

*St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church*  
*Founded 1856*  
*1343 Penniman Avenue*  
*Plymouth, MI 48170*  
*Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod*



# GOD ON TRIAL

*February 28, 2024 Lenten Service*  
*"God on Trial: Testimony"*

## EVENING PRAYER (VESPERS) (page 52)

### OPENING HYMN: #306 "Before You, the Judge of All" Music:

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#### CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

# 306

## Before You, God the Judge of All



1 Be - fore you, God, the Judge of all, With grief and shame I  
2 O Lord, my God, to you I pray: Oh, cast me not in  
3 O Je - sus, let your pre - cious blood Be to my soul a



hum - bly fall. I see my sins a - gainst you, Lord,  
wrath a - way! Let your good Spir - it ne'er de - part,  
cleans - ing flood. Turn not, O Lord, your guest a - way,



My sins of thought and deed and word. They press me  
But let him draw to you my heart That tru - ly  
But grant that jus - ti - fied I may Go to my



sore; to you I flee: O God, be mer - ci - ful to me!  
pen - i - tent I be: O God, be mer - ci - ful to me!  
house at peace to be: O God, be mer - ci - ful to me!

Text: Magnus B. Landstad, 1802–80; tr. Carl Döving, 1867–1937, alt.

Tune: VATER UNSER IM HIMMELREICH, DER DU (88 88 88) attr. Martin Luther, 1483–1546.

## **STAND**

“O Lord, open my lips” from ‘Evening Prayer’, *Christian Worship*, 1993 Northwestern Publishing House. Tune: Kurt J. Eggert; Setting: Kermit G. Moldenhauer ©1993 Northwestern Publishing House. Both reprinted and podcast with permission under One License #A722670. All rights reserved.

**M:** O Lord, open my lips.



**C:** And my mouth shall de - clare your praise.

**M:** Hasten to save me, O God.



**C:** O Lord, come quick - ly to help me.

**M:** The Lord be with you.



**C:** And al - so with you.

## **BE SEATED**

“Service of Light” Text, Music: ©1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*. Augsburg Fortress. “Let My Prayer Rise Before You” Text, Music: ©1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*. Augsburg Fortress. Both reprinted and podcast with permission under One License #A722670. All rights reserved.

**LET MY PRAYER RISE BEFORE YOU** (Psalm 141)



**C:** Let my prayer rise be - fore you as in - cense, the lift-ing  
up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice. O Lord, I  
call to you; come to me quick - ly; hear my voice when I  
cry to you. Let my prayer rise be - fore you as in - cense,  
the lift-ing up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.

**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.

**Psalm 119a** (p. 109 in front of hymnal)

*Refrain*



Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.

*Psalm tone*



\*

Blessed are they whose ways are blameless,\*  
who walk according to the law of the LORD.

Blessed are they who keep his statutes\*  
and seek him with all their heart.

You have laid down precepts\*  
that are to be fully obeyed. ***Refrain***

Oh, that my ways were steadfast\*  
in obeying your decrees!

Then I would not be put to shame\*  
when I consider all your commands.

I will praise you with an upright heart\*  
as I learn your righteous laws.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son\***  
**and to the Holy Spirit,**  
**as it was in the beginning,\***  
**is now, and will be forever. Amen. *Refrain***

Refrain Tune: Joyce Schubkegal. © 1993 Joyce Schubkegal (admin. Northwestern Publishing House). Reprinted and podcast with permission under One License #A722670. All rights reserved.

***Silence for meditation.***

**Psalm Prayer:** Lord, your Word is my delight. When I was lost in the darkness of sin, you penetrated my heart with the light of your Word. Let it enlighten my path each day that I may serve you in holiness. Let your Word shine through all I say and do that others may see you and praise your saving name. In Jesus' name I pray.

**C: Amen.**

### **The Passion History of Our Lord: St. Mark 14:27-42**

<sup>27</sup> And Jesus said to them, "You will all fall away, for it is written, 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.' But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee." Peter said to him, "Even though they all fall away, I will not." And Jesus said to him, "Truly, I tell you, this very night, before the rooster crows twice, you will deny me three times." But he said emphatically, "If I must die with you, I will not deny you." And they all said the same.

And they went to a place called Gethsemane. And he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray." And he took with him Peter and James and John and began to be greatly distressed and troubled. And he said to them, "My soul is very sorrowful, even to death. Remain here and watch." And going a little farther, he fell on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. And he said, "Abba, Father, all things are possible for you. Remove this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will." And he came and found them sleeping, and he said to Peter, "Simon, are you asleep? Could you not watch one

hour? Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.” And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words. And again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy, and they did not know what to answer him. And he came the third time and said to them, “Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? It is enough; the hour has come. The Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Rise, let us be going; see, my betrayer is at hand.”

***Seasonal Response:*** All we like sheep have gone astray, and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. By his wounds we are healed.

**CHIEF HYMN: #359** “Jesus, My Great High Priest” Public Domain

## 359

## Jesus, My Great High Priest



1 Je - sus, my great High Priest, Of - fered his blood and  
 2 To Christ, my sub - sti - tute, Will I com - mit my  
 3 My ad - vo - cate ap - pears For my de - fense on  
 4 Should all the hosts of death And pow'rs of hell un -



died; My guilt - y con - science seeks No sac - ri -  
 cause; He an - swers and ful - fills His Fa - ther's  
 high; A gra - cious Fa - ther hears And lays his  
 known Put their most dread - ful forms Of rage and



face be - side. His pow'r - ful blood did once a -  
 bro - ken laws. Be - hold my soul at free - dom  
 thun - der by. Not all that hell or sin can  
 mis - chief on, I shall be safe, for Christ dis -



tone, And now it pleads be - fore the throne.  
 set— My Je - sus paid the dread - ful debt!  
 say Shall turn his heart, his love, a - way.  
 plays Su - pe - rior pow'r and guard - ian grace.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, abr., alt.

Tune: BEVAN (66 66 88) John Goss, 1800–80.

**SERMON:** “God on Trial: Restraint”



**Text:** Matthew 26:57-75

<sup>57</sup> Then those who had seized Jesus led him to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders had gathered. And Peter was following him at a distance, as far as the courtyard of the high priest, and going inside he sat with the guards to see the end. Now the chief priests and the whole council were seeking false testimony against Jesus that they might put him to death, but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. At last two came forward and said, "This man said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God, and to rebuild it in three days.'" And the high priest stood up and said, "Have you no answer to make? What is it that these men testify against you?" But Jesus remained silent. And the high priest said to him, "I adjure you by the living God, tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God." Jesus said to him, "You have said so. But I tell you, from now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven." Then the high priest tore his robes and said, "He has uttered blasphemy. What further witnesses do we need? You have now heard his blasphemy. What is your judgment?" They answered, "He deserves death." Then they spit in his face and struck him. And some slapped him, saying, "Prophecy to us, you Christ! Who is it that struck you?"

Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. And a servant girl came up to him and said, "You also were with Jesus the Galilean." But he denied it before them all, saying, "I do not know what you mean." And when he went out to the entrance, another servant girl saw him, and she said to

the bystanders, "This man was with Jesus of Nazareth." And again he denied it with an oath: "I do not know the man." After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter, "Certainly you too are one of them, for your accent betrays you." Then he began to invoke a curse on himself and to swear, "I do not know the man." And immediately the rooster crowed. And Peter remembered the saying of Jesus, "Before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times." And he went out and wept bitterly.

**STAND**

## ***SONG OF MARY (Magnificat)***

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**C:** My soul pro-claims the great-ness of the Lord; my spir-it re-



joic - es in God my Sav - ior, for he has looked with fa - vor



on his low - ly ser - vant. From this day all gen - er - a - tions



will call me bless - ed. The Al - mighty - y has done great



things for me, and ho - ly is his name. He has mer - cy on



those who fear him in ev - 'ry gen - er - a - tion.



He has shown the strength of his arm; he has scat-tered the

proud in their con - ceit. He has cast down the might - y

from their thrones and has lift - ed up the low - ly.

He has filled the hun - gry with good things, and the rich

he has sent a - way emp - ty. He has come to the

help of his ser - vant Is - ra - el, for he has re - mem - bered his

prom - ise of mer - cy, the prom - ise made to our fa - thers,

to A - bra - ham, and to his chil - dren for - ev - er. A - men.

## LORD, HAVE MERCY (*Kyrie*)

**M:** In the closing hours of this day, hear us as we pray, O Lord:



C: Lord, have mer - cy.

**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 mer - cy.

**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 mer - cy.

**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.

**C:** 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: A - men.

## LORD'S PRAYER

**C:** Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from (+) evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. 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** (*Nunc Dimittis*)

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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.

## BLESSING

**M:** The grace of our Lord (+) Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: A - men.

**CLOSING HYMN: #592** "All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night" (See last page.) Public Domain

Officiant: Pastor Tom Schroeder  
 Organist: Webber



# 592 All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night



1 All praise to thee, my God, this night For all the  
 2 Teach me to live that I may dread The grave as  
 3 When in the night I sleep - less lie, My soul with



bless - ings of the light. Keep me, oh, keep me,  
 lit - tle as my bed. Teach me to die so  
 heav'n - ly thoughts sup - ply; Let no ill dreams dis -



King of kings, Be - neath thine own al - might -  
 that I may Rise glo - rious at the awe -  
 turb my rest, No pow'rs of dark - ness me



y wings. For - give me, Lord, for thy dear  
 full day. Oh, may my soul on thee re -  
 dis - tress. Praise God, from whom all bless - ings



Son The ill that I this day have  
 pose And may sweet sleep mine eye - lids  
 flow; Praise him, all crea - tures here be -



done, That with the world, my - self, and thee  
 close, Sleep that shall me more vig - 'rous make  
 low; Praise him a - bove, ye heav'n - ly host;



I, ere I sleep, at peace may be.  
 To serve my God when I a - wake.  
 Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.