



The Shepherd's Voice

March 26, 2013

By Fr. Joe Rees

'The Kiss of Death'

"But Jesus said to him, "Judas, would you betray the Son of Man with a kiss?"

Luke 22: 48

The palms and cloaks were thrown on the ground as Jesus of Nazareth rode into Jerusalem on a donkey. The disciples were with Him and could see the throngs of people hailing Him as the Messiah. And Judas was a witness. As Jesus approached the Pharisees inside the gates and walking toward the temple, Judas was there. As Jesus shared the first Holy Communion and gave His great commandment that His disciples were to "Love one another", Judas got up from the table and went out into the darkness of the night. The spirit of the betrayer entered him. After Jesus washed the other disciples feet and told them that He would go out to the garden of Gethsemane, Judas was absent. Instead, Judas was in the court of the High Priest collecting silver coins and leading the temple guards out to the Mount of Olives to arrest Jesus. How could he do this awful thing? What was in his mind to want to hand over Jesus to be arrested? Did he think he could force the hand of Jesus to perform miracles and defeat the Sanhedrin, possibly bring on a revolution? Perhaps overthrow the High Priest and become the new ruler of Jerusalem? What did he think was in it for him? We'll never know...he dies a coward's death.

Jesus cuts to the heart of it, doesn't He?! He pinpoints the betrayal to the kiss. When He had just given the commandment to 'love one another', Judas wasn't there. He wasn't there to receive Jesus' love! He absented himself to a truer love that he doesn't know. It's a sacrificial love that gives life to others. It's a love of washing feet, of a servant's heart. Judas made decisions of his own, and took his destiny into his own hands. He's

disconnected from knowing real love. Judas lives a false love evidenced by a betraying kiss. Jesus absolutely knows when His love is returned falsely. Even then Jesus, in many ways, was merciful and compassionate. He could have vehemently vented with invectives but, no, He knew this was His destiny. The kiss...becomes the kiss of death. From this point on, Jesus is doomed to die. If we live a false love to God, we're doomed to die as well.

Before we denounce Judas and decry his actions, do we return Jesus' love falsely? Do we enter into His real love and have a servant's heart like Jesus did? Do we give mercy and compassion to those who betray us?! Perhaps that's the hardest love of all. Yet, Jesus calls us...'love your enemies'! 'Do good to those who hate you'! Impossible? This is the call of a truer love, a heavenly call for a transforming love, the only One, who being born within us could do such a divine act of life-changing love. Jesus is that love. His love eclipsing all others. The only One!

We could never love a betrayer without such a divine transformation. Jesus can do amazing things within us; if we'll let Him. In this Holy Week, as we go with Jesus on the way of the cross, the way of suffering, let Him have His way within you. Allow His Spirit to convict you in that secret place of fomenting vengeance against that 'in-your-brain enemy' or that betrayer who has treated you so contemptuously. Let Jesus, with His amazing grace and gentle, compassionate touch of mercy, substitute His deeper love for that shallow, betrayal prone and fleeting kiss. We need to let Jesus' hands wash our feet, clean off the grime of our senseless false love, and open our hearts to His real, personal and everlasting love. We have to realize that our actions count, that they reflect our inner desires of self-need, and that they are remembered by those around us. May we each empty ourselves of pride

and prejudice. Let each of us fill our hearts with Jesus' love. Let us love then with His love, giving His love to others.

Lord Jesus, help us make our pilgrim journey this week reflect the transformational power of Your love that dwells within our hearts and minds. Keep us close to you, wash our feet Lord, and give us the fullness of Your love that speaks into our hearts the integrity of truthfulness in love. Lord, help us to not disappoint you by returning false love to You. Give us the courage to give our love laced

with Yours to others, even those who betray us. Thank you Lord Jesus for the fire of Your love that burns up the dross of our former fallen and false love. May we ever live to love You and give that love truthfully to all around us.

May His divine Love be in your hearts now and always,
Fr. Joe

Sunday Servers this week...

March 31, 2013	Easter Sunday	8:00 a.m. Service	10:15 a.m. Service
First Reader	Acts 10:34-43	Dick Phelps	Pat Richardson
Psalm Reader	Psalm 118:14-29	Choir	Stephen Painter
Second Reader	Colossians 3:1-4	Jane Rost	Ann Fox
Intercessor		Thor Strom	Mitch Dubski
Lay Euch. Ministers		John & Myrna Lipnicke	Cline Handy, KC Winward
Acolytes		Thor Strom	Mitch D (C); Damon W (T1); Kalani C (T2)
Welcomers		Myrna Lipnicke, Paula Sholly	Myrna Lipnicke, Paula Sholly
Ushers		Jackie Lansing, Dick Sholly	Dink Nash, Ted Vallas, JR Fox, Ray Seibold
Vestry Person of Day	William Culbreth		
Healing Ministers		Rudy Theobald, Jan Simon	Petey Seibold, Donna Sandner
Announcer		Chris Corey	Jani Dubski
Counters			Michael Murphv & Cline Handv

The Children's Ministry can still use some small goodies to put in the plastic eggs for the Resurrection Egg Hunt on Sunday. Please bring the goodies to the church office.

Easter Sunday Brunch
– Baked Potato Bar
Bring your favorite topping for baked potatoes and join your Grace Anglican Family between services for a time of food and fellowship.

All night prayer vigil – We have an opening at the 10-11 p.m. hour and another at the 12 to 1 a.m. hour. Please call the church office if you would like to participate in this prayer vigil on Maundy Thursday.

Donna Brayton's last class of the current series is tonight. She is providing a light supper for everyone at 6:30 p.m. The class will start at 7:00 p.m. Tuesday evening classes will resume again on April 23rd.

Sunday at Grace

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist w. Choir
9:30 a.m. Coffee & Potato Bar
10:00 a.m. Nursery opens
10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist
w. Worship Team

Happy Easter!

Readings for Sunday

Acts 10:34-43
Psalm 118:14-29
Colossians 3:1-4
Luke 24:1-10

We are using the English Standard
Version of the Bible and the Lectionary
from the Book of Common Prayer
(Year C)

This Week at Grace –Mar. 26- Apr. 2, 2013

Tues. March 26

11:30 a.m. Rector's Bible Study
4:30 p.m. Healing prayer & Eucharist at CHC
6:30 p.m. Lenten Potluck Fellowship Supper
7:00 p.m. Donna Brayton's Class

Wed March 27

8:30 a.m. Morning Prayer & Eucharist
9:30 a.m. No Staff Meeting
2:00 p.m. Bob Reid Memorial Service
6:30 p.m. Youth Group

Thurs. March 28 – Maundy Thursday

7:00 a.m. Bible Study
10:00 a.m. Sr. Women's Fellowship
11:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist at the Oasis
6:00 p.m. Simple Soup Supper
7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Service with foot-
washing and stripping of the Altar.
9:00 p.m. All Night Prayer Vigil begins

Fri. March 29 – Good Friday

Church office closed.
Noon Good Friday Liturgy
1:30 – 5:00 p.m. Self-guided Stations of the Cross
Fr. Joe available to hear confessions by appointment.
7:00 p.m. Good Friday Liturgy with choir

Sat. March 30 – Holy Saturday

8:00 a.m. Men's Fellowship
7:00 p.m. Great Vigil of Easter Service

Sun. March 31 – Easter Sunday

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist with Choir
9:30 a.m. Coffee and baked potato bar
10:00 a.m. Nursery opens
10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist with Worship Team
10:15 a.m. Children's Church
10:45 a.m. Coffee & fellowship

Mon. April 1

6:30 a.m. Men's Prayer
Church Office Closed all day

Tues. April 2

11:30 a.m. Rector's Bible Study
Tuesday evening classes resume on April 23rd

Rector's Bible Study

Tuesdays

11:30 a.m.

Fr. Joe is leading the group through a study of
the Book of Isaiah. Everyone is welcome.
B.Y.O.L. (Bring your own lunch)

Wednesdays at 8:30 a.m.
Morning Prayer At Grace Anglican
All are welcome to attend.

Weekly – There are over 25 small groups meeting
during the week. Check our newsletter for a list of
all the groups or you can find the list on our website:
www.graceanglicanchurch.com.

Mar. 27 Tenebrae Service at CHC – 7:00 p.m.
Mar. 28 Maundy Thursday – Foot Washing service
Mar. 28 All Night Prayer Vigil –9:00 p.m.-6:00 a.m.
Mar. 29 Good Friday Services – Noon and 7:00 p.m.
Mar. 30 Holy Saturday/Great Vigil of Easter 7 p.m.
Mar. 31 Easter Sunday – Services at 8 & 10:15 a.m.
Apr. 5-7 “Rooted”-Youth Min. at Green Oak Ranch
Apr. 10 Soaking Prayer
Apr. 13 Prayers & Squares – 9:30 a.m.
Apr. 13 Saturday Pizza & Praise – San Marcos
Apr. 21 Family Friendly Leaders Meet – Noon – 2
May 3 Anglican Men's Retreat at Forest Home