

¹The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ Drawn From the Four Gospels

Introduction

Five Sundays in Lent - Palm Sunday/Sunday of the Passion - Holy Week - The Resurrection
Ash Wednesday - Five Mid-Week Lenten Services

Theme for Mid-Week Lenten Services: The Old Testament & Christ's Passion

Mid-week 1: Reading I. The Lord's Supper

John 13:18-19 / Psalm 41:9 (5-8): "Jesus' Betrayer"

Mid-week 2: Reading II. Gethsemane

Mark 14:27 / Zechariah 13:7: "The Disciples Scatter"

Mid-week 3: Reading III. The Palace of the High Priest

Matthew 27:3-10 / Zechariah 11:12-13: "Thirty Pieces of Silver"

Mid-week 4: Reading IV. The Praetorium

Mark 15:27-28 / Isaiah 53:12: "Numbered with the Transgressors"

Mid-week 5: Reading V. Calvary

John 19:34-37 / Zechariah 12:10: "Him whom they pierced"

- The readings of the Passion Narrative serve as the basis from which the sermon text is derived for the Wednesday mid-week Lenten services. Though the readings are sometimes quite lengthy, they give opportunity to hear again the account of our Lord's suffering and death for our salvation.
- Things to listen for: Who? What? Why? When? Where? How? (Not all of our questions are answered in the text, but the answers that the text does give are sufficient)
- Harmony of the Gospel accounts of the Passion (From Lutheran Worship Agenda)
Consist of all four Gospels
May sound different because one Gospel account is not read all the way through
Variances in the Gospels

¹ Lutheran Worship Agenda, 1984, p20-34

I. The Lord's Supper

The Plot to kill Jesus

Matthew 26:1-5 Mark 14:1-2 Luke 22:1-2

Judas agrees to betray Jesus

Matthew 26:14-16 Mark 14:10-11 Luke 22:3-6

The Passover

Matthew 27:17-25 Mark 14:12-21 Luke 22:7-14 John 13:21-30

The Institution of the Last Supper

Matthew 26:26-30 Mark 14:22-26 Luke 22:15-20

Who's the greatest? -- In the context of the Lord's Supper, only Luke 22:24-30

Washing the disciples feet -- Only John 13

- When placing the four Gospel accounts side by side, one will notice that the accounts are not word for word. Some have more. Some have less. Some are in one gospel, but not in another. However, this does not mean that they are contradictory, as critics boast. Different accounts need not produce doubt, for the Lord's Word does not lie, and the Gospels are God's Word. How do we know? Because the Spirit of God convinces us according to that very Word that it is so. Beginning with this truth, the text that God has given in written form will not be doubted, but upheld as it is, in truth, the inspired Word, "able to make *one* wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus" (1 Timothy 3:15, NKJ). Also, it will be found that it is "profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

II. Gethsemane

- To be aware of:

What is said (content)
Location in the gospel account
How the text 'connects' to its particular gospel
Similarities & Distinctions

Peter's Denial Foretold

Matthew 26:31-35

Mark 14:27-31

Luke 22:31-34

John 13:36-38

John 14 - Jesus the Way to the Father, The Promise of the Holy Spirit

John 15 - Jesus the True Vine, The World's Hatred

John 16 - The Work of the Spirit, Sorrow Will Turn to Joy, I Have

Overcome the World

John 17 - The Prayer of Jesus

Luke 22:35-38 • Purse, Bag, and Sword

Jesus' Prayer in Gethsemane

Matthew 26:36-46

Mark 14:32-42

Luke 22:39-46

The Betrayal and Arrest of Jesus

Matthew 26:47-56

Mark 14:35-50

Luke 22:47-53

John 18:1-12

III. The Palace of the High Priest

Jesus Before the Council

Matthew 26:57-68

Mark 14:53-65

Luke 22:54-55,
63-71

John 18:13-14,
19-24

- For what purpose did the council seek testimony against Jesus? What does Matthew 26:59 reveal about this testimony? Compare the council's purpose in seeking testimony with what the high priest says after tearing his robe. Was the evidence sufficient for death? See Numbers 35:30; Deuteronomy 17:6
- What particular testimony do two witnesses give against Jesus? Compare this testimony to what is said later about Jesus in Matthew 27:63.
- When does Jesus keep silent during the trial? When does Jesus speak?

Peter's Denial of Jesus

Matthew 26:69-75

Mark 14:66-72

Luke 22:56-62

John 18:15-18,
25-27

- How does Peter's denial become 'stronger' ?
- When did Peter remember the words of Jesus?

Jesus brought before Pilate

Matthew 27:1-2

Mark 15:1

Luke 23:1-2

John 18:28-32

- What was the reason for delivering Jesus to Pilate?

The Death of Judas

Matthew 27:3-10 (Acts 1:18-19)

- Why was the reaction of the chief priests so callous against Judas?
- What is the irony of the chief priests by saying, "It is not lawful to put them (the \$\$) into the treasury, because they are the price of blood"?

IV. The Praetorium

Jesus Questioned by Pilate

Matthew 27:11-14

Mark 15:2-5

Luke 23:3-5

John 18:33-38

- Again, Jesus remains silent when accused, but He does answer Pilate's question, "Are you the King of the Jews?"
- Why did Pilate 'marvel'?

Jesus Before Herod

Luke 23:6-12

- Note: only Luke's Gospel has this account of Jesus before Herod.
- Why may have Pilate sent Jesus to Herod?
- Why was Herod glad? See also Luke 11:29-32; 1 Corinthians 1:18-29

Jesus Sentence to Die

Matthew 27:15-26

Mark 15:6-15

Luke 23:13-25

John 18:39-19:16

- How is the setting free of Barabbas and Jesus 'bearing the consequences' a picture of what God has done for us in Christ?
- Does God's mercy and forgiveness have a limit? See Ezekiel 18:32; 33:11; 1 Timothy 2:4; 2 Peter 3:9

The Soldiers Mock Jesus

Matthew 27:27-31

Mark 15:16-20

John 19:2-3

- What is the irony of the purple robe, the crown of thorns, the reed, and the soldiers bowing before Christ? What did the soldiers not realize?
- What does this say of our Christ and of our God? How is this different from other 'gods' made up by man?

V. Calvary

The Crucifixion of Jesus

Matthew 27:32-44

Mark 15:21-32

Luke 23:26-43

John 19:17-27

- What is the relation of ‘wine mingled with gall’ to Psalm 69:19-21 (see also 69:6-11)
- Note: Christ was crucified the third hour (9am)
- What relation does Psalm 22:6ff have to do with Christ’s crucifixion?
- Does God permit even the righteous to undergo trials? Does this mean God has forsaken them?
- Which accounts are in which Gospels?
 ‘Father, forgive them’; ‘Today, you will be with me in paradise’;
 ‘Woman, behold, your son.’

The Death of Jesus

Matthew 27:45-56

Mark 15:33-41

Luke 23:44-49

John 19:28-30

- Note: Darkness was over all the land from the sixth to the ninth hour (12pm-3pm)
- Compare the words of Jesus, “My God, My God” with Psalm 22:1ff.
- Notice the accounts of each Gospel. How are they different? How are they similar?

The Burial of Jesus

Matthew 27:57-61

Mark 15:42-47

Luke 23:50-56

John 19:38-42

- Who came for Jesus’ body? Whose name also appears?
- Who observed where Jesus was laid?
- Is there any significance to where Jesus was buried? (see Isaiah 53:9)

The Guard at the Tomb

Matthew 27:62-66

- What was the concern of the chief priests and Pharisees concerning Christ?
- What is ironic about their choice of words, “the last deception will be worse than the first?”
- What is almost foreshadowing with Pilate’s words, “Make it secure as you know how?”