

THIRD MIDWEEK LENT WORSHIP

February 28, 2024



GOD ON TRIAL

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GOD ON TRIAL

Testimony

✘ Gathering ✘

OPENING HYMN

406 – In the Hour of Trial



1 In the hour of tri - al, Je - sus, plead for me
2 With for - bid - den plea - sures should this vain world charm
3 Should your mer - cy send me sor - row, toil, and woe,
4 When my life is end - ing, though in grief or pain,



lest by base de - ni - al I un - wor - thy be.
or its tempt - ing trea - sures spread to work me harm,
or should pain at - tend me on my path be - low,
when my bod - y chang - es back to dust a - gain,



When you see me wa - ver, with a look re - call,
bring to my re - mem - brance sad Geth - sem - a - ne
grant that I may nev - er fail your cross to view;
on your truth re - ly - ing, through that mor - tal strife,



nor for fear or fa - vor ev - er let me fall.
or, in dark - er sem - blance, cross - crowned Cal - va - ry.
grant that I may ev - er cast my care on you.
Je - sus, take me, dy - ing, to e - ter - nal life.

Stand

CONFESSION OF SINS

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.**

Be seated

PSALM

Psalm 119

Refrain



Tone



Oh, how I / love your law!

I meditate on it / all day long.

Your commands are always / with me

and make me wiser than my / enemies.

I have more insight than all my / teachers,

for I meditate on your / statutes.

Refrain

I have kept my feet from every / evil path

so that I might o- / bey your word.

How sweet are your words / to my taste,

sweeter than honey / to my mouth!

I gain understanding from your / precepts;

therefore I hate every / wrong path.

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

PSALM PRAYER

Lord, your word is my delight. When I was lost in the darkness of sin, you penetrated my heart with the light of your word. Let it enlighten my path each day that I may serve you in holiness. Let your word shine through all I say and do that others may see you and praise your saving name. In Jesus' name I pray. **Amen.**

PASSION HISTORY

LEADER: 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.”

CONGREGATION: Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying,

LEADER: “Drink from it, all of you, for this is my blood of the new testament, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

MEN: “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.

CONGREGATION: “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.”

WOMEN: Simon Peter said to him, “Lord, where are you going?”

CONGREGATION: Jesus answered, “Where I am going you cannot follow now, but you will follow later.”

MEN: Peter asked, “Lord, why can’t I follow you now? I will lay down my life for you!”

LEADER: 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.”

WOMEN: Peter answered him, “Even if all fall away because of you, I will never fall away.”

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

MEN: Peter said to him, “Even if I have to die with you, I will never deny you.”

WOMEN: And all the disciples said the same.

LEADER: He said to them, “When I sent you out without money bag, traveler’s bag, and sandals, did you lack anything?”

CONGREGATION: “Nothing,” they said.

LEADER: 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.”

CONGREGATION: They said, “Lord, look, here are two swords.”

MEN: He said to them, “That is enough.”

LEADER: 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.”

WOMEN: 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.

MEN: Now Judas, who was betraying him, also knew the place, because Jesus often met there with his disciples.

LEADER: 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.”

WOMEN: Then he took Peter, James, and John along with him and began to be troubled and distressed.

LEADER: He said to them, “My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow, even to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch.”

CONGREGATION: He withdrew from them about a stone’s throw, knelt down, and prayed,

MEN: “Father, if you are willing, take this cup away from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours be done.”

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

LEADER: 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.”

MEN: 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.”

WOMEN: Again he returned and found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy. They did not know what they should answer him.

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

LEADER: An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him.

MEN: As he was in agony, he prayed more fervently.

WOMEN: His sweat became like great drops of blood falling to the ground.

LEADER: 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!”

CONGREGATION: While Jesus was still speaking, suddenly Judas (one of the Twelve) arrived.

WOMEN: 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.

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

CONGREGATION: “Jesus the Nazarene,” they replied.

LEADER: “I am he,” Jesus told them.

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

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

CONGREGATION: “Jesus the Nazarene,” they said.

MEN: “I told you that I am he,” Jesus replied. “So if you are looking for me, let these men go.”

WOMEN: This was to fulfill the statement he had spoken: “I did not lose any of those you have given me.”

CONGREGATION: 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.

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

WOMEN: 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?”

MEN: 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.

LEADER: 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?”

WOMEN: Then he touched the servant’s ear and healed him.

CONGREGATION: 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.”

MEN: Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.

LEADER: 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.”

HYMN OF THE DAY

430 – Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted



1 Strick-en, smit-ten, and af-flict-ed, see him dy-ing on the
 2 Tell me, as you hear him groan-ing, was there ev-er grief like
 3 If you think of sin but light-ly nor sup-pose the e-vil
 4 Here we have a firm foun-da-tion, here the ref-u-ge of the



tree! 'Tis the Christ, by man re-ject-ed; yes, my
 his, friends through fear his cause dis-own-ing, foes in-
 great, here you see its na-ture right-ly, here its
 lost: Christ, the rock of our sal-va-tion, is the



soul, 'tis he, 'tis he. 'Tis the long-ex-pect-ed
 sult-ing his dis-tress? Man-y hands were raised to
 guilt may es-ti-mate. Mark the sac-ri-fice ap-
 name of which we boast; Lamb of God, for sin-ners



Proph-et, Da-vid's son, yet Da-vid's Lord; proofs I
 wound him, none would in-ter-vene to save; but the
 point-ed, see who bears the aw-ful load; 'tis the
 wound-ed, sac-ri-fice to can-cel guilt! None shall



see suf-fi-cient of it: 'tis the true and faith-ful Word.
 deep-est stroke that pierced him was the stroke that jus-tice gave.
 Word, the Lord's a-noint-ed, Son of Man and Son of God.
 ev-er be con-found-ed who on him their hope have built.

✠ Sermon ✠

Matthew 26:57-75

Pastor David Strucely (Atonement Lutheran Church, Plano)

MATTHEW 26:57 Those who had arrested Jesus took him to Caiaphas the high priest, where the teachers of the law and the elders had assembled. ⁵⁸But Peter followed him at a distance, right up to the courtyard of the high priest. He entered and sat down with the guards to see the outcome.

⁵⁹The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for false evidence against Jesus so that they could put him to death. ⁶⁰But they did not find any, though many false witnesses came forward.

Finally two came forward ⁶¹and declared, “This fellow said, ‘I am able to destroy the temple of God and rebuild it in three days.’”

⁶²Then the high priest stood up and said to Jesus, “Are you not going to answer? What is this testimony that these men are bringing against you?” ⁶³But Jesus remained silent.

The high priest said to him, “I charge you under oath by the living God: Tell us if you are the Messiah, the Son of God.”

⁶⁴“You have said so,” Jesus replied. “But I say to all of you: From now on you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven.”

⁶⁵Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, “He has spoken blasphemy! Why do we need any more witnesses? Look, now you have heard the blasphemy. ⁶⁶What do you think?”

“He is worthy of death,” they answered.

⁶⁷Then they spit in his face and struck him with their fists. Others slapped him ⁶⁸and said, “Prophecy to us, Messiah. Who hit you?”

⁶⁹Now Peter was sitting out in the courtyard, and a servant girl came to him. “You also were with Jesus of Galilee,” she said.

⁷⁰But he denied it before them all. “I don’t know what you’re talking about,” he said.

⁷¹Then he went out to the gateway, where another servant girl saw him and said to the people there, “This fellow was with Jesus of Nazareth.”

⁷²He denied it again, with an oath: “I don’t know the man!”

⁷³After a little while, those standing there went up to Peter and said, “Surely you are one of them; your accent gives you away.”

⁷⁴Then he began to call down curses, and he swore to them, “I don’t know the man!”

Immediately a rooster crowed. ⁷⁵Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken: “Before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times.” And he went outside and wept bitterly.

God on Trial – Testimony

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND MUSICAL OFFERING

We appreciate the offerings given to support the work of God's Kingdom here and throughout the world.

Offerings can be given in any of these ways:

- *Set in the offering plate at the back of the sanctuary*
- *On the Calvary website: <https://calvarydallas.org/give/>*
- *Scan the QR code to the right...*



Give us a record of your visit through our online Connection Card, or by filling out the card in the pew and placing it in the offering plate as you leave. The Connection Card tab can be found at the bottom right of any page of the Calvary website, <https://calvarydallas.org> or by scanning the QR code above.

PRAYER

Abide with us, Lord, for it is evening and the day is almost over. Abide with us and with your whole Church. Abide with us in your grace and goodness, in your holy word and sacrament, in your comfort and blessing. Abide with us when we are overcome by the night of sorrow and fear, by the night of doubt and affliction, by the night of bitter death. Abide with us and with all your people in time and in eternity. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

BLESSING

May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face shine on us.
May God bless us still, so that all the ends of the earth will fear him.

Be seated

CLOSING HYMN

783 – Abide With Me



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.

- 5 I need thy presence ev'ry passing hour;
 what but thy grace can foil the tempter's pow'r?
 Who like thyself my guide and stay can be?
 Through cloud and sunshine, O abide with me!
- 6 I fear no foe with thee at hand to bless;
 ills have no weight and tears no bitterness.
 Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
 I triumph still if thou abide with me.
- 7 Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes;
 shine through the gloom and point me to the skies.
 Heav'n's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;
 in life, in death, O Lord, abide with me!

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Hymn 406 – In the Hour of Trial

Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854, alt.

Tune: John B. Dykes, 1823-1876; setting: The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.

Scripture references: Lk 22:54-62; 1 Co 10:12, 13; Heb 2:18; Lk 22:31, 32; 1 Jn 2:15-17

Text and music: public domain

Psalm 119D

Music: (after ERHALT UNS, HERR): Thomas Pavlechko ©2004, 2012 admin. Augsburg Fortress

Hymn 430 – Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted

Text: Thomas Kelly, 1769-1855, alt.

Tune: Geistliche Volkslieder, Paderborn, 1850; setting: Paul G. Bunjes, 1914-1998

Scripture references: Isa 53:3-6; Mt 27:39-50; 1 Pe 2:4-6

Text and tune: public domain; setting: ©1982 Concordia Publishing House

Hymn 783 – Abide with Me

Text: Henry F. Lyte, 1793-1847, alt.

Tune: William H. Monk, 1823-1889; setting: The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941

Scripture references: Lk 24:29; Ps 63:6-8; 73:23-26

Text and music: public domain

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[3/31/2022]

A special thanks to Pastor David Strucely (from our sister church, Atonement Lutheran Church in Plano) for bring us this evening's Lenten message.



MIDWEEK LENT and HOLY WEEK

The unbelieving world has always insisted on putting **God on Trial**. As our society becomes more secular, Christians are increasingly aware of the many ways in which God — and his people — are judged. Temptations are many in this environment: treating unbelievers as enemies, retreating from the world, even questioning God ourselves. How do we live as people of God in this hostile world? We find our model — and our motivation — in Jesus. This series takes us back to the moments when **God** was literally **on Trial** before the people in the person of Christ. In these inspired episodes, we find forgiveness for us and all people, love for our enemies, strength for our faith, and courage to testify to the truth.

- Ash Wednesday/Midweek 1: God on Trial – Accusations 2/14 @ 7:00 p.m.
- Midweek 2: God on Trial – Restraints 2/21 @ 7:00 p.m.
- Midweek 3: God on Trial – Testimony 2/28 @ 7:00 p.m.
- Midweek 4: God on Trial – Misconceptions 3/6 @ 7:00 p.m.
- Midweek 5: God on Trial – Truth 3/13 @ 7:00 p.m.
- Midweek 6: God on Trial – Sympathy 3/20 @ 7:00 p.m.
- Palm Sunday: God on Trial – Anticipation 3/24 @ normal weekend times
- Holy Thursday: God on Trial – Respite 3/28 @ 7:00 p.m.
- Good Friday: God on Trial – Evidence 3/29 @ 7:00 p.m.
- Easter Sunday: God on Trial – Vindication 3/31 Sunrise @ 6:30 a.m.
3/31 Festival @ 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.