

On Tuesday, Jesus was about the ministry of healing. Healing for the body, but most surely, healing for the soul as well. As he gains favor among the people, the religious elite become more infuriated and fearful. But, not only were they frightened; the disciples are beginning to sense what it will cost to truly follow Jesus.

Today, as we move one day closer toward the resurrection of our Lord, we are given this opportunity to imagine the sights, sounds, feels, tastes, and smells as Jesus walked this road to everlasting life for us. It was a hard walk, hard week; but in faith, Jesus kept moving forward for us. This week let's keep walking with him!

WEDNESDAY: SCRIPTURE: John 13:21-32

Not only did Jesus make the scribes and Pharisees look foolish, but he finally spoke out openly against them. Sometime during the day, the chief priests met together with the high priest, Caiaphas, to plan the killing of Jesus. Judas Iscariot met with them and agreed to deliver Jesus for thirty pieces of silver. On Wednesday, Jesus did not venture back into Jerusalem, but spent the entire day at the home of friends in Bethany. At dusk he walked out onto the roof of the house and watched the sun setting behind the Judean hills. Memories of childhood, youth, and growing up, surely mingled with thoughts about tomorrow and the road he must walk. He "had been about his father's business" for 33 years, and his work was now almost done. His life had been lived filled with love — wondrous love — and now, in perfect, wondrous love, he was about to die.

Most mysterious and loving God, I come before you, not as one who is a perfect practitioner of Christ's method, but as one who has sincerely admired him, yearned to be like him; yet, has only applied his truth in fragmentary ways. Too often I have grabbed at life and hoarded it for myself, rather than sharing and losing it in the cause of the Gospel. I have tried to nullify my anxieties by surrounding myself with possessions, but have reaped only deep discontents. I have walked over the lives of others in my hurry to get what and where I want, but have ended up missing out on much love. Every now and then I have dared to be bold in faith, hope and love, and have briefly tasted the nobler joy of Christ, only to slip back again into a no-risk policy of self-preservation. Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving kindness, and according to your abundant mercy, blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sins. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and uphold me with a willing spirit. Speak to me Lord, I am ready to listen.

May the love of God enfold us. The peace of Christ surround us. The presence and comfort of the Spirit be in and among us. Amen

Pastor Sherry