

**February 28, 2024**  
**Lent III**



**GOD**  
**ON**  
**TRIAL**

**God on Trial**  
**Truth**

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.**

### 395 What Grace Is This



1 What grace is this! My Lord and King  
2 What grace is this— that ver - y God  
3 What grace is this! Though Lord of all,  
4 What grace is this! Rude ag - o - nies!



has set his face to suf - fer - ing. My God e -  
would stoop to lift a cross of wood and walk a  
he yields to Pon - tius Pi - late's law and lets the  
With com - mon thieves he hangs and bleeds. The sin - less



ter - nal dies to bring e - ter - nal life to me.  
road of rock and blood, a sin - ner's road, for me.  
Ro - man ham - mers draw a rush of blood for me.  
Son bears each mis - deed; he pays for all, for me.

- 5 What grace is this! Once wrapped in cloths and gently laid in manger-trough,  
he's taken, dead, from wretched cross and wrapped again for me.
- 6 What grace is this? How can it be? He wears this raw humility  
to lift me to eternity. Such grace—sweet grace—for me.

Text: Laurie F. Gauger, b. 1965 Tune: G. A. Hennig, b. 1966

Text: © 2005 Laurie F. Gauger, admin. Faith Alive Christian Resources. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 722518

Tune: © 2005 G. A. Hennig, admin. Faith Alive Christian Resources. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 722518

**Confession**

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.**

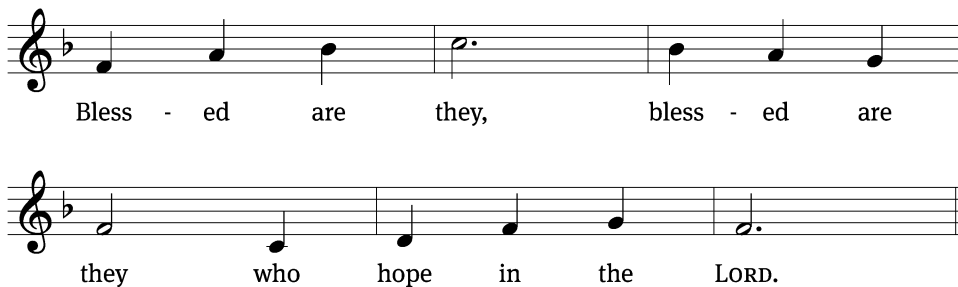
By the mercy of God we are redeemed by Jesus Christ,  
and in him we are forgiven.

Let us rest in his peace until the rising of the sun,  
when we shall serve him in newness of life.

**Amen.**

## Psalm 1A

### Refrain



Bless - ed are they,                    bless - ed are  
they who hope in the LORD.

### Tone



Blessed is the one who / does not walk  
in step with the / wicked  
or stand in the way that / sinners take  
or sit in the company of / mockers,  
but whose delight is in the law / of the LORD,  
and who meditates on his law / day and night.  
That person is like a tree planted by streams of / water,  
which yields its fruit in / season  
and whose leaf does not / wither—  
whatever they do / prospers.    *Refrain*

Not so the / wicked!  
They are like chaff that the wind / blows away.  
Therefore the wicked will not stand in the / judgment,  
nor sinners in the assembly of the / righteous.    *Refrain*

For the LORD watches over the way of the / righteous,  
but the way of the wicked leads to de- / struction.

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

## 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. Amen.

## The Passion History: Part 3

While Jesus was still speaking, suddenly Judas (one of the Twelve) arrived. With him was a large crowd with lanterns, torches, swords, and clubs, who came from the chief priests and elders of the people. Judas was leading them.

Jesus, knowing everything that was going to happen to him, went out and asked them, “Who are you looking for?”

“Jesus the Nazarene,” they replied.

“I am he,” Jesus told them.

Judas, the betrayer, was standing with them. When Jesus told them, “I am he,” they backed away and fell to the ground.

Then Jesus asked them again, “Who are you looking for?”

“Jesus the Nazarene,” they said.

“I told you that I am he,” Jesus replied. “So if you are looking for me, let these men go.” This was to fulfill the statement he had spoken: “I did not lose any of those you have given me.”

Now the betrayer had given them a sign: “The one I kiss is the man. Arrest him.” Immediately he went to Jesus and said, “Greetings, Rabbi!” and kissed him.

Jesus said to him, “Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?”

Then they advanced, took hold of Jesus, and arrested him. When those who were around him saw what was about to happen, they said to him, “Lord, should we strike with a sword?” Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it, struck the high priest’s servant, and cut off his right ear. The servant’s name was Malchus.

But Jesus responded, “Stop! No more of this! Put your sword back into its place, because all who take the sword will die by the sword. Do you not realize that I could call on my Father, and at once he would provide me with more than twelve legions of angels? But then how would the Scriptures be fulfilled that say it must happen this way?” Then he touched the servant’s ear and healed him.

At that same time Jesus said to the crowd, “Have you come out to arrest me with swords and clubs as if I were a robber? Day after day I was sitting in the temple courts teaching, and you did not arrest me. But all this has happened so that the writings of the prophets would be fulfilled.” Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.

The company of soldiers, their commander, and the Jewish guards arrested Jesus and bound him. First they led him to Annas, because he was father-in-law to Caiaphas, who was the high priest that year. Now it was Caiaphas who had advised the Jews, “It is better that one man die for the people.”

Simon Peter and another disciple kept following Jesus. That disciple was known to the high priest, so he went into the high priest’s courtyard with Jesus. But Peter stood outside by the door. So the other disciple, the one known to the high priest, went out and talked to the girl watching the door and brought Peter in.

The servants and guards were standing around a fire of coals that they had made because it was cold. While they warmed themselves, Peter was standing with them, warming himself too.

One of the servant girls of the high priest came there. When she saw Peter warming himself, she looked directly at him and said, “You were also with Jesus the Galilean.”

But he denied it in front of everyone, saying, “I don’t know what you are talking about. Woman, I do not know him.”

When Peter went out to the entryway, someone else saw him and said to those who were there, “This is one of them. This fellow was with Jesus of Nazareth.”

Again Peter denied it with an oath and said, “I do not know the man.”

After a little while those who stood by came and said to Peter, “Surely you are also one of them, because even your accent gives you away. You are a Galilean!”

Then he began to curse and to swear, “I do not know this man you are talking about! I do not know the man!”

At that very moment, while he was still speaking, the rooster crowed. The Lord turned and looked at Peter. Then Peter remembered the Lord’s word, how he had said to him, “Before the rooster crows today you will deny me three times.” He went outside, broke down, and wept bitterly.

The high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching.

Jesus answered him, “I have spoken openly to the world. I always taught in a synagogue or at the temple, where all the Jews gather. I said nothing in secret. Why are you questioning me? Ask those who heard what I told them. Look, they know what I said.” When he said this, one of the guards standing there hit Jesus in the face. “Is that how you answer the high priest?” he demanded.

“If I said something wrong,” Jesus answered, “testify about what was wrong. But if I was right, why did you hit me?”

The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for false testimony against Jesus so that they could put him to death. They found none, even though many false witnesses came forward. Finally two came forward and said, “This fellow said, ‘I am able to destroy the temple of God and rebuild it in three days.’” Yet even on this point, their testimony did not agree.

The high priest stood up and said to him, “Have you no answer? What is this that these men are testifying against you?” But Jesus remained silent. Then the high priest said to him, “I place you under oath by the living God: Tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God!”

Jesus said to him, “It is as you have said. But I tell you, soon you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of power and coming on the clouds of heaven.”

Then the high priest tore his robes and said, “He has spoken blasphemy! Why do we need any more witnesses? See, you have just heard the blasphemy! What do you think?”

They answered, “He is deserving of death!” Then some began to spit on him. They covered his face, struck him with their fists, and said, “Prophecy to us, Christ! Who hit you?” The guards also took him and beat him. And they went on saying many other blasphemous things against him.

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.**

### 396 Christ, the Life of All the Living



1 Christ, the life of all the liv - ing, Christ, the death of  
2 Thou, ah! Thou hast tak - en on thee bonds and stripes, a  
3 Thou hast borne the smit - ing on - ly that my wounds might  
4 Heart - less scof - fers did sur - round thee, treat - ing thee with



death, our foe, who, thy - self for me once giv - ing  
cru - el rod; pain and scorn were heaped up - on thee,  
all be whole; thou hast suf - fered, sad and lone - ly,  
cru - el scorn, and with pierc - ing thorns they crowned thee.



to the dark - est depths of woe: through thy suf - f'rings,  
O thou sin - less Son of God! Thus didst thou my  
rest to give my wea - ry soul; yea, the curse of  
All dis - grace thou, Lord, hast borne that as thine thou



death, and mer - it I e - ter - nal life in - her - it.  
soul de - liv - er from the bonds of sin for - ev - er.  
God en - dur - ing, bless - ing un - to me se - cur - ing.  
might - est own me and with heav'n - ly glo - ry crown me.



Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks shall be, dear - est Je - sus, un - to thee.  
Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks shall be, dear - est Je - sus, un - to thee.  
Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks shall be, dear - est Je - sus, un - to thee.  
Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks shall be, dear - est Je - sus, un - to thee.



- 5    Thou hast suffered men to bruise thee  
      that from pain I might be free;  
falsely did thy foes accuse thee:  
      thence I gain security.  
Comfortless thy soul did languish  
me to comfort in my anguish.  
      Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,  
      dearest Jesus, unto thee.
- 6    Thou hast suffered great affliction  
      and hast borne it patiently,  
even death by crucifixion,  
      fully to atone for me.  
Thou didst choose to be tormented  
that my doom should be prevented.  
      Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,  
      dearest Jesus, unto thee.
- 7    Then, for all that wrought my pardon,  
      for thy sorrows deep and sore,  
for thine anguish in the garden,  
      I will thank thee evermore,  
thank thee for thy groaning, sighing,  
for thy bleeding and thy dying,  
      for that last triumphant cry  
      and shall praise thee, Lord, on high.

Text: Ernst C. Homburg, 1605–1681, abr.; (sts. 1–2, 5, 7): tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.; (sts. 3–4, 6): tr. Evangelical Lutheran Hymn-Book, 1912, alt.  
Tune: Das grosse Cantional, Darmstadt, 1687, alt. Text and tune: Public domain

## Sermon God on Trial: Truth John 18:33-40

### Sermon Lesson

John 18:33-40

<sup>33</sup>Pilate went back into the Praetorium and summoned Jesus. He asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” <sup>34</sup>Jesus answered, “Are you saying this on your own, or did others tell you about me?” <sup>35</sup>Pilate answered, “Am I a Jew? Your own people and chief priests handed you over to me. What have you done?” <sup>36</sup>Jesus replied, “My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would fight so that I would not be handed over to the Jews. But now my kingdom is not from here.” <sup>37</sup>“You are a king then?” Pilate asked. Jesus answered, “I am, as you say, a king. For this reason I was born, and for this reason I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.” <sup>38</sup>“What is truth?” Pilate said to him. After he said this, he went out again to the Jews and told them, “I find no basis for a charge against him. <sup>39</sup>But you have a custom that I release one prisoner to you at the Passover. So do you want me to release the King of the Jews for you?” <sup>40</sup>Then they shouted back, “Not this man, but Barabbas!” (Now Barabbas was a rebel.)

### 405 On My Heart Imprint Your Image



On my heart im - print your im - age, bless - ed Je - sus, King of grace,



that life's rich - es, cares, and plea - sures have no pow'r to hide your face.



Let the clear in - scrip - tion be: Je - sus, cru - ci - fied for me,



is my life, my hope's foun - da - tion, and my glo - ry and sal - va - tion.

Text: tr. Peer O. Strömme, 1856–1921, alt.; Thomas H. Kingo, 1634–1703, abr.  
Tune: Johann B. König, 1691–1758 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

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

Text: Public domain Tune: © 1993 Kurt J. Eggert, admin. Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 722518

## 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*

## 783 Abide with Me (v. 1, 5-7)



1 A - bide with me, fast falls the e - ven - tide.  
5 I need thy pres - ence ev - 'ry pass - ing hour;  
6 I fear no foe with thee at hand to bless;  
7 Hold thou thy cross be - fore my clos - ing eyes;



The dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bide.  
what but thy grace can foil the tempt - er's pow'r?  
ills have no weight and tears no bit - ter - ness.  
shine through the gloom and point me to the skies.



When oth - er help - ers fail and com - forts flee,  
Who like thy - self my guide and stay can be?  
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy vic - to - ry?  
Heav'n's morn - ing breaks, and earth's vain shad - ows flee;



help of the help - less, O a - bide with me.  
Through cloud and sun - shine, O a - bide with me!  
I tri - umph still if thou a - bide with me.  
in life, in death, O Lord, a - bide with me!

Text: Henry F. Lyte, 1793–1847, alt. Tune: William H. Monk, 1823–1889 Text and tune: Public domain

## Acknowledgments

The copyright to *The Evangelical Heritage Version™ (EHV™)* of the Bible is held by The Wartburg Project. © 2019. All rights reserved worldwide. Software distributed in partnership with Northwestern Publishing House.

Acknowledgments Compline from Setting Two from Christian Worship Software distributed in partnership with Northwestern Publishing House.

Created by Christian Worship: Service Builder © 2024 Concordia Publishing House.

All materials reprinted under OneLicense.net A-722518

## **Lent Schedule**

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

Feb 28 Lenten Worship (Pastor Schmidt)

*God on Trial: Truth*

Mar 6 Lenten Worship (Pastor Pfeifer)

*God on Trial: Testimony*

Mar 13 Lenten Worship (Pastor Neumann)

*God on Trial: Restraint*

Mar 20 Lenten Worship (Pastor Pfeifer)

*God on Trial: Sympathy*

*Thank you to Pastor Schmidt for preaching God's Word to us tonight.*

*Thank you to Donna Bakken for accompanying worship this evening.*



## **Lincoln Heights Evangelical Lutheran Church**

1217 Watrous Ave, Des Moines, Iowa

Phone: 515-288-3013

[www.lhelc.org](http://www.lhelc.org)

*A member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS)*

### Pastor

Mathew Pfeifer  
515-771-5111  
[pastor@lhelc.org](mailto:pastor@lhelc.org)

### Secretary

Paula Twelmeyer  
515-288-3013  
[secretary@lhelc.org](mailto:secretary@lhelc.org)