



ANGLICAN CHURCH OF PAPHOS

Lent Course 2024

'People On The Edge'

Barabbas: Daylight Robber

Week 6: 26 March 2024

Welcome

Self Examination & Confession

God the Father:

Have mercy on us.

God the Son:

Have mercy on us.

God the Holy Spirit:

Have mercy on us.

Holy, blessed and glorious Trinity:

Have mercy on us.

From all evil and mischief; from pride, vanity, and hypocrisy;
from envy, hatred, and malice; and from all evil intent:

Good Lord, deliver us.

From sloth, worldliness and love of money; from hardness of heart
and contempt for your word and your laws:

Good Lord, deliver us.

From sins of body and mind; from the deceits of the world,
the flesh and the devil:

Good Lord, deliver us.

In all times of sorrow; in all times of joy; in the hour of death;
and at the day of judgement:

Good Lord, deliver us.

By the mystery of your holy incarnation; by your birth, childhood and
obedience; by your baptism, fasting and temptation:

Good Lord, deliver us.

By your ministry in word and work; by your mighty acts of power;
and by your preaching of the kingdom:

Good Lord, deliver us.

By your agony and trial; by your cross and passion;
and by your precious death and burial:

Good Lord, deliver us.

By your mighty resurrection; by your glorious ascension;
and by your sending of the Holy Spirit:

Good Lord, deliver us.

Give us true repentance; forgive us our sins of negligence and
Ignorance and our deliberate sins; and grant us the grace of your
Holy Spirit to amend our lives according to your holy word.

Holy God, holy and strong, holy and immortal: have mercy upon us.

Make our hearts clean, O God:

And renew a right spirit within us.

**Father eternal, giver of light and grace, we have sinned against you
and against our neighbour, in what we have thought, in what we
have said and done, through ignorance, through weakness, through
our own deliberate fault. We have wounded your love, and marred
your image in us. We are sorry and ashamed, and repent of all our
sins. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us, forgive
us all that is past; and lead us out from darkness to walk as children
of light. AMEN.**

Song 1008 The Lord's My Shepherd

Luke 23:1-25 Barabbas or Jesus?

Then the whole assembly rose and led him off to Pilate.² And they began to accuse him, saying, “We have found this man subverting our nation. He opposes payment of taxes to Caesar and claims to be Messiah, a king.”³ So Pilate asked Jesus, “Are you the king of the Jews?” “You have said so,” Jesus replied.⁴ Then Pilate announced to the chief priests and the crowd, “I find no basis for a charge against this man.”⁵ But they insisted, “He stirs up the people all over Judea by his teaching. He started in Galilee and has come all the way here.”

⁶ On hearing this, Pilate asked if the man was a Galilean.⁷ When he learned that Jesus was under Herod’s jurisdiction, he sent him to Herod, who was also in Jerusalem at that time.⁸ When Herod saw Jesus, he was greatly pleased, because for a long time he had been wanting to see him. From what he had heard about him, he hoped to see him perform a sign of some sort.⁹ He plied him with many questions, but Jesus gave him no answer.¹⁰ The chief priests and the teachers of the law were standing there, vehemently accusing him.¹¹ Then Herod and his soldiers ridiculed and mocked him. Dressing him in an elegant robe, they sent him back to Pilate.¹² That day Herod and Pilate became friends - before this they had been enemies.

¹³ Pilate called together the chief priests, the rulers and the people,¹⁴ and said to them, “You brought me this man as one who was inciting the people to rebellion. I have examined him in your presence and have found no basis for your charges against him.¹⁵ Neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us; as you can see, he has done nothing to deserve death.¹⁶ Therefore, I will punish him and then release him.”¹⁸ But the whole crowd shouted, “Away with this man! Release Barabbas to us!”¹⁹ (Barabbas had been thrown into prison for an insurrection in the city, and for murder.)

²⁰ Wanting to release Jesus, Pilate appealed to them again.²¹ But they kept shouting, “Crucify him! Crucify him!”²² For the third time he spoke to them: “Why? What crime has this man committed? I have found in him no grounds for the death penalty. Therefore I will have him punished and then release him.”²³ But with loud shouts they insistently demanded that he be crucified, and their shouts prevailed.²⁴ So Pilate decided to grant their demand.²⁵ He released the man who had been thrown into prison for insurrection and murder, the one they asked for, and surrendered Jesus to their will.

A Few Thoughts

Monologue

Song 476 My Lord, What Love Is This?

Questions for Discussion & Reflection

- 1) Discuss your reactions to the character of Barabbas?
- 2) Do you agree that "Crowds are fickle and untrustworthy because they depend on opinion?"
- 3) If it is true that one needs to "escape the crowd and follow Jesus", what does this mean for the Church's mission to the world and its ministry to the poor and dispossessed?
- 4) Have you ever stood back and allowed someone else to take the blame for your own actions?

Song God Of Faithfulness

Closing Prayer

Dear God, sometimes it seems such a risk to pray,
And to know your still small voice in everything.
Help me to overcome my doubt and release me from myself.
Make me aware of all that I have missed
And enable me to serve the people I love
Give me courage to pray, and be changed forever.
AMEN.