

St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Founded 1856

1343 Penniman Avenue

Plymouth, MI 48170

Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod



GOD ON TRIAL

March 6, 2024 Lenten Service
"God on Trial: Misconceptions"

EVENING PRAYER (VESPERS) (page 52)

OPENING HYMN: #98 "Jesus, I Will Ponder Now" Public Domain

LENT

98

Jesus, I Will Ponder Now



1 Je - sus, I will pon - der now On your ho - ly
2 Make me see your great dis - tress, An - guish, and af -
3 Yet, O Lord, not thus a - lone Make me see your
4 If my sins give me a - larm And my con - science
5 Grant that I your pas - sion view With re - pent - ant



pas - sion; With your Spir - it me en - dow
flic - tion; Bonds and stripes - and wretch - ed - ness
pas - sion, But its cause to me make known
grieve me, Let your cross my fear dis - arm;
griev - ing. Let me not bring shame to you



For such med - i - ta - tion. Grant that I in love
And your cru - ci - fix - ion; Make me see how scourge
And its ter - mi - na - tion. Ah! I al - so and
Peace of con - science give me. Help me see for - give -
By un - ho - ly liv - ing. How could I re - fuse



and faith May the im - age cher - ish Of your suf -
and rod, Spear and nails did wound you, How for them
my sin Wrought your deep af - flic - tion; This in - deed
ness won By your ho - ly pas - sion. If for me
to shun Ev - 'ry sin - ful pleas - ure Since for me



f'ring, pain, and death That I may not per - ish.
you died, O God, Who with thorns had crowned you.
the cause has been Of your cru - ci - fix - ion.
he slays his Son, God must have com - pas - sion!
God's on - ly Son Suf - fered with - out meas - ure?

6 Graciously my faith renew;
Help me bear my crosses,
Learning humbleness from you,
Peace mid pain and losses.
May I give you love for love!
Hear me, O my Savior,
That I may in heav'n above
Sing your praise forever.

“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

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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 2 (p. 65 in the front of the hymnal)

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Refrain



Great are the works of the Lord. Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le-



lu - ia! Great are the works of the Lord.

Psalm tone



Why do the nations conspire*
and the peoples plot in vain?

The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers
gather together against the LORD*
and against his Anointed One.

Refrain

The One enthroned in heaven laughs;*
the Lord scoffs at them.

Then he rebukes them in his anger
and terrifies them in his wrath, saying,*
“I have installed my King on Zion, my holy hill.”

I will proclaim the decree of the LORD:*
He said to me, “You are my Son;
today I have become your Father.”

**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

Silence for meditation.

Psalm Prayer: Lord, keep us safe in the refuge of your anointed Son, so that when the nations rage against him, we are not terrified. You have begotten him from eternity and have seated him on your throne in heaven. Let us see him as he truly is, the One who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

C: Amen.

The Passion History of Our Lord: St. Mark 14:43-65

⁴³ And immediately, while he was still speaking, Judas came, one of the twelve, and with him a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the scribes and the elders. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one I will kiss is the man. Seize him and lead him away under guard." And when he came, he went up to him at once and said, "Rabbi!" And he kissed him. And they laid hands on him and seized him. But one of those who stood by drew his sword and struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his ear. And Jesus said to them, "Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs to capture me? Day after day I was with you in the temple teaching, and you did not seize me. But let the Scriptures be fulfilled." And they all left him and fled.

And a young man followed him, with nothing but a linen cloth about his body. And they seized him, but he left the linen cloth and ran away naked.

And they led Jesus to the high priest. And all the chief priests and the elders and the scribes came together. And Peter had followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest. And he was sitting with the guards and warming himself at the fire. Now the chief priests and the whole council were seeking testimony against Jesus to put him to death, but they found none. For many bore false witness against him, but their testimony did not agree. And some stood up and bore false witness against him, saying, "We heard him say, 'I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and in three days I will build another, not made with hands.'" Yet even about this their testimony did not agree. And the high priest stood up in the midst and asked Jesus, "Have you no answer to make? What is it that these men testify against you?" But he remained silent and made no answer. Again the high priest asked him, "Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?" And Jesus said, "I am, and you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming with the clouds of heaven." And the high priest tore his garments and said, "What further witnesses do we need? You have heard his blasphemy. What is your decision?" And they all condemned him as deserving death. And some began to spit on him and to cover his face and to strike him, saying to him, "Prophecy!" And the guards received him with blows.

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: #357 "Jesus, Lover of My Soul" Public Domain

357

Jesus, Lover of My Soul



1 Je - sus, lov - er of my soul, Let me to thy
 2 Oth - er ref - uge have I none; Hangs my help - less
 3 Thou, O Christ, art all I want; More than all in
 4 Plen - teous grace with thee is found, Grace to cov - er



bos - om fly While the near - er wa - ters roll,
 soul on thee. Leave, ah, leave me not a - lone;
 thee I find. Raise the fall - en, cheer the faint,
 all my sin. Let the heal - ing streams a - bound;



While the tem - pest still is high. Hide me, O my
 Still sup - port and com - fort me. All my trust on
 Heal the sick, and lead the blind. Just and ho - ly
 Make and keep me pure with - in. Thou of life the



Sav - ior, hide, Till the storm of life is past; Safe in -
 thee is stayed; All my help from thee I bring. Cov - er
 is thy name; I am all un - right - eous - ness. False and
 foun - tain art; Free - ly let me take of thee. Spring thou



to the ha - ven guide. Oh, re - ceive my soul at last!
 my de - fense - less head With the shad - ow of thy wing.
 full of sin I am; Thou art full of truth and grace.
 up with - in my heart; Rise to all e - ter - ni - ty.

SERMON: “God on Trial: Misconceptions”

Text: Luke 23:35-43

³⁵ And the people stood by, watching, but the ruler scoffed at hi, saying, “He saved other; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!” ³⁶ The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine ³⁷ and saying, “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!” ³⁸ There was also an inscription over him, ‘This is the King of the Jews.’”

³⁹ One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, “Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!” ⁴⁰ But the other rebuked him, saying, “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? ⁴¹ And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but the man has done nothing wrong.” ⁴² And he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” ⁴³ And he said to him, “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise.”

STAND

SONG OF MARY (*Magnificat*)



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*)



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” Public Domain

Officiant: Pastor Paul Schaefer

Organist: Julie Webber

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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.