

St. Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran Church & School

(Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod)

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Lenten Vespers 6
April 9, 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.

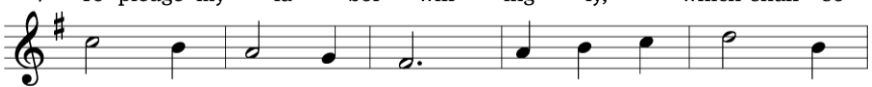
M: Be our light and scatter the darkness,

C: and hear our evening hymn of praise.

Drawn to the Cross CW 808



1 Drawn to the cross, which you have blessed with heal - ing
2 How well you know my griefs and fears, your grace a -
3 Wash me and take a - way each stain; let noth - ing
4 To pledge my la - bor will - ing - ly, which shall so



gifts for souls dis - tressed, to find in you my
bused, my mis - spent years; so now to you with
of my sin re - main. For cleans - ing through your
sweet a ser - vice be that an - gels well might



life, my rest, Christ cru - ci - fied, I come.
con - trite tears, Christ cru - ci - fied, I come.
cross and pain, Christ cru - ci - fied, I come.
en - vy me, Christ cru - ci - fied, I come.

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.

Junior Choir: "The Blood of Jesus Speaks for Me"

Part 6 of the Passion History: Jesus' Death on the Cross

Two other men, who were criminals, were led away with him to be executed. They brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means, "The place of a skull."). They offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall, but when he tasted it, he would not drink it.

They crucified him there with the criminals, one on his right and the other on his left. Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."

Now it was the third hour when they crucified him.

Pilate also had a sign written and fastened to the cross. It read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews."

Many of the Jews read this sign, because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and it was written in Aramaic, Latin, and Greek.

So the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but that he said, 'I am the king of the Jews.'"

Pilate answered, "What I have written, I have written."

When the soldiers crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, one for each soldier. They also took his tunic which was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom. So they said to one another, "Let's not tear it. Instead, let's cast lots to see who gets it." This was to fulfill the Scripture which says, "They divided my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots."

So this is what the soldiers did. Then they sat down and were keeping watch over him there.

The people stood watching. And even the rulers were ridiculing him, saying, "He saved others. Let him save himself, if this is the Christ of God, the chosen one!"

People who passed by kept insulting him, shaking their heads and saying, "You who were going to destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross!"

In the same way the chief priests, experts in the law and elders kept mocking him. They said, "He saved others, but he cannot save himself. If he's the King of Israel, let him come down now from the cross and we will believe in him. He trusts in God. Let God rescue him now, if he wants him, because he said, 'I am the Son of God.'" In the same way even the criminals who were crucified with him kept insulting him.

One of the criminals hanging there was blaspheming him, saying, "Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself and us!"

But the other criminal rebuked him, "Don't you fear God, since you are under the same condemnation? We are punished justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come in your kingdom."

Jesus said to him, "Amen I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise."

Standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene.

When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son!" Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

It was now about the sixth hour, and darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour. The sun was darkened. At the ninth hour Jesus shouted with a loud voice, "*Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?*" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

When some of those standing there heard this, they said, "Listen, he is calling Elijah!"

After this, knowing that everything had now been accomplished, in order that the Scripture might be fulfilled, Jesus said, "I thirst."

A jar full of wine vinegar was sitting there. Immediately one of

them ran, took a sponge, and soaked it with vinegar. Then he put it on a stick and gave him a drink.

When Jesus had taken the wine vinegar, he said, "It is finished."

Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!"

When he had said this, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Suddenly, the temple curtain was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook and rocks were split. Tombs were opened and many bodies of saints who had fallen asleep were raised to life. They came out of the tombs after Jesus' resurrection, went into the holy city, and appeared to many people. When the centurion and those who were guarding Jesus with him saw the earthquake and how he cried out and breathed his last, they were terrified and began to glorify God, saying, "This man really was righteous. Truly this was the Son of God!"

All the crowds gathered to see this spectacle. When they saw what had happened, they returned home beating their chests. All those who knew him, and many women who had followed Jesus from Galilee and who had served him were there watching from a distance. Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Joseph, Salome, and the mother of Zebedee's sons.

Since it was Preparation Day, the Jews did not want the bodies left on the crosses over the Sabbath. Because that Sabbath was special, they asked Pilate to have their legs broken and the bodies taken away. So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first man and then of the other who was crucified with Jesus.

But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. Instead, one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear. Immediately blood and water came out. The man who saw it has testified so that you also may believe. His testimony is true, and he knows he is telling the truth. Indeed, these things happened so that the Scripture would be fulfilled, "Not one of his bones will be broken." Again another Scripture says, "They will look at the one they pierced."

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: Upon the Cross Extended CW 434

1 Upon the cross extended,
see, world, your Lord suspended;
your Savior yields his breath.
The Prince of life from heaven
himself has freely given
to shame and blows and bitter death.

2 Who is it, Lord, that bruised you?
Who has so sore abused you
and caused you all your woe?
We all must make confession
of sin and dire transgression,
while you no ways of evil know.

3 I caused your grief and sighing
by evils multiplying
as countless as the sands.
I caused the woes unnumbered
with which your soul is cumbered,
your sorrows raised by wicked hands.

4 Your soul in griefs unbounded,
your head with thorns surrounded,
you died to ransom me.
The cross for me enduring,
the crown for me securing,
you healed my wounds and set me free.

Sermon: Zechariah 12:10

¹⁰I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace, who pleads for mercy. Then they will look at me, the one they have pierced. They will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child. They will grieve bitterly for him, as one grieves over his firstborn.

Notice The Paradox In This Prophecy Of Christ's Passion:

"They will look at me, the one they have pierced."

I. The victors not only plead for mercy

II. They also mourn

Our Response to God's Word

**♪ Your cross I place before me, its saving pow'r restore me,
sustain me in the test. It will, when life is ending,
be guiding and attending my way to your eternal rest.**

Offering

Kyrie

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

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:
Christ, have mercy.

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:
Lord, have mercy.

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:
Lord, hear our prayer.

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:
Lord, hear our prayer.

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:

Thanks be to God.

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

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

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.

