

**St. Luke Ev. Lutheran Church**  
**Sermon by Pastor Anthony E. Schultz**  
**March 7, 2012 Lenten Vesper #3.**  
**Mark 14:61,62**  
***Holman Christian Standard Bible***



<sup>61</sup> But He kept silent and did not answer anything. Again the high priest questioned Him, “Are You the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?” <sup>62</sup> “I am,” said Jesus, “and all of you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Power and coming with the clouds of heaven.”

People of God – rescued from the flaming lake of fire in hell by the innocent blood of the very Lamb of God:

Tornado? I always think of the Wizard of Oz! That creepy music as the sky gets darker and darker and the wind blows harder and harder! There’s dust blowing – huge weeds blow by – branches break and trees fall over – and the next thing you know is everything is going around and around. There’s the sound of a train – and suddenly everything that you think is so solid – so dependable – so immovable and indestructible – suddenly it’s all blowing completely apart! That’s what happened just the other day – in real life – in Indiana. A mom named Stephanie – 36 years old – along with her 8 year old son Dominic and her 5 year old daughter Reese – were huddled in their basement. When the tornado hit – their 3 story brick home came crashing down on them. The mommy covered up her children – shielded them as best she could with her body – and it cost her her legs! One leg was crushed from her ankle down and one leg was crushed from above her knee – down. She lost her legs – to save her children! Of course she would. Of course she did! She loves her children – her son – her daughter. She carried them 9 months in her tummy – and endured the pain and danger of labor and delivery. I think it’s easily understandable – that she would suffer the hurt she endured – to save the lives of her children. What makes no sense at all – is that God our Heavenly Father – should sacrifice his innocent Son – to save despicable sinners like us! It is because of the grace of God – that we gather again this Wednesday – to thank and praise Him. This Third Wednesday in Lent God’s Word reminds us:

**Jesus Is The Son of the Blessed One!**

1. Learn from his silence
2. Learn from his Gospel promises

As we catch up in spirit with the Lord Jesus – he has been up through the night. Jesus and his disciples met in the upper room. There Jesus washed his disciples’ feet. There Jesus told them – a new commandment I give you – love one another. As I have loved you – so you must love one another. Everyone will know that you are my disciples – my students, followers, imitators – if you love one another! Then he celebrated the Passover – one last time. They sacrificed the lamb – one year old – without spot or blemish or defect. Blood was painted on the door posts. The Lamb was roasted whole over a fire. It was served with grape wine – with unleavened bread – baked in haste – there was no time to let the yeast rise. They ate bitter

herbs – to remind them of the bitterness of slavery in Egypt. They had salt water – to remind them of the tears that were shed so many years ago. After the Passover Meal – Jesus took bread – gave thanks and broke it and gave it to them saying, “Take and eat! This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” In the same way also he took the cup after supper – when he had given thanks he gave it to them saying, “Take and drink--this cup is the new covenant in my blood which is shed for you for the forgiveness of all your sins. Do this whenever you drink it in remembrance of me!” After that – they sang a Psalm/a hymn and went out into the night – to the Garden of Gethsemane. That was an olive grove not far – through the city wall – turn left – cross the Brook Kidron – a little way up the side of the Mount of Olives. This wasn’t the first time they went there. Jesus liked to go there – to get away from all the people – to pray with his disciples. Remember how Jesus went into the garden – took Peter, James and John with him a little farther in. He asked them to watch and pray with him. He went a little farther still – and prayed with such urgency and passion he sweat drops of blood! That seldom ever happens – although sometimes in war – in hand to hand combat – the fiercest struggle!

Remember Judas – betraying the Son of Man with a kiss. Jesus asking them who they wanted – Jesus of Nazareth! I am He! They all fell backward – thrown backward – they fell to the ground by the power and sheer force of His will! Who is it you want? If it’s me – let these go! The mob lunges forward and Simon Peter lashes out with his sword! Jesus heals Malchus’ ear! In stubborn unbelief – even in the face of his miracle – they grab Jesus and the disciples in a panic run – even naked – they run to save themselves! Remember Jesus before Annas – the man who was supposed to be High Priest? What did Jesus teach? Who were his disciples? Jesus says – ask the people who heard me in the Temple Courtyards and in the Synagogues. They know what I taught! And they smack Jesus upside the head.

After questioning before Annas – Jesus’ enemies take him before Caiaphas – the High Priest that year – according to the tolerance of the Romans. Caiaphas has called together the whole Sanhedrin – a clear and obvious violation of the law – to call out the Jewish Supreme Council and High Court – under cover of darkness – where nothing good could possibly come of it. False witnesses were also called in – to try and make Jesus look bad. But these false witnesses couldn’t do that well! <sup>57</sup> **Some stood up and were giving false testimony against Him, stating,** <sup>58</sup> **“We heard Him say, ‘I will demolish this sanctuary made by human hands, and in three days I will build another not made by hands.’”** <sup>59</sup> **Yet their testimony did not agree even on this.** This was just silly! They heard Jesus plotting to single-handedly smash Herod’s Temple – with stones so massive – it isn’t clear even today – how they ever moved them to build the foundation slab – with such precision. And then in three days – he’s going to rebuild a better one – not made with hands? That’s not what Jesus said or meant and they knew it! After Jesus died – and his lifeless body was placed cold into a tomb near the cross – a grave – a cave – that belonged to Joseph of Arimathea – God’s Word says: <sup>62</sup> **The next day, which followed the preparation day, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate** <sup>63</sup> **and said, “Sir, we remember that while this deceiver was still alive He said, ‘After three days I will rise again.’** <sup>64</sup> **Therefore give orders that the tomb be made secure until the third day.**

Otherwise, His disciples may come, steal Him, and tell the people, 'He has been raised from the dead.' Then the last deception will be worse than the first." <sup>65</sup> "You have a guard of soldiers," Pilate told them. "Go and make it as secure as you know how." <sup>66</sup> Then they went and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone and setting the guard. But there is no limit to how far the leaders of the organized Church were willing to go – to try to murder Jesus. How did Jesus answer such lies and false accusations? **Jesus kept silent and did not answer anything!** Just as Jesus is always the perfect example to us in everything – he is the perfect example of what to do when sinful people say hateful and wicked things to us. Jesus kept silent and his silence spoke volumes. The false accusations and foolish lies of his enemies did not deserve a response. Jesus gave them none! One of the best aspects of e-mails is – you do not have to answer them. The devil is the father of lies – and if people should speak lies about us – we do not need to answer them. **Jesus kept silent. He didn't answer anything.**

Finally his patience exhausted the Chief Priest turned prosecutor asks Jesus point blank: **"Are You the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?" "I am," said Jesus, and all of you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Power and coming with the clouds of heaven.**" Jesus' silence comes to an end – when to refuse to answer – would be to deny his essence and his mission! As the sinless Son of God – of course Jesus knew when to be silent – and when to speak. Now was the time to speak – to give a clear and sure trumpet sound. To tell the truth – no matter what the earthly consequences might be. Jesus is in fact the Messiah – the Anointed One – the Promised Savior – the only way to Heaven. Remember what Jesus said on the way to the Garden of Gethsemane. <sup>1</sup> **"Your heart must not be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in Me. <sup>2</sup> In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if not, I would have told you. I am going away to prepare a place for you. <sup>3</sup> If I go away and prepare a place for you, I will come back and receive you to Myself, so that where I am you may be also. <sup>4</sup> You know the way to where I am going."** <sup>5</sup> "Lord," Thomas said, "we don't know where You're going. How can we know the way?" <sup>6</sup> Jesus told him, **"I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. John 14.** What a wondrous thing it will be – when on Judgment Day Jesus returns – with all his power and glory as the King of kings and Lord of lords. Remember those familiar words from the Apostle Paul's letter to retired Roman soldiers in Philippi: <sup>5</sup> **Make your own attitude that of Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who, existing in the form of God, did not consider equality with God as something to be used for His own advantage. <sup>7</sup> Instead He emptied Himself by assuming the form of a slave, taking on the likeness of men. And when He had come as a man in His external form, <sup>8</sup> He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death—even to death on a cross. <sup>9</sup> For this reason God highly exalted Him and gave Him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup> so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow—of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth—<sup>11</sup> and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.** Philippians 2.

**"Are You the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?" <sup>62</sup> "I am," said Jesus.** This week I watched the Judge pronounce the verdict at the end of a murder trial – a first degree intentional murder trial that took place some 6 years ago! The first trial was declared a *mis*-trial – a jury that

couldn't agree – so they did the whole trial over again. The defendant – named Jason was accused of murdering his wife – his own wife – with a baby 5 months inside her tummy! This mommy was beaten to death. They said after the third blow – she was no longer conscious – perhaps already dead – but he pounded her 27 more times – until he was so physically exhausted he couldn't hit her any more. Then he tore off her wedding ring and engagement ring – like even dead – she didn't deserve to wear them! All through the remarks by the Judge that led up to his Verdict – the defendant just sat there. He just sat there – looking forward – the veins on his forehead literally standing out. It wasn't like some who would cry out, "I didn't do it! This is all a colossal mistake – a huge misunderstanding! I am innocent!" No – it was more of – this is the end. I will be in prison for the rest of my natural life – with no possibility of parole! I will never be free to walk outside – to go to McDonald's or Perkins or Red Lobster or Outback! I will never be able to go to Best Buy and buy a Blue-ray 3-D movie! I will never be free until the day I die! Again – it would be tempting to think to yourself – this guy Jason? Now that's a bad person – a terrible person. Some people would say for what he did he doesn't deserve to live – murdering his wife and his unborn baby? And yet – truth be told – Jesus loves Jason so much – he died for Jason. And Jesus died for the apostle Paul who said, "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners of whom I am the worst!" Jesus died for Jason, for us – so that we will not suffer forever in the flaming lake of fire in hell! We will spend eternity with Jesus – safe in Heaven by grace alone, faith alone and Scripture alone. Amen!

**To God alone all glory!**

*Rev. Anthony E. Schultz*