

**Sermon Series: “Prayers of the Passion”—Lord of Life Lutheran Church, Westfield, IN—Good Friday—3/29/2002**

**Title: “Into Your Hands I Commend My Spirit”**

**Text: Luke 23: 44-46**

<sup>44</sup>It was now about the sixth hour, and darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour, <sup>45</sup>for the sun stopped shining. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. <sup>46</sup>Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." When he had said this, he breathed his last.

**Intro:** *Ills.:* The Hand of God

**Theme:** When all is said and done we can entrust *EVERYTHING* of our lives into God’s hands because Jesus did before us.

***Because of Jesus’ death OUR TIMES are in God’s hands***

- Jesus’ life and death were in God’s hand and plan
  1. Jesus could set his course and walk toward Jerusalem because he knew the purpose the Father had for his life
  2. Jesus was not afraid to let go of his life and let God steer through Good Friday because he knew the “*joy set before him.*” (Heb. 12: 2)
- “*My times are in your (God’s) hands.*” Psalm 31: 15a —*what does that really mean?*
  1. Same Psalm from which Jesus quoted
  2. **Ills.: Prudential national ad campaign: “The GOD hand people”** (Instead of the “good hands people”)
  3. “*For none of us lives to himself alone and none of us dies to himself alone. If we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord.*” Romans 14:7-8

***Because of Jesus the END OF OUR TIME can be in God’s hands***

- Jesus could hand his soul into the Father’s hand because the payment was complete
  1. Not rejected by the Father because of sin remaining (My God, why have you forsaken)
  2. Death held no sway because no more sin to punish
  3. “*Then the end will come. Christ will hand over the kingdom to God the Father as he destroys every ruler, authority, and power. Christ must rule until God has put every enemy under his control. The last enemy he will destroy is death. 1 Cor. 15:24-26*
- At our last breath we can turn our life over to the Father because “*not even death*” can thwart God’s plan
  1. “*My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; and I give eternal life to them, and they shall never perish; and no one shall snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. John 10:27-29*
  2. **Ills.: “I don’t want you to go alone”**

**The Hand of God**

A man answered his telephone on his desk one day, he was greeted by the voice of a woman who said, “Dr. English, I am calling from the Philadelphia Museum of Art. The hand of God is here.” Momentarily, he was surprised by such an odd statement. But then he quickly recalled that several months before, he has asked if the museum’s gift shop had a replica of Rodin’s sculpture, **The Hand of God**. The shop didn’t have one in stock at the time, so the salesperson had promised to order it for him. The phone call was to inform him that it had arrived

**Not Going It Alone**

On a warm Sunday afternoon a loving father and his son went to the village cemetery to see the grave of a close friend’s baby which had suddenly died. As they stood by the headstone, the youngster asked, “Daddy, when you die and go to heaven, will you take me along?” The father was startled by the unusual question and asked, “Why did you ask me that?” The boy, gripped his father’s hand and looked up with love into his eyes and said, “Because I don’t want you to go alone.” The child sensed that fellowship with his dad would be broken by death.