

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



GOD ON TRIAL

March 20, 2024 Lenten Service
"God on Trial: Truth"

EVENING PRAYER (VESPERS) (page 52)

OPENING HYMN: #103 “Glory Be to Jesus” Public Domain

LENT

103

Glory Be to Jesus



1 Glo - ry be to Je - sus, Who in bit - ter pains
2 Grace and life e - ter - nal In that blood I find;
3 Blest through end - less a - ges Be the pre - cious stream
4 A - bel's blood for ven - geance Plead - ed to the skies,
5 Oft as earth ex - ult - ing Lifts its praise on high,



Poured for me the life - blood From his sa - cred veins.
Blest be his com - pas - sion, In - fi - nite - ly kind.
Which from end - less tor - ments Did the world re - deem.
But the blood of Je - sus For our par - don cries.
An - gel hosts re - joic - ing Make their glad re - ply.

6 Lift we, then, our voices,
Swell the mighty flood;
Louder still and louder
Praise the precious blood!

Text: Italian hymn, 18th century, abr.; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814–78, alt.

Tune: WEM IN LEIDENSTAGEN (65 65) Friedrich Filitz, 1804–76.

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

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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 1 (p. 64 in the front of the hymnal) Tune, Setting: Robert J.

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Refrain



Bless-ed are they who hope, who hope in the Lord.

Psalm tone



Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked*
or stand in the way of sinners.

But his delight is in the law of the LORD,*
and on his law he meditates day and night.

He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season*
and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers. ***Refrain***

Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,* nor sinners in the
assembly of the righteous.

For the LORD watches over the way of the righteous,* but the way of the
wicked will perish.

**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, let your Word so saturate our souls that we grow into lush trees bearing fruit for you. When the voices of the

wicked tempt us to stray down other paths, keep us on the way that leads to our heavenly home. We ask this, confident that you watch over the way of the righteous; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

The Passion History of Our Lord: St. Mark 15:16-47

¹⁶ And the soldiers led him away inside the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters), and they called together the whole battalion. And they clothed him in a purple cloak, and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on him. And they began to salute him, "Hail, King of the Jews!" And they were striking his head with a reed and spitting on him and kneeling down in homage to him. And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. And they led him out to crucify him.

And they compelled a passerby, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to carry his cross. And they brought him to the place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull). And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he did not take it. And they crucified him and divided his garments among them, casting lots for them, to decide what each should take. And it was the third hour when they crucified him. And the inscription of the charge against him read, "The King of the Jews." And with him they crucified two robbers, one on his right and one on his left. And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads and saying, "Aha! You who

would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself, and come down from the cross!” So also the chief priests with the scribes mocked him to one another, saying, “He saved others; he cannot save himself. Let the Christ, the King of Israel, come down now from the cross that we may see and believe.” Those who were crucified with him also reviled him.

And when the sixth hour had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, “Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?” which means, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” And some of the bystanders hearing it said, “Behold, he is calling Elijah.” And someone ran and filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink, saying, “Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down.” And Jesus uttered a loud cry and breathed his last. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, “Truly this man was the Son of God!”

There were also women looking on from a distance, among whom were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome. When he was in Galilee, they followed him and ministered to him, and there were also many other women who came up with him to Jerusalem.

And when evening had come, since it was the day of Preparation, that is, the day before the Sabbath, Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was

also himself looking for the kingdom of God, took courage and went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Pilate was surprised to hear that he should have already died. And summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he was already dead. And when he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the corpse to Joseph. And Joseph bought a linen shroud, and taking him down, wrapped him in the linen shroud and laid him in a tomb that had been cut out of the rock. And he rolled a stone against the entrance of the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joseph saw where he was laid.

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: #106 “Come to Calvary’s Holy Mountain”
Public Domain

LENT

106

Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain



1 Come to Cal - v'ry's ho - ly moun-tain, Sin - ners, ru - ined
2 Come in pov - er - ty and mean-ness, Come de - filed, with -
3 Come in sor - row and con - tri - tion, Wound-ed, par - a -
4 He that drinks shall live for - ev - er; 'Tis a soul - re -



by the fall; Here a pure and heal - ing foun - tain
out, with - in; From in - fec - tion and un - clean-ness,
lyzed, and blind; Here the guilt - y, free re - mis - sion,
new - ing flood. God is faith - ful; God will nev - er



Flows to you, to me, to all, In a full, per -
From the lep - ro - sy of sin, Wash your robes and
Here the trou - bled, peace may find. Health this foun - tain
Break his cov - e - nant of blood, Signed when our Re -



pet - ual tide, O - pened when our Sav - ior died.
make them white; You shall walk with God in light.
will re - store; He that drinks shall thirst no more.
deem - er died, Sealed when he was glo - ri - fied.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt.

Tune: NAAR MIT ÖIE (87 87 77) Ludvig M. Lindeman, 1812–87.

SERMON: “God on Trial: Truth”

Text: John 18:33-40

³³ So Pilate entered his headquarters again and called Jesus and said to him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” Jesus answered, “Do you say this of your own accord, or did others say it to you about me?” Pilate answered, “Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered you over to me. What have you done?” Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world.” Then Pilate said to him, “So you are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice.” Pilate said to him, “What is truth?”

After he had said this, he went back outside to the Jews and told them, “I find no guilt in him. But you have a custom that I should release one man for you at the Passover. So do you want me to release to you the King of the Jews?” They cried out again, “Not this man, but Barabbas!” Now Barabbas was a robber.

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*) Tune: Kurt Eggert; Setting: Kermit

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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.



CLOSING HYMN: #592 “All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night” Public Domain (See next page.)

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.