

Lenten Vespers #3  
March 19, 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.

**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 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.

### 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: All Mankind Fell in Adam's Fall CW 556

1 All mankind fell in Adam's fall;  
one common sin infects us all.

From one to all the curse descends,  
and over all God's wrath impends.

2 Through all our pow'rs corruption creeps  
and us in dreadful bondage keeps;  
in guilt we draw our infant breath  
and reap its fruits of woe and death.

3 From hearts depraved, to evil prone,  
flow thoughts and deeds of sin alone;  
God's image lost, the darkened soul  
nor seeks nor finds its heav'nly goal.

4 But Christ, the second Adam, came  
to bear our sin and woe and shame,  
to be our life, our light, our way,  
our only hope, our only stay.

5 As by one man all mankind fell  
and, born in sin, was doomed to hell,  
so by one Man, who took our place,  
we all were justified by grace.

**Sermon Text: John 11:49-54**

<sup>49</sup>But one of them, Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said to them, “You know nothing at all. <sup>50</sup>You do not even consider that it is better for us that one man die for the people than that the whole nation perish.” <sup>51</sup>He did not say this on his own, but, as high priest that year, he prophesied that Jesus was going to die for the nation, <sup>52</sup>and not only for that nation, but also in order to gather into one the scattered children of God.

<sup>53</sup>So from that day on they plotted to kill him. <sup>54</sup>Therefore Jesus no longer walked about openly among the Jews. Instead he withdrew into a region near the wilderness, to a town called Ephraim. And he stayed there with his disciples.

*The Last Prophecy Of Christ's Passion*  
*I. In Caiaphas' heart was an evil plot*  
*II. In God's heart was a loving plan*

STAND

**Our Response to God's Word** (tune of CW 556)

♪ We thank you, Christ; new life is ours,  
new light, new hope, new strength, new pow'rs.  
This grace our ev'ry way attend  
until we reach our journey's end.

**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.**

### **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

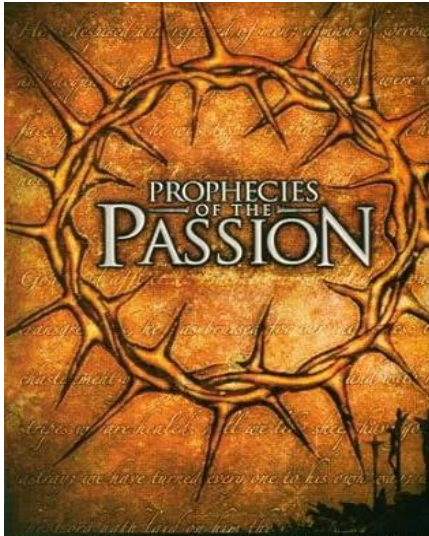


1 I thank you, heav'n-ly Fa - ther, thro' Je - sus, your dear Son,  
2 I trust my soul and bod - y in - to your lov - ing hands.

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.



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

(Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod)

709 Milton Ave., Janesville, WI 53545

Church & School Phone: 608-752-1304

James Janke, Pastor 608-563-4383

Dale Beutin, Congregational Asst. 608-774-5177

Joel Sonntag, Principal 414-460-8305

[www.stmatthewsjanesville.org](http://www.stmatthewsjanesville.org)



