



St. Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran Church & School

(Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod)

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Lenten Vespers #2
March 12, 2025

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.

Sweet the Moments, Rich in Blessing

CW 400



1 Sweet the mo - ments, rich in bless - ing, which be -
4 Oh, that, near the cross a - bid - ing, we may
5 Lord, in lov - ing con - tem - pla - tion fix our



fore the cross we spend, life and health and
to the Sav - ior cleave, naught with him our
hearts and eyes on you till we taste your



peace pos - sess - ing from the sin - ner's dy - ing friend.
hearts di - vid - ing, all for him con - tent to leave!
full sal - va - tion and your un - veiled glo - ry view.

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 before you as incense,
the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.
O Lord, I call to you; come to be quickly; hear my voice
when I cry to you. Let my Prayer rise before you as incense,
the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.**

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 K-2) “Lamb of God”

Part 2 of the Passion History: Jesus’ Agony of Soul in Gethsemane

While they were reclining and eating, Jesus said, “Amen, I tell you, one of you will betray me, one who is eating with me.” They were very sad, and each one began to say to him, “Surely, not I, Lord?”

He said to them, “It is one of the Twelve, one who is dipping with me in the dish. For the Son of Man is going just as it has been written about him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would be better for that man if he had not been born.”

The disciples started looking at each other, uncertain which of them he meant.

One of his disciples, the one Jesus loved, was reclining at Jesus’ side. So Simon Peter motioned to him to find out which one he was talking about.

Leaning back against Jesus, he asked, “Lord, who is it?”

Jesus replied, “It is the one to whom I will give this piece of bread, after I have dipped it in the dish.” Then he dipped the piece of bread and gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot. As soon as Judas took the bread, Satan entered into him.

So Jesus told him, “What you are about to do, do more quickly.”

None of those reclining at the table understood why Jesus said this to him. Since Judas kept the money bag, some thought that Jesus was telling him, “Buy what we need for the festival,” or to give something to the poor. As soon as Judas had taken the bread, he went out. And it was night.

After Judas had left, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man is glorified, and God is glorified in him. If God is glorified in him, God will also glorify the Son in himself and will glorify him at once."

While they were eating, on the night when he was betrayed, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to the disciples. He said, "Take, eat, this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying, "Drink from it all of you, for this is my blood of the new testament, which is poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

"Dear children, I am going to be with you only a little longer. You will look for me, but just as I told the Jews, so I tell you now: Where I am going, you cannot come."

"A new commandment I give you: Love one another. Just as I have loved you so also love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, where are you going?"

Jesus answered, "Where I am going you cannot follow me now, but you will follow later."

Peter asked, "Lord, why can't I follow you now? I will lay down my life for you!"

Jesus replied, "Will you really lay down your life for me? Simon, Simon, pay attention: Satan has asked to have you all, so that he may sift you as wheat. But I prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have returned to me, strengthen your brothers."

Peter answered him, "Even if all fall away because of you, I will never fall away."

Jesus said to him, "Amen, I tell you, tonight before the rooster crows you will deny me three times."

Peter said to him, "Even if I have to die with you, I will never deny you." And all the disciples said the same.

He said to them, "When I sent you out without money bag, traveler's bag, and sandals, did you lack anything?"

"Nothing," they said.

Then he said to them, "But now, whoever has a money bag, let him take it, and likewise a traveler's bag. And let the one who has no

sword sell his cloak and buy one. For I tell you that this Scripture must be fulfilled in me: 'He was counted with transgressors.' For what is written about me has its fulfillment."

They said, "Lord, look, here are two swords."

He said to them, "That is enough."

Then Jesus said to them, "This night you will all fall away because of me, for it is written, 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.' But after I have been raised, I will go ahead of you into Galilee."

After they sang a hymn, Jesus went out with his disciples across the Kidron Valley, to the Mount of Olives, where there was a garden called Gethsemane. He and his disciples went into it. Now Judas, who was betraying him, also knew the place, because Jesus often met there with his disciples.

When he reached the place, he said to his disciples, "Sit here, while I go over there and pray. Keep praying that you may not enter into temptation."

Then he took Peter, James, and John along with him and began to be troubled and distressed. He said to them, "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow, even to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch."

He withdrew from them about a stone's throw, knelt down, and prayed, "Father, if you are willing, take this cup away from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours be done."

When he rose from prayer, he went to the disciples and found them sleeping as a result of sorrow.

He said to Peter, "Simon, are you sleeping? Were you not strong enough to keep watch for one hour? Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."

He went away a second time and prayed, "My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to pass from me unless I drink it, may your will be done." Again he returned and found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy. They did not know what they should answer him.

He left them again, went away, and prayed a third time. He said the same words as before.

An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him. As he was in agony, he prayed more fervently. His sweat became like great drops of blood falling to the ground.

Then he returned to his disciples and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? Look, the hour is near, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Rise. Let us go. Look, my betrayer is near!"

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: **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.

Sermon Text: **Zechariah 13:7-9**

⁷Awake, O sword, against my shepherd, and against the man who is my associate,

declares the Lord of Armies.

Strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered,
and I will turn my hand against the little ones.

⁸This will take place in the whole land,
declares the Lord:

Two thirds of those who remain in it will be cut off and perish,
but one third will be left in it.

⁹I will put that third into the fire,
and I will refine them as silver is refined,
and I will test them as gold is tested.

They will call on my name, and I will answer them.

I will say, "This is my people."

And they will say, "The Lord is my God."

*"I Will Strike The Shepherd, And The Sheep Of The
Flock Will Be Scattered."*

I. The Shepherd is struck as prophesied

II. The scattered sheep are purified

STAND

Response to God's Word

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.

Offering

Evening Litany

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.

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: Luther's Evening Prayer *CW 782 sts. 1b-2*



1 I thank you, heav'n-ly Fa - ther, thro' Je - sus, your dear Son,
2 I trust my soul and bod - y in - to your lov - ing hands.



that gra - cious - ly you kept me while dai - ly tasks were done.
All things that I en - coun - ter I leave to your good plans.



I pray that you for - give me for all my sins and wrongs,
Send me your ho - ly an - gel to rout the e - vil one



and in your love con - tin - ue to keep me all night long.
and crush his dread - ful pow - ers. A - men. Your will be done.

