

August 6, 2023



“Mass in the Grass”
Ecumenical Worship in the Park



THE KISS | LAUREN WRIGHT PITTMAN
INSPIRED BY MARK 14: 1–2, 10–50

FROM THE ARTIST: I get really emotional when I think about Judas. I think my emotion stems from a painting I saw in Florence, Italy, called “The Kiss of Judas” by Giuseppe Montanari. It’s an ethereal, dreamy image of a tender moment. Time seems suspended, stars twinkle in the sky, and the figures of Jesus and Judas almost float in the bittersweet haze of this passing moment. Judas stands on his tiptoes, though he is larger than Jesus, and kisses his teacher and friend. If you didn’t know who these figures were, you might think this was an idyllic, simple moment, but it is so grievous and complicated. This image makes me cry. I have a guttural turning in my stomach when I think about Judas and his role in this narrative.

I feel like Judas represents those who are afraid to stand up against the powerful. He allows fear to move him. He faces torture and death by aligning himself with Jesus and does what I think a lot of us would do. A lot of us would chose safety and betrayal instead of the path of suffering for a fight that seems impossible to win. In Matthew’s account of this story, Judas kills himself because he can’t survive knowing what he has done; he can’t live with himself. The echoes of his decision continue to reverberate and he is the vilified scapegoat of our faith.

I think we act like Judas in passing moments every day. That’s why I drew this image. That’s why I love the image by Montanari; it humanizes Judas and forces us to face the relationship Judas had with Jesus, to face our relationship with Jesus. Judas’ relationship is fraught, complicated, and ultimately tragic, but I know there were moments of beauty.

—LAUREN WRIGHT PITTMAN

Sunday, August 6, 2023



GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

- L Thanks be to you, O God, that we have risen this day
- C To the rising of this life itself.**
- L Be the purpose of God between us and each purpose.
- C The hand of God between us and each hand,**
- L The pain of Christ between us and each pain,
- C The love of Christ between us and each love.**
- L O God, who brought us to the bright light of this new day
- C Bring us to the guiding light of eternity.**

PEACE

- L Not an easy peace,
not an insignificant peace,
not a halfhearted peace,
but the peace of God in Jesus Christ is with you all.
- C And also with you.**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

- L We gather in God's name.
- C We claim Christ's promised presence.**
- L My siblings, not out of dread and fear
but believing that God is faithful to forgive,
let us rid ourselves of what we need to carry no longer.
- C Eternal God, maker of the skies above,
lowly Christ, born amidst the growing earth,
Spirit of life, wind over the flowing waters,
in earth and sky, you are there.
O hidden mystery, sun behind all suns,
soul behind all souls,
in everything we touch, in everyone we meet,
your presence is around us, and we give you thanks.
But when we have not touched but trampled you in creation,
when we have not met but missed you in one another,
when we have not received but rejected you in the poor, forgive us,
and hear now our plea for mercy.**

L Hear now the words of Jesus for all: Go in peace; come and follow me. ✝ Lead us now, O God, to acknowledge your costly generosity by living as forgiven people, until heaven and earth rejoice and the whole earth cries Glory! Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

GATHERING SONG: Be Thou My Vision

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart,
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art,
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light. | 3 Light of my soul, after victory won,
May I reach heaven's joys, O heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O ruler of all. |
| 2 Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise,
Thou mine inheritance, now and always.
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart,
great God of heaven, my treasure Thou art. | |

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L Friends, let us pray together.

C O God, in the transfiguration of your Son you confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the witness of Moses and Elijah, and in the voice from the bright cloud declaring Jesus your beloved Son, you foreshadowed our adoption as your children. Make us heirs with Christ of your glory, and bring us to enjoy its fullness, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST LESSON—2 PETER 1:13–21

1 ¹³I think it right, as long as I am in this body, to refresh your memory, ¹⁴since I know that my death will come soon, as indeed our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me. ¹⁵And I will make every effort so that after my departure you may be able at any time to recall these things.

¹⁶For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. ¹⁷For he received honor and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." ¹⁸We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain.

¹⁹So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. ²⁰First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, ²¹because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

A Word of God, word of life.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM—PSALM 99:5–9

- 1 Proclaim God's greatness and bow down
And worship him, the Holy Lord;
Moses and Aaron, Samuel
They called on God and heard his word.
- 2 Out of the cloud he spoke to them,
They kept his law and his decrees;
O Lord, you answered and forgave,
Yet punished all their evil deeds.
- 3 Proclaim God's greatness and bow down,
Worship him on his holy hill;
He is the Lord, our God and King,
The Holy One, our Savior still.

Psalm is from **A New Metrical Psalter** by Christopher Webber. Used with permission.

SECOND LESSON: LUKE 9:28–36

9 ²⁸Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. ²⁹And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. ³⁰Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. ³¹They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. ³²Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. ³³Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah" — not knowing what he said. ³⁴While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. ³⁵Then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my Son, my Chosen, listen to him!" ³⁶When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.

A Word of God, word of life.

C **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL: MARK 14:1–2, 10–50

L The holy gospel according to Mark.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

14 ¹It was two days before the Passover and the festival of Unleavened Bread. The chief priests and the scribes were looking for a way to arrest Jesus by stealth and kill him; ²for they said, "Not during the festival, or there may be a riot among the people."

¹⁰Then Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve, went to the chief priests in order to betray him to them. ¹¹When they heard it, they were greatly pleased, and promised to give him money. So he began to look for an opportunity to betray him.

¹²On the first day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb is sacrificed, his disciples said to him, "Where do you want us to go and make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?" ¹³So he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, "Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you; follow him, ¹⁴and wherever he enters, say to the owner of the house, 'The Teacher asks, Where is my guest room where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' ¹⁵He will show you a large room upstairs, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there." ¹⁶So the disciples set out and went to the city, and found everything as he had told them; and they prepared the Passover meal.

¹⁷When it was evening, he came with the twelve. ¹⁸And when they had taken their places and were eating, Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me, one who is eating with me." ¹⁹They began to be distressed and to say to him one after another, "Surely, not I?" ²⁰He said to them, "It is one of the twelve, one who is dipping bread into the bowl with me. ²¹For the Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born."

²²While they were eating, he took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to them, and said, "Take; this is my body." ²³Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, and all of them drank from it. ²⁴He said to them, "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. ²⁵Truly I tell you, I will never again drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God."

²⁶When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. ²⁷And Jesus said to them, "You will all become deserters; for it is written, 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.' ²⁸But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee." ²⁹Peter said to him, "Even though all become deserters, I will not." ³⁰Jesus said to him, "Truly I tell you, this day, this very night, before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times." ³¹But he said vehemently, "Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you." And all of them said the same.

³²They went to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray." ³³He took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be distressed and agitated. ³⁴And he said to them, "I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and keep awake." ³⁵And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. ³⁶He said, "Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want." ³⁷He came and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, "Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep awake one hour? ³⁸Keep awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." ³⁹And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words. ⁴⁰And once more he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy; and they did not know what to say to him. ⁴¹He came a third time and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Enough! The hour has come; the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. ⁴²Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand."

⁴³Immediately, while he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; and with him there was a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders. ⁴⁴Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard." ⁴⁵So when he came, he went up to him at once and said, "Rabbi!" and kissed him. ⁴⁶Then they laid hands on him and arrested him. ⁴⁷But one of those who stood near drew his sword and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. ⁴⁸Then Jesus said to them, "Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit? ⁴⁹Day after day I was with you in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. But let the scriptures be fulfilled." ⁵⁰All of them deserted him and fled.

L The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

CELTIC CREED

**We believe in God above us, maker and sustainer of all life,
of sun and moon, of water and earth, of male and female.
We believe in God beside us, Jesus Christ, the word made flesh,
born of a woman, servant of the poor, tortured and nailed to a tree.
A man of sorrows, he died forsaken.
He descended into the earth to the place of death.
On the third day he rose from the tomb.
He ascended into heaven, to be everywhere present,
and His kingdom will come on earth.
We believe in God within us, the Holy Spirit of Pentecostal fire,
life-giving breath of the Church, Spirit of healing and forgiveness,
source of resurrection and of eternal life.
Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

L Called together to follow Jesus, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need. Embolden your church as it witnesses to the majesty and mercy of your Son. Equip lay preachers, deacons, and pastors. Move us to share our stories of your faithfulness and forgiveness; may our lives proclaim your greatness. Merciful God,

C **receive our prayer.**

L Dwell with your whole creation, from the tallest mountain peak to the deepest valley. Bless the work of conservation organizations and protect vital habitats. Support the work of disaster relief agencies around the world. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

L Guide and give wisdom to all in authority: our mayor, Alex Johnson II, and local leaders, our governor, Tina Kotek, and state legislators, our president, Joseph Biden, and national legislators. Bring freedom and justice to all nations. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

L Give shelter to those lacking safe homes. Spur communities to work for fair housing for all. Protect our neighbors whose dwellings do not keep out dangerous cold or heat; accompany with your touch those who are homebound, sick, or isolated. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

L Make us eager to receive your Word in scripture. Help us recognize Jesus' voice in the needs of our neighbors; make us confident to follow the way of the cross. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

L Receive our thanksgiving for the holy ones who have guided us in faithfulness and gathered even the unlikely as your people. With our forebears in faith and all who have hoped in you, teach us to wait with courage until the promised day dawns. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

L We bring to you our needs and hopes, O God, trusting your wisdom and power revealed in Christ crucified.

C Amen.

OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER

A The table of bread and wine is now to be made ready. So come to this table, you who have much faith and you who would like to have more; you who have been here often and you who have not been for a while; you who have tried to follow Jesus, and you who have not; come. It is Christ who invites all creation to meet here.

C Loving God, through your goodness we have this bread and wine to offer, which earth has given and human hands have made. May we know your presence in the sharing of this bread, so that we may know your touch in all bread, all matter. We celebrate the life that Jesus has shared among his community through the centuries, and shares with us now. Made one in Christ, and one with each other, we offer these gifts and with them ourselves, a single, holy, living sacrifice. Amen.





COMMUNION LITURGY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P We offer you praise, dear God, and hearts lifted high, for in the communion of your love Christ comes close to us and we come close to Christ. Therefore with the whole realm of nature around us, with earth, sea, and sky, we sing to you. With the angels of light who envelop us, with all the saints before and beside us, with brothers and sisters, east and west, we sing to you. And with our loved ones, separate from us now, who yet in this mystery are close to us, we join in the song of your unending greatness:

C Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is our brother Jesus, who walks with us the road of our world's suffering, and who is known to us in the breaking of bread.

P On the night of his arrest Jesus took bread and having blessed it he broke the bread and gave it to his disciples, saying, "This is my body, given to you." In the same way he took wine and having given thanks for it, he poured it out and gave the cup to his disciples, saying, "This cup is the new relationship with God, sealed with my blood. Take this and share it."

C Hear us, O Christ, and breathe your Spirit upon us, and upon this bread and wine. May they become for us your body, vibrant with your life, healing, renewing, and make us whole. And as the bread and wine which we now eat and drink are changed into us, may we be changed again into you, bone of your bone, flesh of your flesh, loving and caring in the world. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven,
Reveal who you are.
Set the world right;
Do what's best— as above, so below.
Keep us alive with three square meals.
Keep us forgiven with you and forgiving others.
Keep us safe from ourselves and the Devil.
You're in charge! You can do anything you want!
You're ablaze in beauty! Yes. Yes. Yes.

**From The Message a paraphrase of the Bible by Eugene Petersen*

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

- P He whose table was open to all is now present in this bread. He whose word welcomed friend and stranger offers friendship through this cup.
- C With people everywhere we affirm God's goodness at the heart of humanity, planted more deeply than all that is wrong.**
- P The gifts of God for all.
- C Thanks be to God.**

COMMUNION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- A Friends, let us pray together.
- C We thank you, generous God, for the refreshment we have received at your banquet table. Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world, through the one who is our dearest treasure, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

BLESSING

- P May the peace of the Lord Christ ☩ go with you;
wherever he may send you;
may he guide you through the wilderness;
protect you through the storm;
may he bring you home rejoicing
at the wonders he has shown you;
may he send you in the mission fields
to share the harvest of grace.
- C Amen.**

SENDING SONG: Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

1 Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heav'n, to earth come down!
Fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter ev'ry trembling heart.

2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy loving Spirit
into ev'ry troubled breast;
let us all in thee inherit;
let us find thy promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
end of faith, as its beginning,
set our hearts at liberty.

3 Come, Almighty, to deliver;
let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never,
nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.

4 Finish then thy new creation,
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee!
Changed from glory into glory,
till in heav'n we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love and praise!

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus.

C **Thanks be to God.**



*Elements of the liturgy are from the following sources:

The Iona Community— "The Iona Community is an international, ecumenical Christian movement working for justice and peace, the rebuilding of community and the renewal of worship." Founded in 1938, Iona's members are Christians of many different denominations, as well as those who identify with no denomination.

Copyright © 2018 A Sanctified Art LLC. All Rights Reserved.

From sundaysandseasons.com

Copyright © 2022 Augsburg Fortress.

All rights reserved.



Kiss of Judas by Giuseppe Montanari, 1918



LOOK: Take a few moments to gaze upon the artwork. Sit still in quiet meditation as you observe the visual qualities of what you see: color, line, texture, movement, shape, form. Now take a deeper look. What parts of the image are your eyes most drawn to? What parts of the image did you overlook? Now engage your imagination. If you were to place yourself in this scene, where would you be and how would you interact with what surrounds you?

REFLECT: Several events happen after Judas decides to sell out to the chief priests. Why do you think he ultimately went through with it? Why didn't he change his mind?

- Look up "The Kiss of Judas" by Giuseppe Montanari. Compare and contrast this image to the one created by Lauren Wright Pittman.
- Reflect on an instance when fear caused you to act in a way you regret. What have you learned from that experience?

WRITE: Contemplate how fear, perhaps one fear in particular, is present in your life right now. Reflect on how you might face this fear. How might it lose its power over you?

PRAY: In the cracks of our fear-filled lives, may your courage take root. Amen.

Thank you to all who came together to make this wonderful event happen and to all those who came to worship today!

Participating Congregations:

Our Saviour Lutheran Church
St. Alban's Episcopal Church
St. Martin's Episcopal Church
Faith Lutheran Church

Worship Leaders:

Father Robert Morrison
Bishop Kedda Keogh
Pastor Mark Bringman
Lay Leaders from the congregations