

**The
Westworth
Word**

**Westworth
Church of Christ**

*Worshiping
Serving
Fellowshipping*

WELCOME VISITORS!
Thank you for joining us today to worship the Lord.

If this is your first visit here, please honor us by filling out a visitor’s card found on the back of each pew. Your prayer requests may also be made on the flip side of the card. At the close of service you can hand it to any member, place it in the contribution box at the front of the auditorium or simply leave it in the pew and we will collect it.

During the service we will celebrate communion. (Sacraments are available on the table in the entry foyer.) This is a time that we partake of unleavened bread and juice from the fruit of the vine to remind us what Jesus has done for us. Communion is not only about Jesus’ death, but his resurrection and triumph over death and sin. His resurrection is the source of our hope that God will fulfill his promise of eternal life through Jesus the Christ.

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- Address:** 5728 White Settlement Road
Westworth Village, TX 76114
 - Office Phone:** 817-738-7536
 - Worship Services:** Sunday 10:00 am
 - Bible Study:** Wednesday 7:00 pm
 - Men’s Group:** 1st & 3rd Tuesdays, 7:00 pm
 - Website:** www.westworthcoc.org
 - Email:** Westworthchurch@sbcglobal.net
 - Facebook Group:** Westworth Church of Christ
 - Minister:** Max Pratt
 - Trustees:** Curtis Dunson, Brian Flaherty,
Eric Kreger, Curtis Thompson

AT LAST!!

Everyone here at Westworth is practically 'giddy' with excitement over the arrival of Max and Juanita Pratt. What a joy to welcome them back "HOME".



We plan an "Official" welcome April 30, 2023 (5th Sunday Lunch).

After a brief time to get "settled in", let's have a special fellowship meal. We encourage you to bring cards of welcome, appreciation and love for our "new" minister and family. Invitations have been sent to sister congregations in the area who might like to join us, so please plan your food preparations accordingly. If there is a particular congregation you want to receive an invitation, please let Sherry know.

If you know of someone you feel would like to join in this celebration, please be sure to invite them—as well as to any service at any time, of course.

Happy Milestones

April Birthdays

Vivian Keller	Apr 5	Johnny Box	Apr 25
Sarah Lisle	Apr 7	Mark Cohen	Apr 26
Susan Flaherty	Apr 21	Tracy Robertson	Apr 27
Andrea Keller	Apr 23	Nita Parker	Apr 27



No April Anniversaries

"SOON"

Beautiful Feet Ministry

Service Day—Saturday, April 15, 2023 - 7:30 am—noon

Everyone is encouraged to take part in this opportunity to serve. There will be a variety of 'jobs' for everyone, so even youngsters can participate. Please check your schedules and take this opportunity to be of service. It will be a benefit to your hearts and minds—as well as your soul.

A sign up sheet can be found in the either foyer for those who plan to join the service project at Beautiful Feet ministry in Ft. Worth.

THE 7 LAST DAYS OF JESUS' LIFE

Friday Jesus' Last Day *Day 7 in the series*

Midnight on Friday found Jesus at the house of Annas, Caiaphas' father-in-law. It was the beginning of a series of trials. The first series was with the Jewish authorities. The second was carried out by the Roman government. There are also three parts to each series.

The gospels give us time markers for Jesus' last day. First, the formal Sanhedrin met early in the morning (Mark 15:1). Second, Jesus was crucified a 9:00 a.m. (Mark 15:25). Third, during the sixth hour (noon) it became dark (Matthew 27:45). Finally, he died at 3:00 p.m. (Luke 23:44).

The first Jewish inquiry was at the house of Annas. There Jesus was questioned. John recorded this incident in John 18:13-24. It seemed that John's family was acquainted with the High Priest. The reason for this connection was never explained. It could be that Zebedee's family was wealthy (Mark 1:20), or it may be that they were relatives. In any case John seemed to have been accepted at Annas' house. Annas' probed Jesus about the disciples and his teachings. Jesus' nonresponse to the questions brought a blow from one of Annas' officers.

Jesus was then taken to the site of the second inquiry, the house of Caiaphas. Though the sun has not risen this was the real trial of Jesus. John's account is silent during this proceeding, indicating that either he did not know Caiaphas, or that he was not allowed into this proceeding. Matthew and Mark are our sources for this trial. Those taking part in the trial besides Caiaphas were the chief priests, elders, and scribes, the same groups who attempted to trap Jesus on Tuesday. During this trial false witnesses were brought in but since their testimonies were contradictory the case against Jesus was falling apart. When they asked Jesus, he remained silent. Finally, out of frustration Caiaphas said to Jesus, "I adjure you by the living God, that you tell us whether you are the Christ the, Son of God." That word "adjure" meant that Jesus was under oath to God to tell the truth. He did. He told them he was "the Son of Man," God's Son. At Jesus' words Caiaphas tore his robes and declared Jesus a "blasphemer," and those in attendance agreed. They then spat in Jesus' face and beat him. It was in the course of this second trial that Peter bailed on Jesus. He denied Jesus not only once, but three times. Just as Jesus predicted. But the chief priests, elders, and scribes were not finished. There had to be a legal trial, and it would need to be held after the sun came up.

"Friday" (Continued from page 3)

Luke gives us the most information on this, the third Jewish trial (Luke 22:66-71). They took Jesus to the council chamber and questioned him before the whole council. The trial didn't last long because of Jesus' prior testimony before Caiaphas. They asked him if he was the Christ and he said, "Yes, I am." Only one question remained. How could they legally kill him, because only the civil government could carry out the death penalty. They had to go to Pilate.

It was after the last Jewish trial that Matthew records Judas' fate (Matthew 27:3-10). He returned the money to the chief priests, saying, "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood." I can't imagine Judas' despair, but it drove him to end his life.

John has the longest record of the first Roman trial (John 18:28-38). He gives us an accurate account of Pilate's questioning of Jesus. It is during this trial that Pilate questions Jesus about his kingship and his kingdom. The trial ends after Pilate's comment about "truth." Pilate then took Jesus out to the group of Jewish religious leaders and on lookers and pronounced Jesus innocent. When the Jews protested the verdict, they indicated that Jesus was from Galilee. Pilate was governor of Judea not Galilee, so Pilate sent Jesus to Herod Antipas the governor of Galilee who was visiting Jerusalem for the Passover. This could have been an attempt to extricate himself from the perversion of justice that the religious leaders wanted. Perhaps he remembered that Herod Antipas had John the Baptist executed. Another perversion of justice. Thus, he pronounced Jesus innocent and passed the decision to another authority.

Luke gives us the account of the second Roman trial conducted by Herod (Luke 23:6-12). This information probably came from Joanna, whose husband was Herod's steward. Herod questioned Jesus, but his purpose was probably to find out if Jesus was a risen John the Baptist (Mark 6:14-29), although he did want to see a miracle. After Herod had finished with his questions, he had Jesus mocked and treated with contempt. Then they dressed Jesus in a splendid or gorgeous robe and sent him back to Pilate without pronouncing any guilt or innocence.

I am sure Pilate wished he was in Rome when they informed him that Jesus was back. John recorded the third and last trial (John 18:39-19:16). Pilate had already found Jesus innocent. The crowd (probably filled with Pharisees, chief priests, elders, scribes, and their supporters) was insistent on the death penalty. Pilate reminded them that neither he nor Herod could find any guilt in Jesus. To make it worse, at this moment he received a message from his wife warning him to "have nothing to do with that righteous man" (Matthew 26:19). Pilate was desperately trying to escape this calamity. He suggested that he would continue

"Friday" (Continued from page 4)

the tradition of releasing a prisoner during Passover by releasing Jesus. It didn't work. The religious leaders countered by demanding that he free Barabbas. Pilate had one more card to play to save an innocent man. He would make a play for their sympathy. He would have Jesus scourged (John 19:1). Surely, when they saw a humbled and bloodied Jesus they would have mercy. Scourging generally left the victim unconscious, or dead. After the scourging the soldiers put a crown of thorns on his head, a purple robe over his shoulders, and took him back to Pilate. Pilate, then, presented him to the crowd. The response by the crowd must have sent shivers up Pilate's back and made the hairs on the back of his neck stand. They yelled, "crucify him." Pilate replied, "crucify him yourself." It was dawning on Pilate that this man was special. The Jews didn't want anybody crucified. Yet, they wanted Jesus crucified. Why? Now the lightning struck. The truth came out. The religious leaders accused Jesus of claiming to be the "Son of God." In Judea where it was against the law to have an image of any god this sounded an alarm. He took Jesus back into the Praetorium and asked him, "Where are you from?" Why did he ask that when he already knew Jesus was from Galilee. Why ask THAT question? But Jesus is silent. So, Pilate reminded Jesus that he had the authority to release or crucify him. But Jesus told Pilate, "you would have no authority over Me, unless it had been given you from above." (John 18:11). Pilate's heart and mind screamed this is wrong he must be released. He redoubled his effort to release Jesus. But the crowd was on the verge of a riot that could ignite a deadly revolt. Pilate had to be careful. Then the Jews put Pilate in checkmate. "If you let this man, go, you are no friend of Caesar. Anyone who claims to be a king opposes Caesar," they cried. Pilate was a beaten man. If they wrote a letter to Caesar about how he had released a man who claimed to be God, he could be replaced, demoted, or imprisoned. This was a political nightmare because the Roman Emperor Augustus was known as the "son of god," and at his death he was proclaimed to be god. Pilate wanted out. He took Jesus to the "Pavement." Then Pilate washed his hands, and said, "I am innocent of this man's blood." The Jews volunteered, "His blood be on us and on our children."

After the third Roman trial Pilate turned Jesus over to the soldiers and again Jesus was mocked, beaten, and spat upon. Next, he was made to carry his own cross to a place called Golgotha.

What can we say about Jesus' trials. It was unfair, to say the least, a miscarriage of justice. Absolutely. What about Pilate's roll in this calamity? I think Pilate was a reluctant, unwitting, participant in this tragedy. Clearly he

"Friday" (Continued from page 5)

thought Jesus was innocent and attempted to release him numerous times, but he was caught between the proverbial rock and a hard place. So, he surrendered to the religious leaders. Though Jesus told him, "...he who delivered Me up to you has the greater sin," Pilate was still guilty of sin because he knew what he should have done but didn't (James 4:17).

It was the sixth hour (9:00 a.m.) when Jesus was crucified. Crucifixion was not only used for execution, but it was also a way to humiliate the victim. The victim was stripped before being placed on the cross, and nails were driven through the hands and feet. We know that the soldiers offered him a pain killer which he refused (Mark 15:23). They also attached a sign to the cross that identified him as the King of the Jews. His followers who were present were his mother, John, Mary Magdalene, Mary, the wife of Clopas, and Salome.

Jesus spoke seven times during the crucifixion. The first time he asked God to forgive those who did this to him (Luke 23:34). Next, he told the thief that they would be together in paradise (Luke 23:43). The third time he told John to take care of his mother (John 19:26-27). Jesus then asked God why he had forsaken him (Mark 15:34). Next, he asked for something to drink (John 19:28). And, finally, he cried, "It is finished," (John 19:30). In addition, Luke has Jesus quoting Psalm 31:5, at this time.

After Jesus died an earthquake struck the region. It caused the temple veil to be torn in two from the top to the bottom. Matthew also recorded that the graves were opened, the dead were raised, and entered Jerusalem (Matthew 27:52-53). During the earthquake the centurion stated, "truly this man was the Son of God." (Mark 15:39). John points out that when Jesus was speared in the side blood and water came out, and that Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus asked for Jesus body (John 19:38-39).

Jesus died around 3:00 p.m., so Joseph and Nicodemus only had about four or five hours to take Jesus down and hastily prepare his body for burial. John lets us know he was buried in a tomb that was close to the place of the crucifixion (John 19:41-42).

As night fell on that day of days. Jesus' earthly job was finished. He had been faithful unto death. His disciples were in hiding. The women were in mourning. The Jewish religious leaders were satisfied with their actions. The Romans were glad there had been no riot. However, no one, but no one was ready for Sunday.

Saturday

The sun's first rays lite the stone pavement where Jesus stood before Pilate. Now there was silence where the screaming crowd of yesterday demanded crucifixion. The day would be calm and orderly. Offerings would be offered, and the people would observe the Passover Sabbath. The disciples, however, were in hiding.

One thing happened for certain on Saturday and the second event is still being debated. The first is recorded in Matthew 27:61-66, and the second is referenced in 1 Peter 3:18-20.

Matthew records that "on the next day" the chief priests and Pharisees met with Pilate. Their purpose was to ensure that Jesus' tomb remained undisturbed. The religious leaders were aware that Jesus had told the disciples that he would be delivered up to the authorities, killed, and rise after three days (Mark 9:11). So, they recommended that Pilate send a detachment of soldiers to guard the tomb. He agreed and sent the detachment to secure the grave, put a seal on it, and stand guard around it.

The second possible event is this confusing passage. **"¹⁸ For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit, ¹⁹ through whom also he went and preached to the spirits in prison ²⁰ who disobeyed long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built,"** 1 Peter 3:18-20. Many questions arise around this passage.

The first question is when did this happen? After Jesus' death on the cross, or was it after his resurrection? The scripture doesn't say.

The second is Who are the "spirits?" The New Testament refers to spirits in connection with the distinguishing of spirits (1Corinthians 12:10). 1 Timothy 4:1, mentions evil spirits in people. Angels and spirits are synonymous in Hebrews 1:14. While Hebrews 12:9, refers to God as the "Father of spirits." On the other hand, Hebrews 12:23 mentions "the spirits of righteous men."

Many scholars think that the "spirits" that Jesus was ministering to were the angels (sons of God) who took human wives (Genesis 6:1-4). The problem with identifying the "sons of God" in Genesis 6 with angels is that the term can also be theologically applied to descendants of Seth. It has also been used to refer to righteous people. So, the meaning of "spirits" is still obscure.

Whoever the "sons of God" and their offspring were, evil soon ruled the world except for Noah and his family. Because they refused to listen to Noah (2 Peter 2:5), they perished in the flood. So, in 1 Peter, Jesus made a "proclamation" to them. Was this a proclamation of doom, or was it a second chance at salvation?

“Saturday” (Continued from page 7)

We are not told. Some think Jesus was delivering the message of his victory over death and Satan to the fallen angels. It's possible. But, what could be gained by proclaiming a message of doom to angels who were already in hades waiting judgement. It would make more sense to take the message to lost people who did not have the advantage of either the Old Testament or the Gospel. I do know that Luke 4:18 is a quote from Isaiah 61:1-2. It tells us that Jesus was to “proclaim release to the captives,” in reference to those who are slaves to sin.

When I sift through all the interpretations of the passage in 1 Peter 2:18-20. I am reminded that God's thoughts and actions are so incomprehensible to me that I am always lost in wonder. His will, will always be accomplished.

So, on Saturday night, the soldiers slept, the disciples hid, and the women were ready to finish the burial process on Sunday morning.

But God had a surprise. One that would bring tears of joy from grieving eyes, that would bring praise from voices that had been silenced by fear.

THE EMPTY TOMB.

David Keller



OPPORTUNITIES TO GROW

Tuesday - Westworth Men's Group



All men of the congregation, friends, neighbors and family are invited to join the men's group on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month. Currently they are looking at concepts and ideas in the book:

IN A PIT WITH A LION ON A SNOWY DAY by Mark Batterson

Next Meeting: April 4, 2023, 7pm - Activity Bldg.



It is never too late to join any of the studies and fellowship listed here.



Wednesday Night Bible Study—

Each week @ 7pm—Activity Bldg.

Current study: **1 & 2 Samuel**

This is a great opportunity to learn more from God's word and enjoy casual fellowship with your brothers and sisters in Christ.



Thursdays Women's Virtual Bible Study

Each week on Thursday — 7:00 pm via Google meet



For information regarding access - web-site and passcode contact:

Tracy Robertson at

817-308-0554— or—snowgirlntx@yahoo.com

Current Study: **Encountering God**—*Cultivating Habits of Faith through the Spiritual Disciplines* by Kelly Minter

A new study will begin in May.

Gideon—Your Weakness. God's Strength

by Priscilla Shearer. All ladies are welcomed to join this group at any time. A great deal of learning and fellowship occurs from the comfort of your own home.

KID'S COLORING PAGE



KID'S COLORING PAGE



Crayons are available in the south foyer, along with other pages for the children.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Trustee in charge for April: Brian Flaherty

Date	Today—April 2
Open	Randy Fetters
Usher	Brian Flaherty
Songs/Close	Eric Kreger
Prayer	Max Lisle
Communion	David Keller
Bible Story Kids Church	Curtis Dunson / Blair Montgomery & Sarah Thompson
Reading	Samuel Flaherty
Lesson	Max Pratt
A/V	Susan Flaherty

COMING WEEKS

Date	April 9	April 16	April 23
Open	Brian Flaherty	Curtis Thompson	Brian Flaherty
Usher	Curtis Dunson	Samuel Flaherty	Curtis Dunson
Songs/Close	Samuel Flaherty	Curtis Dunson	Eric Kreger
Prayer	Mike Lisle	Eric Kerger	Tom Reynolds
Communion	Johnny Box	Bill Jones	Mike Lisle
Bible Story Kids Church	No children's church	Brian Flaherty / Sherry Jones & Susan Flaherty	Max Lisle Sherri Dunson & Tracy Robertson
Reading	Marty Montgomery	Sharold Ferris	John Snell
Lesson	Max Pratt	Max Pratt	Max Pratt
A/V	Christi Kreger	Randy Fetters	Christi Kreger

Communion Preparation April : Hettie Keller