

March 20, 2024
Lent VI



GOD
ON
TRIAL

God on Trial
Sympathy

Remain seated

The Lord Almighty grant us a quiet night and peace at the last. **Amen.**

It is good to give thanks to the Lord,
to sing praise to your name, O Most High,
to herald your love in the morning,
your truth at the close of day.

402 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 venge - ance plead - ed to the skies,



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 - ment did the world re - deem.
but the blood of Je - sus for our par - don cries.

- 5 Oft as earth exulting lifts its praise on high,
angel hosts rejoicing make their glad reply.
- 6 Lift we, then, our voices, swell the mighty flood;
louder still and louder praise the precious blood!

Text: tr. Edward Caswall, 1814–1878, alt.; Italian, c. 18th cent., abr. Tune: Friedrich Filitz, 1804–1876 Text and tune: Public domain

Confession

CW 226

Our help is in the name of the Lord,
the maker of heaven and earth.

Let us confess our sins in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence for personal reflection

Confession

Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you in our thoughts, in our words, in our deeds,
and in all that we have not done.

Forgive us in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Deliver and restore us, that we may rest in peace.

By the mercy of God we are redeemed by Jesus Christ, and in him we are forgiven.
Let us rest in his peace until the rising of the sun, when we shall serve him in newness of life.
Amen.

Psalm 138A Your Praises, God, I'm Bringing



1 Your prais - es, God, I'm bring - ing; my heart with joy is
2 When deep - est need had felled me, your stead - fast love up -
3 Though you, O God, are ho - ly, yet you re - gard the
4 All peo - ples shall ac - claim you, and wor - ship - ing shall



sing - ing its thanks for gifts out - poured.
held me; my ur - gent prayer you heard.
low - ly and raise them from the dust.
name you the God of time and space.



Now, in your pres - ence kneel - ing, a - gain for grace ap -
When trou - ble sore as - sailed me, your mer - cy nev - er
Your prom - ise holds for - ev - er: "I will for - sake you
And I will join my prais - es with hymns the whole world



peal - ing, in qui - et - ness I wait your word.
failed me. You strength - ened me and I en - dured.
nev - er!" My God, my rock, in you I trust.
rais - es to you, the God of bound - less grace!

Prayer

Lord, we bow down to you in thankful praise. You have made your ways known to both lowly and great on the earth. You have not abandoned the work of your hands, but instead you have redeemed us through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PASSION HISTORY LESSON SIX

EHV™

Two other men, who were criminals, were led away with Jesus 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 notice written and fastened on the cross. It read, “Jesus the Nazarene, the King of the Jews.”

Many of the Jews read this notice, 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 ‘this man 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 part 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 so that the Scripture might be fulfilled which says:

They divided my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing.

So the soldiers did these things. Then they sat down and were keeping watch over him there.

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!”

Those who were crucified with him also insulted him. 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.’”

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 receiving what we deserve for what we have done, 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.”

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

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 time this 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, while 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’s calling Elijah!”

After this, knowing that everything had now been finished, and to fulfill the Scripture, Jesus said, “I thirst.”

A jar full of sour wine was sitting there. Immediately one of them ran, took a sponge, and soaked it with sour wine. Then he put it on a stick and gave him a drink.

When Jesus had received the sour wine, 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. Those who came out of the tombs went into the holy city after Jesus’ resurrection and appeared to many people. When the centurion and those who were guarding Jesus with him saw the earthquake and how he cried out with a loud voice 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.”

When all the groups of people who had gathered to see this spectacle saw what had happened, they returned home beating their chests.

All those who knew Jesus, 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 the Preparation Day, the Jews did not want the bodies left on the crosses over the Sabbath (because that Sabbath was a particularly important day).

They asked Pilate to have the men's legs broken and the bodies taken away. So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first man who was crucified with Jesus, and then those of the other man.

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 one who saw it has testified, and his testimony is true. He knows that he is telling the truth, so that you also may believe. 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."

Into your hands I commend my spirit.

Into your hands I commend my spirit.

You have redeemed me, O Lord God of truth.

Into your hands I commend my spirit.

Glory to the Father and to the † Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Into your hands I commend my spirit.

397 My Song is Love Unknown (v. 1-4)



1 My song is love un - known, my Sav - ior's love to
2 He came from his blest throne sal - va - tion to be -
3 Some - times they strew his way and his sweet prais - es
4 Why? What has my Lord done? What makes this rage and



me, love to the love - less shown that they might love - ly
stow, but such dis - dain! So few the longed - for Christ would
sing, re - sound - ing all the day ho - san - nas to their
spite? He made the lame to run, he gave the blind their



be. Oh, who am I that for my sake
know! But oh, my friend, my friend in - deed,
King. Then "Cru - ci - fy!" is all their breath,
sight. Sweet in - ju - ries! Yet they at these



my Lord should take frail flesh and die?
who at my need his life did spend!
and for his death they thirst and cry.
them - selves dis - please and 'gainst him rise.

Text: Samuel Crossman, c. 1624–1683, alt. Tune: John N. Ireland, 1879–1962 Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon God on Trial: Sympathy Luke 23:26-34

Sermon Lesson

Luke 23:26-34 (EHV)

²⁶As they led him away, they seized Simon of Cyrene, who was coming from the country. They placed the cross on him and made him carry it behind Jesus. ²⁷A large crowd of people was following him, including women who were mourning and wailing for him. ²⁸Jesus turned to them and said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, stop weeping for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. ²

⁹Be 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.’ ³⁰Then they will begin to say to the mountains, ‘Fall on us!’ and to the hills, ‘Cover us.’³¹ ³¹For if they do these things to the green wood, what will happen to the dry?”³² Two other men, who were criminals, were led away with Jesus to be executed. ³³When they came to the place called The Skull, they crucified him there with the criminals, one on his right and the other on his left. ³⁴Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.” They cast lots to divide his garments among them.

397 My Song is Love Unknown (v. 5-7)



5 They rise and needs will have my dear Lord made a -
 6 In life no house, no home my Lord on earth might
 7 Here might I stay and sing; no sto - ry so di -



way. A mur - der - er they save, the Prince of life they
 have; in death no friend - ly tomb but what a stran - ger
 vine, nev - er was love, dear King, nev - er was grief like



slay. Yet cheer - ful he to suf - f'ring goes
 gave. What may I say? Heav'n was his home
 thine. This is my friend, in whose sweet praise



that he his foes from death might free.
 but mine the tomb where - in he lay.
 I all my days could glad - ly spend!

Text: Samuel Crossman, c. 1624–1683, alt. Tune: John N. Ireland, 1879–1962 Text and tune: Public domain

Offering

Stand

Hear my prayer, O Lord;
listen to my cry.

Keep me as the apple of your eye;
hide me in the shadow of your wings.

In righteousness I shall see you;
when I awake, your presence will give me joy.

Prayers

O Lord, support us all day long, till the shadows lengthen and the evening comes and the busy world is hushed and the fever of life is over and our work is done. Then, in your mercy, grant us a safe lodging and a holy rest and peace at the last; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Lord's Prayer

**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.**

968 In Peace, Lord, You Let Your Servant

CW 968

The musical score is written on five staves in a single system. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is primarily composed of quarter and eighth notes, with some rests. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

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.

Text: The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, rev. Tune: Kurt J. Eggert, 1923–1993

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Benedicamus

Let us praise the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Blessing

The almighty and merciful Lord—the Father, the † Son, and the Holy Spirit—bless us and keep us.

Amen.

Be Seated

790 Before the Ending of the Day



1 Be - fore the end - ing of the day, Cre - a - tor of the
2 From e - vil dreams de - fend our sight, from all the ter - rors
3 O Fa - ther, this we ask be done through Je - sus Christ, your



world, we pray. Your grace and peace to us al - low
of the night, from all de - lud - ing thoughts that creep
on - ly Son, whom with the Spir - it we a - dore



and guard and keep your peo - ple now.
on heed - less minds dis - armed by sleep.
for - ev - er and for - ev - er more. A - men.

Text: tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.; Latin, c. 5th–10th cent. Tune: Benedictine plainsong Text and tune: Public domain

Acknowledgments

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Lent Schedule

Join us on Wednesdays at 7 pm as we prepare our hearts for Holy Week and Easter.

Mar 20 Lenten Worship (Pastor Pfeifer)

God on Trial: Sympathy

Mar 28 Maundy Thursday Worship 4 pm & 7 pm

Mar 29 Good Friday Worship 4 pm & 7 pm

Thank you to Donna Bakken for accompanying worship this evening.

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