

Psalms



of the Savior's
Suffering

LENTEN VESPERS #3

March 8, 2023

STAND

M: Jesus Christ is the light of the world,

C: the light no darkness can overcome.

M: Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening,

C: and the day is almost over.

M: Be our light and scatter the darkness,

C: and hear our evening hymn of praise.

My Faith Looks Up to Thee

CW 811



1 My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Cal - va - ry,
2 May thy rich grace im - part strength to my faint - ing heart;
3 While life's dark maze I tread and griefs a - round me spread,



Sav - ior di - vine. Now hear me while I pray; take all my
my zeal in - spire! As thou hast died for me, oh, may my
be thou my guide. Bid dark-ness turn to day, wipe sor-row's



guilt a - way; O let me from this day be whol - ly thine!
love to thee pure, warm, and change-less be, a liv - ing fire!
tears a - way, nor let me ev - er stray from thee a - side.

M: Lord God, we thank you for this day of grace now drawing to a close. Stay with us, and warm our hearts with your forgiving love in Christ. By your Word keep our faith burning brightly, that we may walk in the light of your presence through the darkness of this world. Come and bless us as we worship you—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

LET MY PRAYER RISE BEFORE YOU

C: Let my prayer rise be - fore you as in - cense, the lift - ing
up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice. O Lord, I
call to you; come to me quick - ly; hear my voice when I
cry to you. Let my prayer rise be - fore you as in - cense,
the lift - ing up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.

The musical score is written on five staves in G major (one sharp) and common time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are: "C: Let my prayer rise be - fore you as in - cense, the lift - ing". The second staff continues: "up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice. O Lord, I". The third staff: "call to you; come to me quick - ly; hear my voice when I". The fourth staff: "cry to you. Let my prayer rise be - fore you as in - cense,". The fifth staff ends with a double bar line: "the lift - ing up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice."

M: Let our prayers be acceptable in your sight. Come and help us in time of need that we may sing your praise in holy joy now and forever, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

Hymn (by students in grades 5-8) "Lamb of God"

Part 3 of the Passion History: Jesus Before The Sanhedrin

While Jesus was still speaking, suddenly Judas (one of the twelve) arrived. With him was a large crowd with lanterns, torches, swords, and clubs, from the chief priests and elders of the people. Judas was leading them.

Then Jesus, knowing everything that was going to happen to him, went out and asked them, "Who are you looking for?"

"Jesus the Nazarene," they replied.

"I am he," Jesus told them.

Judas, the one betraying him, was standing with them. Then when Jesus told them, “I am he,” they backed away and fell to the ground.

Then Jesus asked them again, “Who are you looking for?”

“Jesus the Nazarene,” they said.

“I told you I am he,” Jesus replied. “So if you are looking for me, let these men go.”

This was to fulfill the statement he had spoken, “I lost none of those you gave me.”

Now the betrayer had given them a sign, “Whoever I kiss is the man. Arrest him.”

Immediately he went to Jesus and said, “Greetings, Rabbi!” and kissed him.

Jesus said to him, “Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?”

Then they advanced, took hold of Jesus and arrested him.

When those who were around him saw what was about to happen, they said to him, “Lord, should we strike with the sword?” Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it, struck the high priest’s servant and cut off his right ear. The servant’s name was Malchus.

But Jesus responded, “Stop! No more of this! Put your sword back into its place, because all who take the sword will die by the sword. Shall I not drink the cup my Father has given me? Do you not realize that I could call on my Father, and at once he would provide me with more than twelve legions of angels? But then how would the Scriptures be fulfilled that say it must happen this way?” Then he touched the servant’s ear and healed him.

At that same time Jesus said to the crowd, “Have you come out to arrest me with swords and clubs, as if I were a robber? Day after day I was sitting in the temple courts teaching, and you did not arrest me. But all this has happened, so that the writings of the prophets would be fulfilled.” Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.

The company of soldiers, the commander, and the Jewish officers arrested Jesus and bound him. First they led him to

Annas, because he was father-in-law to Caiaphas, who was high priest that year.

Now it was Caiaphas who had advised the Jews, “It is better that one man should die for the people.”

Simon Peter and another disciple kept following Jesus. That disciple was known to the high priest, so he went into the high priest’s courtyard with Jesus. But Peter stood outside by the door. So the other disciple, the one known to the high priest, went out and talked

to the girl watching the door and brought Peter in.

The servants and officers were standing around a fire of coals they had made because it was cold. While they warmed themselves, Peter entered and sat down with the guards to see how it would turn out.

While Peter was in the courtyard below, one of the servant girls of the high priest came. When she saw Peter warming himself, she looked directly at him and said, “You were also with Jesus the Galilean.”

But he denied it in front of everyone, saying, “I do not know what you are talking about. Woman, I do not know him.”

When Peter went out to the entry way, someone else saw him and said to those who were there, “This is one of them. This fellow was with Jesus of Nazareth.”

Again, Peter denied it with an oath and said, “I do not know the man.”

After a little while those who stood by came and said to Peter, “Surely you are also one of them, because even your accent gives you away. You are a Galilean!”

Then he began to curse and to swear, “I do not know this man you are talking about! I do not know the man!” At that very moment, while he was still speaking, the rooster crowed. The Lord turned and looked at Peter. Then Peter remembered the Lord’s word, how he had said to him, “Before the rooster crows today you will deny me three times.” And he went outside, broke down and wept bitterly.

The high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching. Jesus answered him, “I have spoken openly to the

world. I always taught in a synagogue or at the temple, where all the Jews gather. I said nothing in secret. Why question me? Ask those who heard what I told them. Look, they know what I said.”

When he said this, one of the officers standing there struck Jesus in the face. “Is that how you answer the high priest?” he demanded.

“If I said something wrong,” Jesus answered, “testify about what was wrong. But if I said what is right, why do you hit me?”

The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for false testimony against Jesus so that they could put him to death. They found none, even though many false witnesses came forward. Finally, two came forward and said, “This fellow said, ‘I am able to destroy the temple of God, and to rebuild it in three days.’” Yet even on this point, their testimony did not agree.

The high priest stood up and said to him, “Have you no answer? What is this that these men are testifying against you?” But Jesus remained silent. Then the high priest said to him, “I place you under oath by the living God: tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God!”

“I am,” Jesus said. “And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of power and coming with the clouds of heaven.”

Then the high priest tore his robes and said, “He has spoken blasphemy! Why do we need any more witnesses? See, you have just heard the blasphemy! What do you think?”

They answered, “He is deserving of death!” Then some began to spit on him. They covered his face, struck him with their fists, and said, “Prophecy to us, Christ! Who hit you?” The guards also took him and beat him. And they went on saying many other blasphemous things against him.

P: All we like sheep have gone astray, and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

C: By his wounds we are healed.

Confession of Faith

All: I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord. He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sins, from death and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver, but with his holy precious blood and with his innocent suffering and death. All this he did that I should be his own, and live under him in his kingdom, and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence and blessedness, just as he has risen from death and lives and rules eternally. This is most certainly true.

HYMN Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted

CW 430

1 Stricken, smitten, and afflicted,
see him dying on the tree!

'Tis the Christ, by man rejected;
yes, my soul, 'tis he, 'tis he.

'Tis the long-expected Prophet,
David's son, yet David's Lord;
proofs I see sufficient of it:
'tis the true and faithful Word.

2 Tell me, as you hear him groaning,
was there ever grief like his,
friends through fear his cause disowning,
foes insulting his distress?
Many hands were raised to wound him,
none would intervene to save;
but the deepest stroke that pierced him
was the stroke that justice gave.

3 If you think of sin but lightly
nor suppose the evil great,
here you see its nature rightly,
here its guilt may estimate.
Mark the sacrifice appointed,
see who bears the awful load;
'tis the Word, the Lord's anointed,
Son of Man and Son of God.

**4 Here we have a firm foundation,
here the refuge of the lost:
Christ, the rock of our salvation,
is the name of which we boast;
Lamb of God, for sinners wounded,
sacrifice to cancel guilt!
None shall ever be confounded
who on him their hope have built.**

SERMON TEXT Psalms 41:1-13

¹How blessed is the person who understands the plight of the weak!

May the LORD deliver him in the day of trouble.

²May the LORD guard him and keep him alive.

May he be blessed in the land.

May you not surrender him to the desire of his enemies.

³**May the LORD sustain him on his sickbed.**

You raise him up from his bed.

⁴**I said, “LORD, have mercy on me.**

Heal my soul, for I have sinned against you.”

⁵**My enemies speak evil about me and say:**

“When will he die and his name perish?”

⁶**If one comes to see me, he speaks falsely.**

In his heart he collects malicious plans.

He goes out. He speaks about them in the street.

⁷All who hate me whisper together against me.

They plan evil for me. They say,

⁸“A deadly affliction is poured out on him.

He will never get up from the place where he lies.”

⁹Even a man who was at peace with me, a man whom I trusted,

who ate my bread, has raised up his heel to step on me.

¹⁰But you, LORD, have mercy on me.

Raise me up, so that I can repay them.

¹¹From this I know that you are pleased with me:

My enemy does not triumph over me.

¹²As for me—in my integrity you uphold me,

and you set me up in your presence forever.

¹³Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel,
from eternity to eternity. Amen and Amen.

King David Sings Of His Suffering And The Savior's

I. Suffering inflicted by one who shared his meal

II. Suffering inflicted by one who raised his heel

STAND

Our Response to God's Word (*sung to tune of CW, 312*)

1 Praise to you and adoration,

Blessed Jesus, Son of God,

Who, to serve your own creation,

Came to share our flesh and blood.

Guide me that I never may

From your fold or pastures stray,

But with zeal and joy exceeding

Follow where your steps are leading.

OFFERING (Grades 5 & 6 will play "Amazing Grace" during offering)

KYRIE

M: In the closing hours of this day, hear us as we pray, O Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

M: For the well-being of people everywhere, for the growth of your church in all the world, and for the strengthening of all who serve and worship here, we pray, O Lord:

C: Christ, have mercy.

M: For one another, young and old, for your blessings that come with every stage of life, and for joy in doing your will, we pray, O Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

M: For our public servants who work day and night to bring protection, justice, learning, and health to this and every place, we pray to you, O Lord:

C: Lord, hear our prayer.

M: For favorable weather and bountiful harvests, for clothing and food, for health of body, mind and spirit, and for deliverance from all sin and every form of evil, we pray to you, O Lord:

C: Lord, hear our prayer.

M: For the faithful who have gone before us, who have shared with us your good news, whose souls are now at rest in your heavenly kingdom, we give you thanks, O Lord:

C: Thanks be to God.

M: In thanksgiving for your many and varied gifts to us, we now commend ourselves to your care. Be our shield and strength, O Lord.

C: Amen.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

M: Lord God, all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works come from you. Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments. Defend us also from the fear of our enemies that we may live in peace and quietness, through the merits of Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

SONG OF SIMEON



C: In peace, Lord, you let your ser - vant now de - part
ac - cord - ing to your word. For my eyes have seen



your sal - va - tion, which you have pre - pared for ev - 'ry
 peo - ple, a light to light - en the Gen - tiles
 and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

BENEDICTION

M: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN The Lord's Prayer *(Sung to the tune of CW 783)*

C: (sing) Father in heaven, holy be your name.

Your kingdom come. Your will be done the same
 On earth as it is done in heaven above.
 Our Father, bless your children with your love.

Our daily bread provide for us each day.
 As we forgive, so take our sins away.
 In time of trial, saving Lord, be near,
 From every evil our Deliverer.

Yours is the kingdom; in our hearts you reign.
 Yours is the power; all things you maintain.
 Yours is the glory, sound it forth again
 For ever and for evermore. Amen.

***St. Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran
Church & School***

(Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod)

709 Milton Ave., Janesville, WI53545

Church & School Phone: 752-1304

James Janke, Pastor 563-4383

Dale Beutin, Congregational Asst., 774-5177

Kevin Proeber, Principal 752-5035

www.stmatthewsjanesville.org