

# Psalms



of the Savior's  
Suffering

**LENTEN VESPERS #5**

**March 22, 2023**

**Opening Hymn: “How Truly Blest Are They” (tune of CW #431)**

**1 How truly blest are they  
Who shun the sinners’ ways  
Among their counsels never stand,  
Nor take the scorners’ place,**

**2 But make the law of God  
Their study and delight  
Amid the labors for the day  
And watches of the night.**

**3 They like a tree shall thrive  
With waters near the root.  
Fresh as the leaf their name shall live;  
Their works are heav’nly fruit.**

**Invocation**

**P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.**

**C: Amen.**

**The Confession of Sins (Psalm 130 and TLH #327)**

**P: Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD;**

**C: O LORD, hear my voice.**

**P: Let your ears be attentive**

**C: to my cry for mercy.**

**All: (sing) Out of the deep I cry  
The woeful deep of sin,  
Of evil done in days gone by,  
Of evil now within. (tune of CW #431)**

**P: If you, O LORD, kept a record of sins,**

**C: O LORD, who could stand?**

**P: But with you there is forgiveness;**

**C: therefore you are feared.**

**All: (sing) Out of the deep I call  
To you, O Lord, to you.  
Before your throne of grace I fall;  
With naught to offer you. (tune of CW #431)**

P: I wait for the LORD, my soul waits,

**C: and in his word I put my hope.**

P: My soul waits for the LORD more than watchmen wait for the morning,

**C: more than watchmen wait for the morning.**

**All: (sing) Out of the deep of fear  
And dread of coming shame;  
All night till morning watch is near  
I plead in Jesus' name. (tune of CW #431)**

P: O Israel, put your hope in the Lord,

**C: for with the LORD is unfailing love**

P: and with him is full redemption.

**C: He himself will redeem Israel from all their sins.**

**All: (sing) Lord, there is mercy now,  
As ever was, will be.  
Before your throne of grace I bow;  
Be merciful to me. (tune of CW #431)**

### **Prayer**

P: God of might and compassion, open your ears to the prayers of your people, who wait for you. Do not leave us to drown in the depths of our sin and guilt, but hear your people pleading for the fullness of your redemption. For this we wait and keep watch in faith and hope through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

### **Hymn: (by Senior Choir) "Take My Yoke Upon You"**

#### **Part 5 of the Passion History: Jesus Condemned to Death**

Pilate called together the chief priests, the rulers, and the people, and said to them, "You brought this man to me as one

who is misleading the people. Look, I have examined him before you. I have found no basis for a charge against this man regarding the things of which you accuse him. Herod did not either, because he sent him back to us. See, he has done nothing worthy of death. So I will punish him and then release him.”

At the time of the feast the governor had a custom: to release one prisoner to the crowd, whomever they wanted. At that time they were holding a notorious prisoner named Barabbas, who had been thrown in prison for a rebellion in the city and for murder. The crowd came up and began to ask him to do what he usually did for them.

So when they were assembled, Pilate said to them, “Do you want me to release the King of the Jews to you? Whom do you want me to release to you? Barabbas—or Jesus, who is called Christ?” Pilate in fact knew that they had handed Jesus over to him because of envy.

While he was sitting on the judgment seat, Pilate’s wife sent him a message. She said, “Have nothing to do with that righteous man, since I have suffered many things today in a dream because of him.”

But the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus put to death. The governor asked them, “Which of the two do you want me to release to you?”

They all shouted together with one voice: “Take him away! Release Barabbas to us!”

Pilate said to them, “Then what do you want me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews? What should I do with Jesus, who is called Christ?”

They all said to him, “Crucify him!”

But the governor said, “Why? What has he done wrong?”

But they kept shouting even louder: “Crucify him!”

Pilate addressed them again, because he wanted to release Jesus, but they kept shouting, “Crucify! Crucify him!”

He said to them the third time, “Why? What evil has he done? I

have found no grounds for sentencing him to death. So I will whip him and release him.” But they kept pressuring him with loud shouts, demanding that he be crucified. And their voices were overwhelming.

When Pilate saw that he was accomplishing nothing, and that instead it was turning into a riot, he decided that what they demanded would be done. He took water, washed his hands in front of the crowd, and said, “I am innocent of this righteous man’s blood. It is your responsibility.”

And all the people answered, “His blood will be on us and on our children!”

Wanting to satisfy the crowd, Pilate released Barabbas to them. Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged.

The governor’s soldiers took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole cohort of soldiers around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him. They twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head. They put a staff in his right hand, knelt in front of him, and mocked him by saying, “Hail, King of the Jews!”

They spit on him, took the staff, and hit him repeatedly on his head. They kept hitting him in the face.

Pilate went outside again and said to them, “Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no basis for a charge against him.”

Then Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, “Behold the man!”

When the chief priests and temple police saw him, they shouted, “Crucify! Crucify!”

Pilate told them, “Take him yourselves and crucify him, for I find no basis for a charge against him.”

The Jews answered him, “We have a law, and according to that law he must die, because he claimed to be the Son of God.”

When Pilate heard this statement, he was even more afraid. He went back inside the palace again and asked Jesus, “Where are you from?” But Jesus gave him no answer.

So Pilate asked him, “Are you not talking to me? Don’t you know that I have the authority to release you or to crucify you?”

Jesus answered, “You would have no authority over me at all, if it had not been given to you from above. Therefore, the one who handed me over to you has the greater sin.”

From then on Pilate tried to release Jesus. But the Jews shouted, “If you let this man go, you are no friend of Caesar! Anyone who claims to be a king opposes Caesar!”

When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus outside. He sat down on the judge’s seat at a place called the Stone Pavement, or Gabbatha in Aramaic. It was about the sixth hour on the day of preparation for the Passover. Pilate said to the Jews, “Here is your king!” They shouted, “Away with him! Away with him! Crucify him!” Pilate said to them, “Shall I crucify your king?”

“We have no king but Caesar!” the chief priests answered.

So then Pilate handed Jesus over to them to be crucified.

After they had mocked him, the soldiers took off the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him with Jesus carrying his own cross.

As they were going out of the city, a certain man, Simon of Cyrene (the father of Alexander and Rufus), was passing by on his way in from the country. They placed the cross on him and made him carry it behind Jesus. A large crowd of the people was following him, including women who were mourning and wailing for him. But Jesus turned to them and said, “Daughters of Jerusalem, stop weeping for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. Yes, be sure of this: the days are coming when they will say, ‘Blessed are the childless women, the wombs that never gave birth, and the breasts that never nursed.’ Then they will begin to say to the mountains, ‘Fall on us!’ and to the hills, ‘Cover us.’ For if they do these things to the green wood, what will happen to the dry?”

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.**

## HYMN: He Stood Before the Court

CW 408

- 1 He stood before the court  
on trial instead of us;  
he met its pow'r to hurt,  
condemned to face the cross—  
our King, accused of treachery;  
our God, abused for blasphemy!
- 2 These are the crimes that tell  
the tale of human guilt;  
our sins, our death, our hell—  
on these the case is built.  
To this world's pow'rs the Lord stays dumb.  
The guilt is ours, no answers come.
- 3 The sentence must be passed,  
the unknown pris'ner killed;  
the price is paid at last,  
the law of God fulfilled.  
He takes our blame, and from that day  
th' accuser's claim is wiped away.
- 4 Shall we be judged and tried?  
In Christ our trial is done;  
we live, for he has died,  
our condemnation gone.  
In Christ are we both dead and raised,  
alive and free—his name be praised!

## SERMON TEXT Psalms 2:1-12

<sup>1</sup>Why do the nations rage?

**Why do the peoples grumble in vain?**

<sup>2</sup>The kings of the earth take a stand,

**and the rulers join together**

against the LORD

**and against his Anointed One.**

<sup>3</sup>“Let us tear off their chains

**and throw off their ropes from us.”**

<sup>4</sup>The one who is seated in heaven laughs.

**The Lord scoffs at them.**

<sup>5</sup>Then he speaks to them in his anger,

**and in his wrath he terrifies them.**

<sup>6</sup>“I have installed my King on Zion, my holy mountain.”

**<sup>7</sup>I will proclaim the decree of the LORD.**

He said to me:

**“You are my Son.**

Today I have begotten you.

**<sup>8</sup>Ask me, and I will give you the nations as your inheritance**  
and the ends of the earth as your possession.

**<sup>9</sup>You will smash them with an iron rod.**

You will break them to pieces like pottery.”

**<sup>10</sup>So now, you kings, do what is wise.**

Accept discipline, you judges of the earth.

**<sup>11</sup>Serve the LORD with fear,**  
and rejoice with trembling.

**<sup>12</sup>Kiss the Son,**  
or he will be angry,

**and you will be destroyed in your way,**  
for his wrath can flare up in a moment.

**How blessed are all who take refuge in him.**

**The Savior Sings Of The Conspiracy To Cause His Suffering**

**I. He sings of the kings who led the conspiracy**

**II. He sings of the King who laughed at the conspiracy**

STAND

**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 righteous-ness, innocence and blessedness, just as he has risen from death and lives and rules eternally. This is most certainly true.**

**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

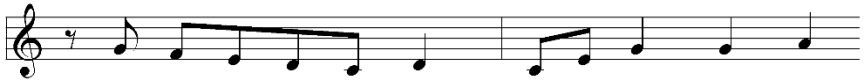
**M:** Lord God, all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works come from you. Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments. Defend us also from the fear of our enemies that we may live in peace and quietness, through 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** God Who Made the Earth and Heaven *CW 787*

**1** God, who made the earth and heaven, darkness and light:  
you the day for work have given, for rest the night.

May your angel guards defend us,  
slumber sweet your mercy send us,  
holy dreams and hopes attend us  
all through the night.

**2** And when morn again shall call us to run life's way,  
may we still, whate'er befall us, your will obey.

From the pow'r of evil hide us,  
in the narrow pathway guide us,  
never be your smile denied us  
all through the day.

**3** Guard us waking, guard us sleeping, and, when we die,  
may we in your mighty keeping all peaceful lie.

When the last dread call shall wake us,  
then, O Lord, do not forsake us,  
but to reign in glory take us  
with you on high.

**4** Holy Father, throned in heaven, all-holy Son,  
Holy Spirit, freely given, blest Three in One:

grant us grace, we now implore you,  
till we lay our crowns before you  
and in worthier strains adore you  
while ages run.

