

February 21, 2024
Lent II



GOD
ON
TRIAL

God on Trial
Misconceptions

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.

420 Jesus, I Will Ponder Now



1 Je - sus, I will pon-der now on your ho - ly pas - sion;
2 Make me see your great dis - tress, an - guish, and af - flic - tion,
3 Yet, O Lord, not thus a - lone make me see your pas - sion,
4 Grant that I your pas-sion view with re - pent - ant griev - ing;



with your Spir - it me en - dow for such med - i - ta - tion.
bonds and stripes and wretch - ed - ness and your cru - ci - fix - ion;
but its cause to me make known and its ter - mi - na - tion.
let me not bring shame to you by un - ho - ly liv - ing.



Grant that I in love and faith may the im - age cher - ish
make me see how scourge and rod, spear and nails did wound you,
Ah! I al - so and my sin wrought your deep af - flic - tion;
How could I re - fuse to shun ev - 'ry sin - ful plea - sure



of your suf - f'ring, pain, and death that I may not per - ish.
how for them you died, O God, who with thorns had crowned you.
this in - deed the cause has been of your cru - ci - fix - ion.
since for me God's on - ly Son suf - fered with - out mea - sure?

- 5 If my sins give me alarm and my conscience grieve me,
let your cross my fear disarm, peace of conscience give me.
Help me see forgiveness won by your holy passion.
If for me he slays his Son, God must have compassion!
- 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.

Text: tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.; Sigmund von Birken, 1626–1681
Tune: Melchior Vulpius, c. 1570–1615 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.

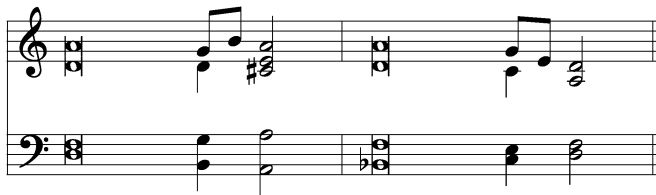
Amen.

Psalm 143B

Refrain



Tone



LORD, hear my prayer, listen to my cry for / mercy;
in your faithfulness and righteousness come to / my relief.
Do not bring your servant into / judgment,
for no one living is righteous be- / fore you.
My spirit grows faint with- / in me;
my heart within me / is dismayed. *Refrain*

Answer me quickly, LORD; my / spirit fails.
Do not hide your / face from me.
Let the morning bring me word of your un- / failing love,
for I have put my / trust in you.
Teach me to do your will, for you / are my God;
may your good Spirit lead me on / level ground.
**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

Merciful God, with souls parched by sin and spirits withered by enemies within and without, we lift our hands to you. Lead us by your Spirit on the path of truth, and guard us from all harm, trusting in Jesus Christ, our refuge and our righteousness. Amen.

The Passion History: Part 2

While they were reclining and eating, Jesus said, “Amen I tell you: One of you will betray me, one who is eating with me.” They were very sad and began to say to him one after another, “Surely, not I, Lord?” He said to them, “It is one of the Twelve, one who is dipping bread with me in the dish. Indeed, the Son of Man is going to go just as it has been written about him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born.”

After saying this, Jesus was troubled in his spirit and testified, “Amen, Amen, I tell you: One of you will betray me.”

The disciples were looking at each other, uncertain which of them he meant.

One of his disciples, the one Jesus loved, was reclining at Jesus’ side. Simon Peter motioned to him to find out which one Jesus was talking about.

So leaning back against Jesus’ side, he asked, “Lord, who is it?”

Jesus replied, “It is the one to whom I will give this piece of bread, after I have dipped it in the dish.” Then he dipped the piece of bread and gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot. As soon as Judas took the bread, Satan entered into him.

So Jesus told him, “What you are about to do, do more quickly.”

None of those reclining at the table understood why Jesus said this to him. Because Judas kept the money box, some thought that Jesus was telling him, “Buy what we need for the Festival,” or to give something to the poor. As soon as Judas had taken the bread, he went out. And it was night.

After Judas left, Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man is glorified, and God is glorified in him. If God is glorified in him, God will also glorify the Son in himself and will glorify him at once.”

While they were eating, on the night when he was betrayed, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to the disciples. He said, "Take, eat, this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you, for this is my blood of the new testament,⁴ which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

"Dear children, I am going to be with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and just as I told the Jews, so I tell you now: Where I am going, you cannot come.

"A new commandment I give you: Love one another. Just as I have loved you, so also you are to love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, where are you going?"

Jesus answered, "Where I am going you cannot follow now, but you will follow later."

Peter asked, "Lord, why can't I follow you now? I will lay down my life for you!"

Jesus replied, "Will you really lay down your life for me? Simon, Simon, pay attention: Satan has asked to have you all, so that he may sift you as wheat. But I prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have returned to me, strengthen your brothers."

Peter answered him, "Even if all fall away because of you, I will never fall away."

Jesus said to him, "Amen I tell you: Tonight, before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times."

Peter said to him, "Even if I have to die with you, I will never deny you." And all the disciples said the same.

He said to them, "When I sent you out without money bag, traveler's bag, and sandals, did you lack anything?"

"Nothing," they said.

Then he told them, "But now, let the one who has a money bag take it, and likewise a traveler's bag. And let the one who has no sword sell his cloak and buy one. For I tell you that this Scripture must be fulfilled in me: 'He was counted with transgressors.' Indeed, what is written about me is going to have its fulfillment."

They said, "Lord, look, here are two swords."

He said to them, “That is enough.”

Then Jesus said to them, “This night you will all fall away on account of me, for it is written, ‘I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.’ But after I have been raised, I will go ahead of you into Galilee.”

After they sang a hymn, Jesus went out with his disciples across the Kidron Valley, to the Mount of Olives, where there was a garden called Gethsemane. He and his disciples went into it. Now Judas, who was betraying him, also knew the place, because Jesus often met there with his disciples.

When he reached the place, Jesus told his disciples, “Sit here, while I go over there and pray. Keep praying that you may not enter into temptation.”

Then he took Peter, James, and John along with him and began to be troubled and distressed. He said to them, “My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow, even to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch.”

He withdrew from them about a stone’s throw, knelt down, and prayed, “Father, if you are willing, take this cup away from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours be done.”

When he rose from prayer, he went to the disciples and found them sleeping as a result of sorrow.

He said to Peter, “Simon, are you sleeping? Were you not strong enough to keep watch for one hour? Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

He went away a second time and prayed, “My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to pass from me unless I drink it, may your will be done.” Again he returned and found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy. They did not know what they should answer him.

He left them again, went away, and prayed a third time. He said the same words as before.

An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him. As he was in agony, he prayed more fervently. His sweat became like great drops of blood falling to the ground. Then he returned to his disciples and said to them, “Are you still sleeping and resting? Look, the hour is near, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Rise. Let us go. Look, my betrayer is near!”

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.

400 Sweet the Moments, Rich in Blessing



1 Sweet the mo - ments, rich in bless - ing, which be -
2 Here we rest in won - der, view - ing all our
3 Here we find the dawn of heav - en while up -
4 Oh, that, near the cross a - bid - ing, we may
5 Lord, in lov - ing con - tem - pla - tion fix our



fore the cross we spend, life and health and
sins on Je - sus laid; here we see re -
on the cross we gaze, see our tres - pass -
to the Sav - ior cleave, naught with him our
hearts and eyes on you till we taste your



peace pos - sess - ing from the sin - ner's dy - ing friend.
demp - tion flow - ing from the sac - ri - fice he made.
es for - giv - en, and our songs of tri - umph raise.
hearts di - vid - ing, all for him con - tent to leave!
full sal - va - tion and your un - veiled glo - ry view.

Text: alt. Walter Shirley, 1725–1786; James Allen, 1734–1804
Tune: Erbaulicher Musicalischer Christen-Schatz, Basel, 1745, alt.
Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon God on Trial: Misconceptions Luke 23:1-12

Sermon Lesson

Luke 23:1–12

¹Then the whole assembly rose and led him off to Pilate. ²And they began to accuse him, saying, “We have found this man subverting our nation. He opposes payment of taxes to Caesar and claims to be Messiah, a king.”

³So Pilate asked Jesus, “Are you the king of the Jews?”

“You have said so,” Jesus replied.

⁴Then Pilate announced to the chief priests and the crowd, “I find no basis for a charge against this man.”

⁵But they insisted, “He stirs up the people all over Judea by his teaching. He started in Galilee and has come all the way here.”

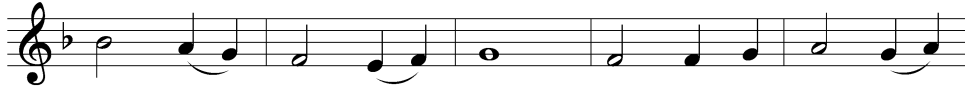
⁶On hearing this, Pilate asked if the man was a Galilean. ⁷When he learned that Jesus was under Herod’s jurisdiction, he sent him to Herod, who was also in Jerusalem at that time.

⁸When Herod saw Jesus, he was greatly pleased, because for a long time he had been wanting to see him. From what he had heard about him, he hoped to see him perform a sign of some sort. ⁹He plied him with many questions, but Jesus gave him no answer. ¹⁰The chief priests and the teachers of the law were standing there, vehemently accusing him. ¹¹Then Herod and his soldiers ridiculed and mocked him. Dressing him in an elegant robe, they sent him back to Pilate. ¹²That day Herod and Pilate became friends—before this they had been enemies.

407 When I Survey the Wondrous Cross



1 When I sur - ve y the won - drous cross on which the
2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast save in the
3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sor - row and
4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, that were a



Prince of glo - ry died, my rich - est gain I
death of Christ, my God. All the vain things that
love flow min - gled down. Did e'er such love and
trib - ute far too small; love so a - maz - ing,



count but loss and pour con-tempt on all my pride.
charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to his blood.
sor - row meet or thorns com-pose so rich a crown?
so di - vine, de - mands my soul, my life, my all.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, abr., alt. Tune: Lowell Mason, 1792–1872 Text and tune: Public domain

Offering

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 of a single treble clef. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). 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

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. 1-4)



1 A - bide with me, fast falls the e - ven - tide.
2 Swift to its close ebbs out life's lit - tle day;
3 Come not in ter - rors, as the King of kings,
4 Thou on my head in ear - ly youth didst smile,



The dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bide.
earth's joys grow dim, its glo - ries pass a - way;
but kind and good, with heal - ing in thy wings,
and though re - bel - lious and per - verse mean - while,



When oth - er help - ers fail and com - forts flee,
change and de - cay in all a - round I see;
tears for all woes, a heart for ev - 'ry plea;
thou hast not left me oft as I left thee;



help of the help - less, O a - bide with me.
O thou who chang - est not, a - bide with me.
come, Friend of sin - ners, thus a - bide with me.
on to the close, O Lord, a - bide with me.

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

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Lent Schedule

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

Feb 21 Lenten Worship (Pastor Smith)
God on Trial: Misconceptions

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 Smith for preaching God's Word to us tonight.

Thank you to Donna Bakken for accompanying worship this evening.

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