

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

(Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod)

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Lenten Vespers 5  
April 2, 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.

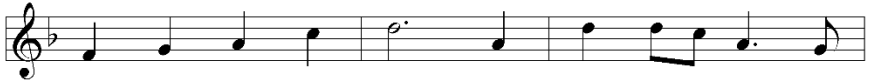
**M:** Be our light and scatter the darkness,

**C:** and hear our evening hymn of praise.

**O Dearest Lord** *CW '93, 118*



1 O dear - est Lord, thy sa - cred head With  
2 O dear - est Lord, thy sa - cred hands With  
3 O dear - est Lord, thy sa - cred feet With  
4 O dear - est Lord, thy sa - cred heart With



thorns was pierced for me; Oh, pour thy bless - ing  
nails were pierced for me; Oh, shed thy bless - ing  
nails were pierced for me; Oh, pour thy bless - ing  
spear was pierced for me; Oh, pour thy Spir - it



on my head That I may think for thee.  
on my hands That they may work for thee.  
on my feet That they may fol - low thee.  
in my heart That I may live for thee.

**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 me 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 Grades 3 & 4) "Jesus Paid It All"

### 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?"

## 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: O Sacred Head, Now Wounded      CW 428

1 O sacred head, now wounded, with grief and shame weighed down,  
now scornfully surrounded, with thorns your only crown,  
O sacred head, no glory now from your face does shine;  
yet, though despised and gory, I joy to call you mine.

2 My burden in your passion, Lord, you have borne for me,  
for it was my transgression, my shame, on Calvary.  
I cast me down before you; wrath is my rightful lot.  
Have mercy, I implore you; Redeemer, spurn me not!

3 What language shall I borrow to thank you, dearest Friend,  
for this, your dying sorrow, your pity without end?  
O make me yours forever, and keep me strong and true;  
Lord, let me never, never outlive my love for you.

Sermon Text: Isaiah 50:5-10

<sup>4</sup>The Lord God gave me a tongue like the learned, an instructed tongue,  
so I know how to sustain the weary with a word.

He wakes me up morning by morning.

**He wakes up my ears so that I listen like the learned.**

<sup>5</sup>The Lord God opened my ear,

**and I myself was not rebellious. I did not turn back.**

<sup>6</sup>I submitted my back to those who beat me,

**and my cheeks to those who pulled out my beard.**

I did not hide my face from disgrace and from spit.

<sup>7</sup>The Lord God will help me, so I will not be disgraced.

Therefore I have made my face hard like flint.

**I know that I will not be put to shame.**

<sup>8</sup>The one who will acquit me is near! Who can accuse me?

**Let us take our stand.**

Who can pass judgment on me?

**Let him approach me.**

<sup>9</sup>Look, the Lord God will help me.

**Who then can declare me guilty?**

Look, all of them will wear out like a garment.

**A moth will consume them.**

<sup>10</sup>Who among you worships the Lord

**and listens to the voice of his servant?**

Anyone who walks in darkness

**and who has no bright light—**

let him trust in the name of the Lord,

**and let him lean on his God.**

*The Prophecy Of A Face Like Flint Fulfilled*

*I. In our Savior's absolute obedience to God's will*

*II. By our Savior's complete reliance on God's help*

STAND

Our Response to God's Word

CW 428:4

♪ **Lord, be my consolation, my shield when I must die;  
remind me of your passion when my last hour draws nigh.  
My eyes will then behold you, upon your cross will dwell;  
my heart will then enfold you— who dies in faith dies well!**

Offering (Grades 3 & 4 sing "All I Have Is Christ" CW580)

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: (by Grades 3 & 4) "Jesus Tender Shepherd Hear Me"**  
**(congregation please join in on verse #3. CW 793**



