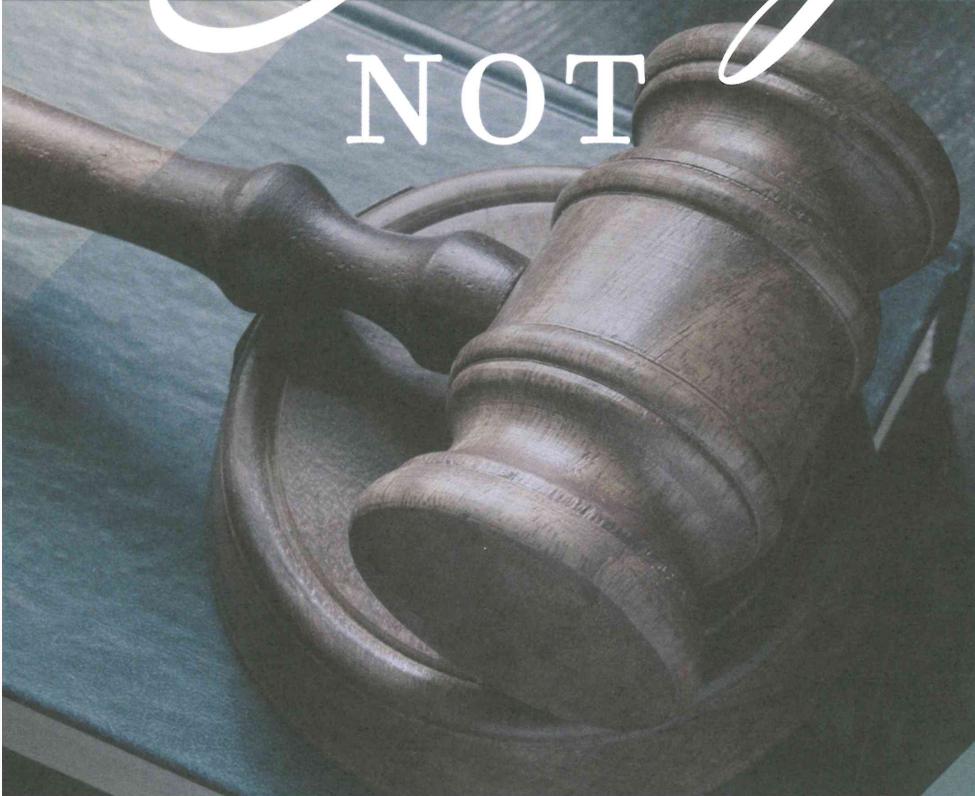


SERMON *on the* MOUNT

Judge
NOT



Wednesday, March 17, 2021 at 6:30 pm

✠ PREPARATION ✠

The congregation gathers in silence.

RINGING OF THE BELL

Please stand for portions of service marked with an asterisk ()*

WELCOME

Pastor Chris Matthis

ELDER PRAYER

***INVOCATION**

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

***HYMN**

“Jesus, I Will Ponder Now”

LSB 440 v.1 & 5



1 Je - sus, I will pon - der now On Your ho - ly pas - sion;
5 If my sins give me a - larm And my con - science grieve me,



With Your Spir - it me en - dow For such med - i - ta - tion.
Let Your cross my fear dis - arm; Peace of con - science give me.



Grant that I in love and faith May the im - age cher - ish
Help me see for - give - ness won By Your ho - ly pas - sion.



Of Your suf-f'ring, pain, and death That I may not per - ish.
If for me He slays His Son, God must have com - pas - sion!

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THE PASSION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST *(read by Pastor)* ***The Praetorium***

When they had bound Jesus, they led him from Caiaphas to the hall of judgment and gave him over to Pontius Pilate, the governor. It was early. They themselves did not go into the judgment hall, so that they might not be defiled, but might eat the Passover.

Pilate then went out to them, and said, "What charge do you bring against this man?"

They answered and said to him, "If he were not a criminal, we would not have handed him over to you."

Then Pilate said to them, "Take him, then, and judge him according to your law."

The Jews said to him, "It is not lawful for us to put any man to death." So the word of Jesus was fulfilled, signifying by what death he should die.

The charges they brought against him were: "We found this fellow perverting the nation, and forbidding us to pay taxes to Caesar, and saying that he himself is Christ, a king."

Then Pilate entered into the judgment hall again, and called Jesus, and said to him, "Are you the King of the Jews?"

Jesus answered him, "Do you say this for yourself, or did others say it to you about me?"

Pilate answered, "Do you take me for a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have given you over to me. What have you done?"

Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world; if my kingdom were of this world, then my servants would have fought that I should not be given over to the Jews; but now my kingdom is not of this world."

Pilate therefore said to him, "Are you a king then?"

Jesus answered, "You say rightly that I am a king. I was born and I came into the world that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone that is of the truth hears my voice."

Pilate said to him, "What is truth?"

After he had said this, he went out again to the Jews and said to them, "I find no fault in this man."

The chief priests kept laying one charge after another against him, but he answered not a word. Pilate questioned him again, saying, "Do you answer nothing? See how many charges they lay against you." Jesus answered him not a word. Pilate was utterly amazed. He said to the chief priests and to the crowd, "I find no case against this man."

They pressed their charges more vehemently: "He stirs up the people, teaching throughout all Judaea, beginning from Galilee to this place."

When Pilate heard of Galilee, he asked whether the man was a Galilean. When he learned that he belonged in Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him on to Herod, who was also in Jerusalem for those days.

When Herod saw Jesus, he was delighted, for he had long wished to see him because of what he had heard of him, and he hoped to see him do a miracle. He questioned Jesus repeatedly, but he gave him no answer. The chief priests and scribes stood there and vehemently accused him. Herod and his soldiers mocked him. They put a splendid robe on him and sent him back to Pilate.

Herod and Pilate became friends with each other that same day, for before this they had been at enmity with each other.

Pilate then called together the chief priests and the rulers and the people, and said to them, "You have brought this man before me as one subverting the people. See now, I have examined him before you and have found nothing in this man guilty of any of your charges against him, and neither did Herod, for he sent him back to us. Mark this, he has done nothing worthy of death. I will have him punished and release him."

Now at the feast it was the governor's custom to release to the crowd any one prisoner whom they asked for. They had then a notorious prisoner named Barabbas. He was in prison with the rebels who had committed murder during the insurrection in the city. Pilate knew that it was out of malice that the chief priests handed Jesus

over. Therefore he said to them, "Do you want me to release for you Barabbas or Jesus who is called Christ?"

The chief priests and elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and destroy Jesus.

Pilate asked them again, "Which of the two do you want me to release for you?"

And they cried out all together, saying, "Away with this man, and release for us Barabbas."

While Pilate was sitting in the judgment seat, his wife sent him a message: "Do not have anything to do with that man; I have suffered much over him today in a dream."

Again Pilate addressed them, for he wished to release Jesus. He said to them, "What shall I do then with Jesus who is called Christ? What shall I do with him whom you call the King of the Jews?"

They all cried out, "Crucify him!"

Pilate said to them, "Why, what evil has he done? I have found no guilt worthy of death in him; I will therefore punish him and let him go."

They cried out all the louder, "Crucify him! Crucify him!"

Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. The soldiers of the governor led him away into the praetorium. They gathered the whole band of soldiers around him. They stripped him and put a purple robe on him. When they had woven a crown of thorns, they put it on his head and a reed in his right hand, and they knelt before him and mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" They spat on him and took the reed and struck him on the head. They knelt down and did him homage.

Pilate went out again and said to them, "See, I bring him out to you that you may know I find him not guilty." So Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, "Behold the man!"

When the chief priests and the officers saw him, they cried, "Crucify him! Crucify him!"

Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and crucify him, for I do not find him guilty."

The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and by that law he ought to die, because he made himself the Son of God."

When Pilate heard this, he was more afraid and went again into the judgment hall and said to Jesus, "Where are you from?" Jesus gave him no answer. Then Pilate said to him, "Do you refuse to speak to me? Do you not know that I have power to crucify you, and I have power to release you?"

Jesus answered, "You would not have any power at all over me, unless it had been given to you from above. For that reason he who handed me over to you has the greater sin."

This prompted Pilate to go on trying to release him, but the Jews cried out, "If you let this man go, you are no friend of Caesar. Everyone who makes himself a king sets himself against Caesar."

When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out and sat down in the judgment seat in a place that is called the Pavement or, in Hebrew, Gabbatha. It was the Preparation of the Passover, about the sixth hour. He said to the Jews, "Behold your king!"

They cried out, "Away with him, away with him, crucify him!"

Pilate said unto them, "Shall I crucify your king?"

The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar."

When Pilate saw that he was getting nowhere, but rather a riot was underway, he took water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of the blood of this man; see to it yourselves."

Then all the people responded, "His blood be on us and on our children."

Then Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, gave sentence that it should be as they demanded. He released to them Barabbas for whom they asked, the man who had been thrown into prison for insurrection and murder. He had Jesus flogged and then gave him over to their will to be crucified. The soldiers mocked him, stripped him of the purple robe, put his own clothes on him, and led him out to crucify him.

***OPENING SENTENCES**

Pastor: Judge not, that you be not judged.

People: **Speak the truth in love.**

Pastor: Take the log out of your own eye, then take the speck out of your friend's.

People: **Speak the truth in love.**

Pastor: With the judgment you pronounce you will be judged.

People: **Speak the truth in love.**

Pastor: Look at others through the lens of forgiveness.

People: **Speak the truth in love. Amen.**

*CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Because of our sinful and holier-than-thou judgment of others, we ourselves deserve to be judged by our Heavenly Father.

People: **Most merciful God, our eyes are wide open to the sins and shortcomings of others. We see the smallest details of the faults of our neighbors but fail to see the large-scale sin in our own life. On the other hand, our eyes are too often closed to your commands. We see only our self-righteousness and think we have no need for any kind of help or forgiveness. Though we deserve your present and eternal punishment, we plead for your mercy and beg for your grace.**

Pastor: In his mercy and grace God's eyes are blinded to our sin by the death of Jesus on the cross. Though we deserve his complete and total judgment, our punishment was placed on his Son. Though we are unjust in our judgment of others, God's judgment is righteous and perfect. In his mercy he forgives totally and completely. It is my joy to declare to you the forgiveness of all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

HYMN OF RESPONSE

"On My Heart Imprint Your Image"

LSB 442



On my heart im - print Your im - age, Bless - ed Je - sus, King of grace,



That life's rich-es, cares, and plea-sures Nev - er may Your work e-raise;



Let the clear in - scrip-tion be: Je - sus, cru - ci - fied for me,



Is my life, my hope's foun - da - tion, And my glo - ry and sal - va - - tion!

Text and tune: Public domain

***GOSPEL READING**

Matthew 7:1-5

(Judge Not)

[Jesus said:] “Judge not, that you be not judged. For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you. Why do you see the speck that is in your brother’s eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when there is the log in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother’s eye.

Pastor: O Lord, have mercy on us.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN

“Where Charity and Love Prevail”

LSB 845



1 Where char - i - ty and love pre - vail There
2 With grate - ful joy and ho - ly fear His
3 For - give we now each oth - er's faults As
4 Let strife a - mong us be un - known; Let



God is ev - er found; Brought here to - geth - er
char - i - ty we learn; Let us with heart and
we our faults con - fess, And let us love each
all con - ten - tion cease; Be God's the glo - ry



by Christ's love By love are we thus bound.
mind and soul Now love Him in re - turn.
oth - er well In Chris - tian ho - li - ness.
that we seek; Be ours His ho - ly peace.

- 5 Let us recall that in our midst
Dwells Christ, His only Son;
As members of His body joined
We are in Him made one.
- 6 For love excludes no race or clan
That names the Savior's name;
His family embraces all
Whose Father is the same.

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SERMON

"Judge Not"

Pastor Chris Matthis

OFFERING

"Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." (2 Corinthians 9:7). We give our tithes and offerings to God as an act of worship in gratitude for the gifts He has first given us. If you wish to give electronically using a credit card or automated bank withdrawal, please scan the QR code with your smartphone or visit www.epiphanylc.org and click on GIVE. As good stewards, please use credit wisely.



If you wish to mail your gift, send your check to Epiphany Lutheran Church, 550 E. Wolfensberger Rd., Castle Rock, CO 80109.

[CLICK HERE TO GIVE ELECTRONICALLY](#)

*PRAYERS

Pastor: All-knowing God, you see our sins, faults and failures. We are sinful in thought, word and deed, by what we do and by what we leave undone. We deserve nothing but your punishment and judgment. Yet because of our Savior, Jesus, you have declared us "not guilty." Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: All-knowing God, you are the Lord of your church and it grieves you when we judge others without recognizing the sin in our own lives. Help us to take the plank out of our own eye before we remove the speck from the eye of someone else. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: All-knowing God, far too often the nations of this world judge unjustly. We ask that you would fill the leaders of the nations and the leaders of our

communities with so much of your love that all people would be able live without fear of improper judgment, and the nations would know peace. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: All-knowing God, you know every hurt we suffer in body, mind or spirit. Use your wisdom and guidance to bring health and healing to all who are ill or suffering from disease. Bring comfort to those who suffer from worry, depression or any kind of mental illness, that they would once again be given comfort and rest. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: All-knowing God, you knew us before the foundation of the world and chose us to be your own. We thank you for the lives and influence of those who have gone before us in the faith. Help us to imitate them in the way of love and forgiveness so that others will see you through us. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

People: Into your hands, O God, we place our very lives, knowing that you judge us only based on the merit of the blood of Jesus our Savior.

People: Amen.

***LORD'S PRAYER** (*Matthew 6:9–13*)

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

***BENEDICAMUS**

Pastor: Let us bless the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

***BENEDICTION**

Pastor: The grace of our Lord ✠ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CLOSING HYMN**

“O Christ, You Walked the Road”

LSB 424



1 O Christ, You walked the road Our wan-d'ring feet must go.
2 No bread of earth a-lone Can fill our hun-g'ring hearts.
3 No blind-ing sign we ask, No won-der from a-bove.
4 When lures of eas-y gain With prom-ise bright-ly shine,
5 O Christ, You walked the road Our wan-d'ring feet must go.



You faced with us temp-ta-tion's pow'r And fought our an-cient foe.
Lord, help us seek Your liv-ing Word, The food Your grace im-parts.
Lord, help us place our trust a-lone In Your un-swer-ving love.
Lord, help us seek Your king-dom first; Our wills with Yours a-lign.
Stay with us through temp-ta-tion's hour To fight our an-cient foe.

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Midweek Lenten Services (all begin at 6:30 pm)

March 17th – Judge Not – Rev. Chris Matthis

March 24th – Build on the Rock – Rev. John Larson

Holy Week Services

April 1st, 7:00 pm – Maundy Thursday (with Holy Communion)

April 2nd, 7:00 pm – Good Friday Tenebrae Service

April 3rd, 5:00 pm – Easter Service (with Communion)

April 4th, 8:00 am & 9:30 am & 11:00 am –

Resurrection Sunday (with Holy Communion)

SERVING THE LORD TONIGHT

(March 17, 2021)

Readings: (*Holy Gospel*) Matthew 7:1-5

	6:30 pm
Preacher	<i>Pastor Chris Matthis</i>
Elders	<i>Mitch Arndt</i>
Accompanist	<i>Carol Krueger</i>
Acolyte	<i>Micah Lindahl</i>
Altar Guild	<i>Christina Arndt</i>
Sound System	<i>Tim Schneider</i>



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