

# Hour of Treachery

*“Let his habitation be desolate...”*  
(Acts 1:20)





# Covenant Thursday





# Covenant Thursday

## Raising of Matins Incense

- Prayed in the first chorus (division) of the Church
- Theme:
  - Betrayal/treachery
  - Exposure
  - Battle between good and evil
- Event:
  - Judas' demise



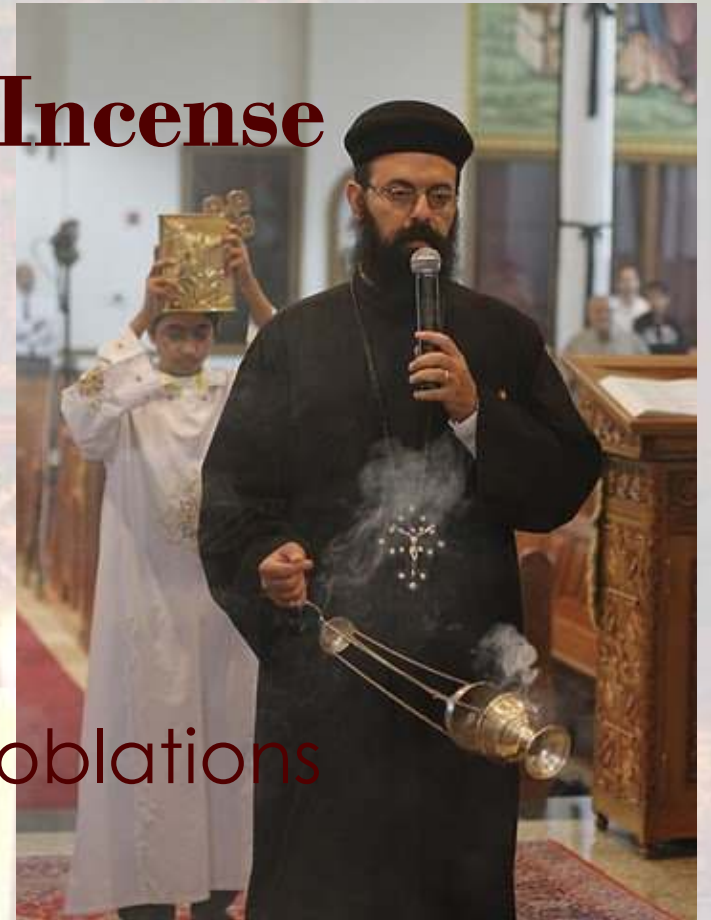
# Raising of Matins Incense

- The Prophecies
- Holy Week Praise
- Thanksgiving Prayer
- Verses of the Cymbals
- Psalm 50
- Litanies of the sick and the oblations
- The Doxologies

ՓՈՐՏ ՈՒ ՈՒՆ (God have mercy upon us)

- Hymn of the Cross: ՓԱ ԵՏԱԿԵՆՎ

– *This is He who presented Himself upon the cross, an acceptable sacrifice for the salvation of our race. And His Good Father inhaled His sweet aroma on Golgotha in the evening*





# The Raising of Matins Incense

- Praxis (Books of Acts) in sad Paschal tone (Acts 1:15-20)
  - Speaks of what happened to Judas: his money and his ministry
- Procession of Reprimanding of Judas, in the opposite direction
- Trisagion (Paschal tone)
- Litany of the Gospel
- Psalm  
(chanted in the Syrian “Shammy” tune)
- Gospel, Exposition, Litanies



# Prophecies

- Exodus 17:8-16
  - *Now Amalek came and fought with Israel in Rephidim. 9 And Moses said to Joshua, “Choose us some men and go out, fight with Amalek. Tomorrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the rod of God in my hand.” ...*
  - Battle between good and evil
  - Salvation by the Cross: Moses' hands stretched out

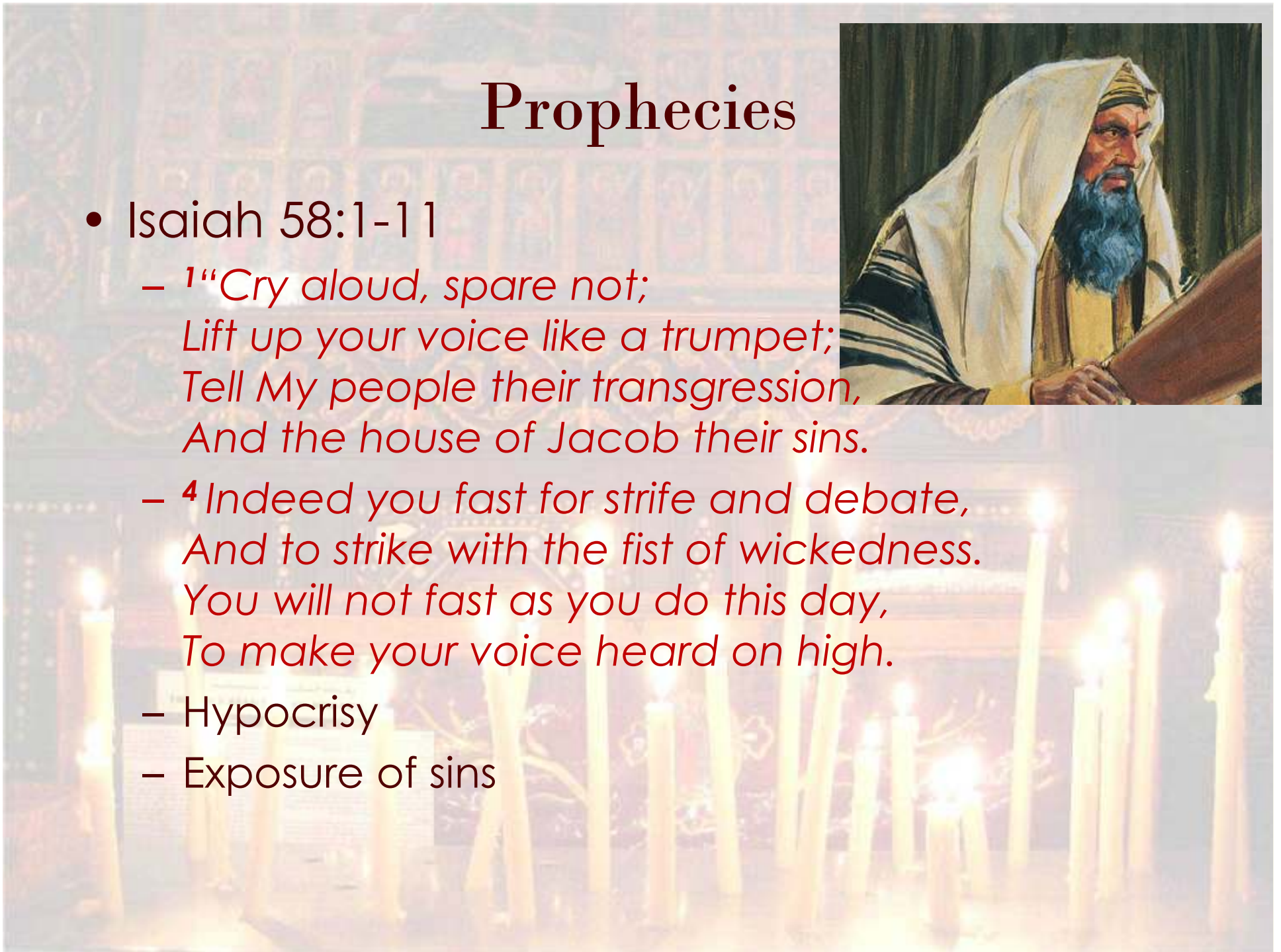




# Prophecies

- Isaiah 58:1-11

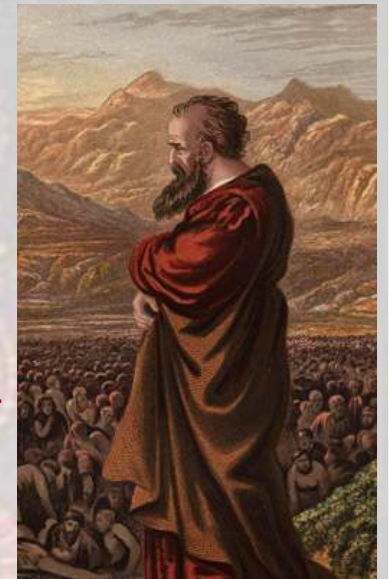
- *1“Cry aloud, spare not;  
Lift up your voice like a trumpet;  
Tell My people their transgression,  
And the house of Jacob their sins.*
- *4Indeed you fast for strife and debate,  
And to strike with the fist of wickedness.  
You will not fast as you do this day,  
To make your voice heard on high.*
- Hypocrisy
- Exposure of sins



# Prophecies

- Ezekiel 18:20-32

- <sup>20</sup> The soul who sins shall die. The son shall not bear the guilt of the father, nor the father bear the guilt of the son. The righteousness of the righteous shall be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon himself.
- <sup>30</sup> “Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways,” says the Lord GOD. “Repent, and turn from all your transgressions, so that iniquity will not be your ruin.
- <sup>32</sup> For I have no pleasure in the death of one who dies,” says the Lord GOD. “Therefore turn and live!”
- Judgment
- Warning





# *Praxis.. Praxis..*



## Praxis: Acts 1:15-20

And in those days Peter rose up in the midst of the brothers, There were many closely gathered there, one hundred twenty names, and he said

“Men and brethren, It is necessary for this scripture to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit foretold by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who seized Jesus.

“For he was numbered with us and obtained a part in this ministry.

وفى تلك الأيام قام بطرس فى وسط الأخوة وكان عدة أسماء معاً نحو مئة وعشرين اسماً فقال:

أيها الرجال أخوتنا ينبغى أن يتم هذا المكتوب الذى سبق الروح القدس فقال به بقم داود عن يهوذا الذى صار دليلاً للذين قبضوا على يسوع .

إذ كان معدوداً بيننا وصار له نصيب فى هذه الخدمة .



Indeed, this man also purchased a field with the reward of iniquity, and he fell upon his face, and he was broken in his midst and all his bowels gushed out.

And it was manifested unto every one who dwells in Jerusalem, in so much as that field is called in their language, 'Akel Dama', that is the 'Field of Blood'.

For it is written in the book of Psalms, '(let his habitation be desolate)<sup>3</sup> and let no one live in it', and 'let another take his bishopric.'

فإن هذا اشترى له حقلاً من أجرة الظلم وإذا سقط على وجهه وانشق من الوسط فانسكبت أحشاؤه كلها.

وصار ذلك معلوماً عند جميع سكان أورشليم حتى دعى اسم ذلك الحقل فى لغتهم "أكيل داماغ" الذى تفسيره حقل الدم.

لأنه مكتوب فى سفر المزامير: (لتصر داره خراباً)<sup>3</sup> ولا يكن فيها ساكن وليأخذ وظيفته آخر.

*“For he was numbered with us, and obtained a part in this ministry” (Acts 1:17)*

- Our Lord Jesus Christ has chosen Judas
  - But he was not a believer true in his faith,
  - The Lord called him “a devil” (John 6:70).
- Why did He choose him, and hand him the treasury, when He knew that he was a robber and a thief?
  - At that time, he was ready to believe in the Lord, and to follow Him; he had some good in him.
  - The Lord did not deal with him on account of what he would be, but on account of what he was, at the time he was chosen.
  - No pre-judgement, despite fore-knowledge

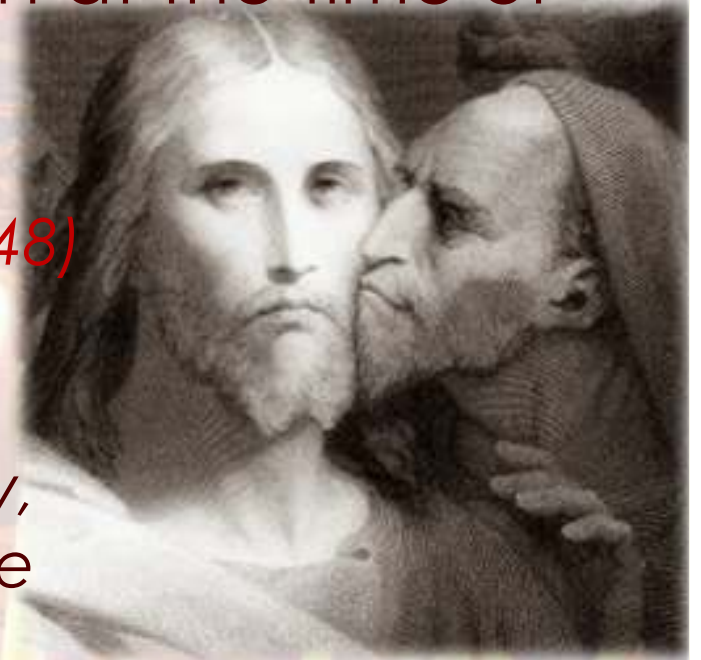




*“For he was numbered with us, and obtained a part in this ministry” (Acts 1:17)*

- Christ did not judge him, even at the time of the actual treason:

- *“Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?” (Lk 22:48)*
- Do not be preoccupied with judgment, but with the positive aspect of preaching, of ministry, and of the proclamation of love (St. Augustine)
- To give the chance, even to the traitors, to return to God in repentance, if they intend to.



*“For he was numbered with us, and obtained a part in this ministry” (Acts 1:17)*

- Christ allowed the presence of Judas among the disciples, and did not reveal his identity as a traitor and a thief, until the end:
  - *“What you do, do quickly.” (Jn 13:27)*
  - Even among the ministers themselves we find tares and not wheat
    - It is not for us to uproot the tares, until harvest time
  - God allows even the evildoers to work, and being a Sanctifier of the freedom of man, He would not compel them to repent.
    - If they do repent, that would be for their own edification and glory, but if they persist on their evil, He will turn even their evil for the edification of many .



*“(Now this man purchased a field with the wages of iniquity...)” (Acts 1:18)*

- Judas gave back the silver to the chief priests and the elders, feeling remorse for betraying innocent blood.
- They refused to take it back, counting the money as his
  - They probably felt as well that it is the price of innocent blood.





*“(Now this man purchased a field with the wages of iniquity...)” (Acts 1:18)*

- When Judas threw down the pieces of silver in the temple, they bought with them the potter's field, to bury strangers in it.
- St. Peter considered as though it was purchased by Judas himself.





*“(...and falling headlong, he burst open in the middle and all his entrails gushed out)” (Acts 1:18).*

- The Lord Christ covered up for Judas all along those years, Yet Judas did not cover up for himself
  - He was exposed before the world, as he will be in the great day of the Lord.
  - His body entrails gushed out, as well as those of his soul that were corrupted by his betrayal to the Lord Himself.



# Judas' Death



- 1- Judas hanged himself
  - because of his weight, the rope was torn, and Judas fell headlong, probably on a rock, burst open in the middle, and all his entrails gushed out.
- 2- Hanged himself in a waste land
  - where his body rotted, his belly swollen, then burst open, and the stray dogs came and violated his remains.
- 3- Having been overcome by despair and terror, he threw himself down from the roof of his house, and his belly burst open.

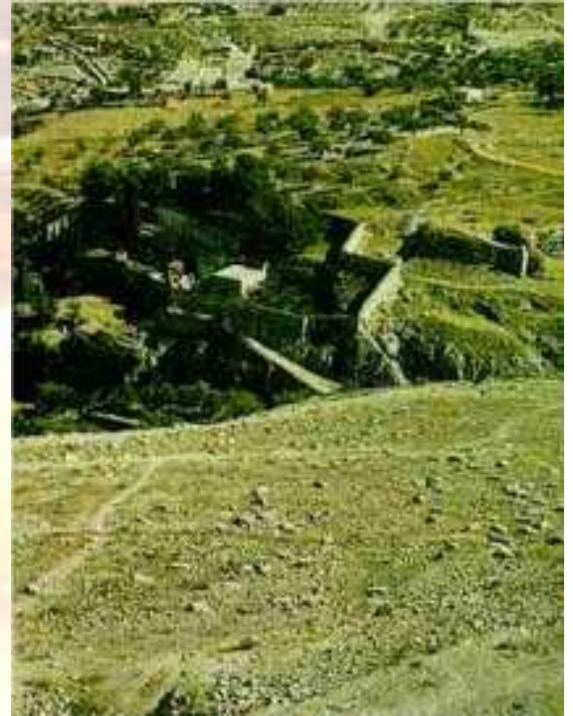


# Judas' Death

- 4- The devil entered into him, carried him up in the air, and then cast him down to the earth, to have his belly burst open. (Lightfoot)
- He died due to his intense grief. (Wakefield)
- Symbolic interpretation:
  - His falling down from his exalted position as an apostle of the Lord Christ, to the bottom of the abyss, as a betrayer to the Lord.
  - He lost his position and dignity, became in shame and disgrace before everyone, as his entrails gushed out to be despised by all.

*“And it became known to all those dwelling in Jerusalem, so that field is called in their own language, ‘Akel dama’, that is, (field of blood)” (Acts 1:19).*

- Chaldean- Syrian language: ‘Akel Dama’; that is, (field of blood)
- It was purchased with the price of the Lord’s life, or of His blood shed on the cross.
- This name remained testifying to the crime of treason that was committed by Judas.





*“For it is written in the book of Psalms: ‘Let his habitation be desolate, and let no one live in it’, and, ‘let another take his office’ ” (Acts 1:20).*

- **Ps 69:25** Let their dwelling place be desolate;  
Let no one live in their tents.

**26** For they persecute the ones You have struck, And talk of the grief of those You have wounded.

**27** Add iniquity to their iniquity, And let them not come into Your righteousness.

**28** Let them be blotted out of the book of the living, And not be written with the righteous.

- **Ps 109:8** Let his days be few,  
And let another take his office.

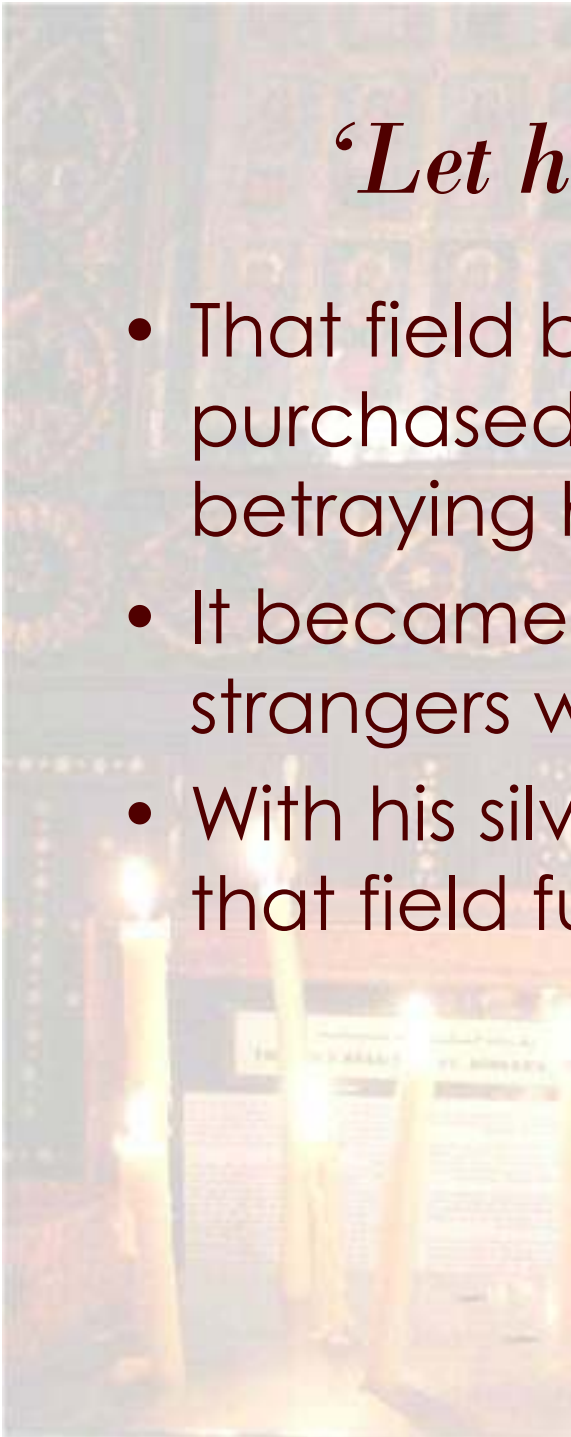
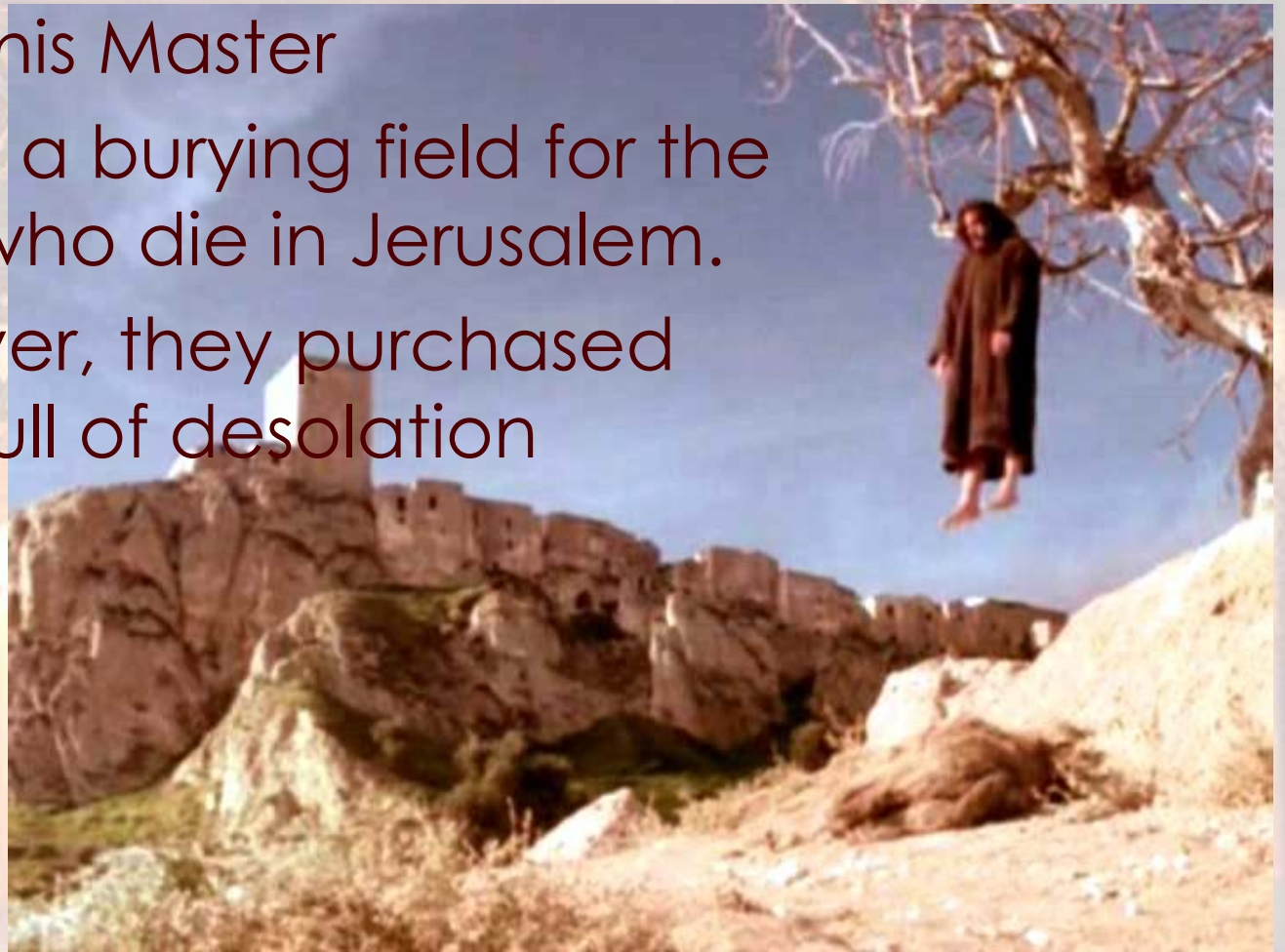
## *‘Let his habitation be desolate’*

- The prophecy about Judas (Ps. 69.25, 28), is in the plural form,
  - It refers to all those who followed his lead, namely the chief priests and the elders of the people.
  - Having committed treason, they were deprived of their priestly work, and their ministry as overseers of the temple or the new house of the Lord.
  - *“Let Judas Iscariot be ashamed for his bishopric has been given to another. And his evil wife became blind because she counseled him to take the silver. The disobedient opposing Jews, who gave false witness about the Lord’s resurrection, are now exposed.”*  
(Resurrection exposition)



## *‘Let his habitation be desolate’*

- That field became his dwelling place that he purchased with the silver he earned for betraying his Master
- It became a burying field for the strangers who die in Jerusalem.
- With his silver, they purchased that field full of desolation



# Judas' Reprimand





# Judas' Reprimand

|                                                                                    |                                                                               |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Judas (6) who has broken the law.                                                  | يايهودا (6) مخالف الناموس.                                                    |
| With silver, you have sold Christ to the Jews, who have broken the law.            | بالفضة بعت المسيح لليهود<br>مخالفى الناموس.                                   |
| The Law opposers took Christ and nailed Him on the Cross at the place of Cranium.  | فأما مخالفو الناموس فأخذوا<br>المسيح وسمروه على الصليب<br>في موضع الاقرانيون. |
| Barabas the condemned thief was set free and the Master, the Judge they crucified. | باراباس اللص المدان أطلقوه<br>والسيد الديان صلبوه                             |

|                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                   |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| They thrust a spear in Your side, and as a thief they nailed You on the Cross. They laid You in a tomb, O You, Who raised Lazarus from the tomb. | في جنبك وضعوا حربة ومثل لص سمروك علي خشبة ووضعوك في قبر يامن أقام لعازر من القبر. |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

|                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                 |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| For as Jonah stayed three days inside the whale's belly, also our Savior stayed three days. After He died, they sealed the tomb. | لأنه كما مكث يونان ثلاثة أيام في بطن الحوت هكذا مخلصنا أقام ثلاثة أيام: بعد أن مات ختموا القبر. |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

|                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                        |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Truly He rose but the soldiers were not aware that truly the Savior of the world has risen. He Who suffered and died for our sake, O Lord, glory be to You. Amen. | بالحقيقة قام والجند لم يعلموا أنه حقاً نهض مخلص العالم الذي تألم وقام لأجل جنسنا. يارب المجد لك. آمين. |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|



## Psalm 55:21, 12

His words were softer than oil, Yet they were drawn swords.

كلامه ألين من الدهن وهو نصال.

For if an enemy reproaches me; Then I would bear it. If he who hates me said great things against me, then I would hide from him. Alleluia.

فلو كان العدو عيرني إذا لاحتملت ولو أن مبغضى عظم على الكلام لاخفيت منه هليلوياه.

- Chanted in the sad Syrian “Shammy” tune

- **Πεκῆρονος**: 11<sup>th</sup> Tues, 12<sup>th</sup> Fri

- “Your throne, God, is forever and ever. The scepter of righteousness is the scepter of your kingdom” (Ps 45:6)

- **Արծ ռոն**: 3<sup>rd</sup> Eve of Thurs, 1<sup>st</sup> Thurs

- Battle between good and evil!

# Psalm 55:21

- His words were softer than oil, Yet they were drawn swords.

- Betrayal of Judas: (Lk 22)
- <sup>47</sup> And while He was still speaking, behold, a multitude; and he who was called Judas, one of the twelve, went before them and drew near to Jesus to kiss Him. <sup>48</sup> But Jesus said to him, “Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?”





## Psalm 55:21, 12

- *For if an enemy reproaches me;  
Then I would bear it.  
If he who hates me said great things against  
me, then I would hide from him.*
  - Betrayal comes not from an enemy, but from a close friend
  - If it came from an enemy, that's expected and bearable.



# Hour of Treachery

- *'Let his habitation be desolate'*
- Event: Judas' demise
- Theme:
  - Betrayal
  - Exposure
  - Battle between good and evil
- Readings:
  - Prophecies
  - Praxis (Acts)
  - Judas' reprimand
  - Psalm

