)

### **PSALM PRAYER**

**M:** God of might and compassion, open your ears to the prayers of your people, who wait for you. Do not leave us in the depths of our sins, but listen to your Church pleading for the fullness of your redemption; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C:** Amen.

### **RESPONSIVE PASSION READING LESSON ONE**

**LEADER:** Now the Festival of Unleavened Bread, called the Passover, was approaching. Jesus said to his disciples,

**MEN:** “As you know, the Passover is two days away—and the Son of Man will be handed over to be crucified.”

**LEADER:** Then the chief priests and the elders of the people assembled in the palace of the high priest, whose name was Caiaphas.

**WOMEN:** and they schemed to arrest Jesus secretly and kill him.

**CONGREGATION:** “But not during the festival,” they said, “or there may be a riot among the people.”

**LEADER:** Then Satan entered Judas, called Iscariot, one of the Twelve. And Judas went to the chief priests and the officers of the temple guard and discussed with them how he might betray Jesus. They were delighted and agreed to give him money. He consented, and watched for an opportunity to hand Jesus over to them when no crowd was present.<sup>a</sup>

**WOMEN:** On the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread, when it was customary to sacrifice the Passover lamb, Jesus’ disciples asked him,

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<sup>a</sup>Matthew 26:1-5; Mark 14:1-2; Luke 22:1-6

**MEN:** “Where do you want us to go and make preparations for you to eat the Passover?”

**LEADER:** So he sent two of his disciples, telling them, “Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him. Say to the owner of the house he enters, ‘The Teacher asks: Where is my guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?’ He will show you a large room upstairs, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there.”

**WOMEN:** They left and found things just as Jesus had told them. So they prepared the Passover.

**LEADER:** When the hour came, Jesus and his apostles reclined at the table.

**MEN:** And he said to them, “I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God.”<sup>a</sup>

**CONGREGATION:** A dispute also arose among them as to which of them was considered to be greatest.

**LEADER:** Jesus said to them, “The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those who exercise authority over them call themselves Benefactors. But you are not to be like that. Instead, the greatest among you should be like the youngest, and the one who rules like the one who serves. For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who is at the table? But I am among you as one who serves. You are those who have stood by me in my trials. And I confer on you a kingdom, just as my Father conferred one on me, so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom and sit on thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.”<sup>b</sup>

**WOMEN:** It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father.

**CONGREGATION:** Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.

**MEN:** The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus.

<sup>a</sup>Matthew 26:17-20; Mark 14:12-17; Luke 22:7-17

<sup>b</sup>Luke 22:24-30

**CONGREGATION:** Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God;

**LEADER:** so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist.

**WOMEN:** After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

**MEN:** He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"

**LEADER:** Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand."

**MEN:** "No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet."

**LEADER:** Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me."

**MEN:** "Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!"

**CONGREGATION:** Jesus answered, "Those who have had a bath need only to wash their feet; their whole body is clean. And you<sup>a</sup> are clean, though not every one of you." For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean.

**WOMEN:** When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place.

**LEADER:** "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them."<sup>b</sup>

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<sup>a</sup>You is plural.

<sup>b</sup>John 13:1-17

**CONGREGATION:** After taking the cup, he gave thanks and said, “Take this and divide it among you. For I tell you I will not drink again from the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.”<sup>a</sup>

**LEADER:** While they were reclining at the table eating, he said, “Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me—one who is eating with me.”

**CONGREGATION:** They were saddened, and one by one they said to him, “Surely you don’t mean me?”

**MEN:** “It is one of the Twelve,” he replied, “one who dips bread into the bowl with me. The Son of Man will go just as it is written about him. But woe to that man who betrays the Son of Man! It would be better for him if he had not been born.”<sup>b</sup>

**LEADER:** After he had said this, Jesus was troubled in spirit and testified, “Very truly I tell you, one of you is going to betray me.”

**WOMEN:** His disciples stared at one another, at a loss to know which of them he meant.

**CONGREGATION:** One of them, the disciple whom Jesus loved, was reclining next to him. Simon Peter motioned to this disciple and said, “Ask him which one he means.”

**MEN:** Leaning back against Jesus, he asked him, “Lord, who is it?”

**LEADER:** Jesus answered, “It is the one to whom I will give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish.”

**WOMEN:** Then, dipping the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot. As soon as Judas took the bread, Satan entered into him.

**MEN:** So Jesus told him, “What you are about to do, do quickly.”

**CONGREGATION:** But no one at the meal understood why Jesus said this to him. Since Judas had charge of the money, some thought Jesus was telling him to buy what was needed for the festival, or to give something to the poor.

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<sup>a</sup>Luke 22:17-18

<sup>b</sup>Matthew 26:21-25; Mark 14:18-21

**WOMEN:** As soon as Judas had taken the bread, he went out. And it was night.

**LEADER:** When he was gone, Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man is glorified and God is glorified in him. If God is glorified in him,<sup>a</sup> God will glorify the Son in himself, and will glorify him at once.”<sup>b</sup>

### SEASONAL RESPONSE

**All: All we like sheep have gone astray, and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. By his wounds we are healed.**

**HYMN: CW 115.....***He Stood Before the Court*

### Sermon

### The Semblance of Legality

Luke 22:66

*At daybreak the council of the elders of the people, both the chief priests and the teachers of the law, met together, and Jesus was led before them.*

PLEASE STAND

**Offerings** can be placed in the offering plate in the back of our sanctuary. They can also be mailed to our church office at **114 E. Blue Earth Avenue, Fairmont, MN 56031** or made on our website under the “Donate” tab at the top of the homepage or taken to Profinium Bank in Fairmont.

**To our visitors:** Our offering is not a debt we owe God, but a way that we return to God a portion of what he generously gave to us. Our motivation, then, is not obligation, but love for God. The members of Shepherd of the Lakes have joined together to spread God’s message both in this community and around the world. As our guest, please do not feel obligated to contribute. We’re happy that you’re with us to hear about God’s love for you.

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<sup>a</sup>Many early manuscripts do not have *If God is glorified in him*

<sup>b</sup>John 13:21-32

**THANK OFFERING HYMN: CW 485vv1,2.....***We Give Thee but Thine Own*

**We give thee but thine own, Whate'er the gift may be;  
All that we have is thine alone, A trust, O Lord, from thee.**

**May we thy bounties thus As stewards true receive  
And gladly, as thou blessest us, To thee our firstfruits give.**

## **PRAYER**

**LORD'S PRAYER** (*Sung; Cf. worship folder insert*)

## **EVENING PRAYER**

**ALL:** In the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, your dear Son, that you have graciously kept me this day. Forgive me all my sins, and graciously keep me this night. Into your hands I commend my body and soul and all things. Let your holy angel be with me, that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen.

## **BLESSING**

**M:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ (+), and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: Amen**

*PLEASE BE SEATED*

**CLOSING HYMN: 110vv1,3,4,7.....***My Son Is Love Unknown*

PREACHER: Martin Lopahs (St. Paul's, St. James—Retired)