

SIXTH MIDWEEK LENT WORSHIP

March 20, 2024



GOD ON TRIAL

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GOD ON TRIAL

Sympathy

✘ Gathering ✘

OPENING HYMN

425 – Go to Dark Gethsemane



1 Go to dark Geth - sem - a - ne, all who feel the
2 Fol - low to the judg - ment hall, view the Lord of
3 Cal - v'ry's mourn - ful moun - tain climb; there, a - dor - ing
4 Ear - ly has - ten to the tomb where they laid his



tempt - er's pow'r; your Re - deem - er's con - flict see,
life ar - raigned. Oh, the worm - wood and the gall,
at his feet, mark that mir - a - cle of time,
breath - less clay; all is sol - i - tude and gloom.



watch with him one bit - ter hour. Turn not from his
oh, the pangs his soul sus - tained! Shun not suf - f'ring,
God's own sac - ri - fice com - plete. "It is fin - ished!"
Who has tak - en him a - way? Christ is ris'n! He



griefs a - way; learn from Je - sus Christ to pray.
pain, or loss; learn from him to bear the cross.
hear him cry; learn from Je - sus Christ to die.
meets our eyes. Sav - ior, teach us so to rise.

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.**

PSALM

Psalm 138

Refrain



I will / praise you, LORD,
with / all my heart;

I will bow down toward your holy temple and will / praise your name
for your unfailing love and your / faithfulness.

When I called, you / answered me;
you greatly em- / boldened me.

Though the LORD is exalted, he looks kindly on the / lowly;
though lofty, he sees them / from afar. *Refrain*

Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you pre- / serve my life;
with your right hand you / save me.

The LORD will vindi- / cate me;
your love, LORD, endures for- / ever.

**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, 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

LEADER: 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.”

CONGREGATION: They offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it.

MEN: They crucified him there with the criminals, one on his right and the other on his left.

LEADER: Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.”

WOMEN: Now it was the third hour when they crucified him.

CONGREGATION: Pilate also had a notice written and fastened on the cross. It read, “Jesus the Nazarene, the King of the Jews.”

MEN: 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.

LEADER: 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.””

MEN: Pilate answered, “What I have written, I have written.”

WOMEN: 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.

LEADER: 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.

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

WOMEN: 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!”

LEADER: 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.

CONGREGATION: 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.’”

MEN: One of the criminals hanging there was blaspheming him, saying, “Aren’t you the Christ? Save yourself and us!”

WOMEN: 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.”

MEN: Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come in your kingdom.”

LEADER: Jesus said to him, “Amen I tell you: Today you will be with me in paradise.”

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

LEADER: 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.

CONGREGATION: It was now about the sixth hour, and darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour, while the sun was darkened.

LEADER: 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?”

MEN: When some of those standing there heard this, they said, “Listen, he’s calling Elijah!”

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

WOMEN: 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.

LEADER: 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.

CONGREGATION: 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.

LEADER: 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.”

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

CONGREGATION: 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.

WOMEN: Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Joseph, Salome, and the mother of Zebedee's sons.

LEADER: 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).

CONGREGATION: They asked Pilate to have the men's legs broken and the bodies taken away.

MEN: So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first man who was crucified with Jesus, and then those of the other man.

WOMEN: But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs.

CONGREGATION: Instead, one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear. Immediately blood and water came out.

MEN: 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.

WOMEN: 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."

LEADER: When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathaea, named Joseph, who was also a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews. Joseph of Arimathaea, a prominent member of the council, was a good and righteous man. He had not agreed with their plan and action. He was looking forward to the kingdom of God. He boldly went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus.

CONGREGATION: Pilate was surprised that Jesus was already dead. He summoned the centurion and asked him if Jesus had been dead for a long time. When he learned from the centurion that it was so, he granted the body to Joseph.

MEN: Joseph bought a linen cloth, came, and took Jesus' body away.

WOMEN: Nicodemus, who earlier had come to Jesus at night, also came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-two pounds.

CONGREGATION: They took Jesus' body and bound it with linen strips along with the spices, in accord with Jewish burial customs.

LEADER: There was a garden at the place where Jesus was crucified. And in the garden was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid.

MEN: So they laid Jesus there, because it was the Jewish Preparation Day, and the tomb was near.

WOMEN: Joseph took the body and laid it in his own new tomb that he had cut in the rock. He rolled a large stone over the tomb's entrance and left.

CONGREGATION: The women who had come with Jesus from Galilee followed after Joseph, and they observed the tomb and how Jesus' body was laid there.

WOMEN: Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses were watching where the body was laid. ⁵⁶Then they returned and prepared spices and perfumes. On the Sabbath they rested according to the commandment.

LEADER: On the next day, which was the day after the Preparation Day, the chief priests and Pharisees gathered in the presence of Pilate and said, "Sir, we remembered what that deceiver said while he was still alive: 'After three days I will rise again.' So give a command that the tomb be made secure until the third day. Otherwise his disciples might steal his body and tell the people, 'He is risen from the dead.' And this last deception will be worse than the first."

MEN: Pilate said to them, "You have a guard. Go, make it as secure as you know how."

CONGREGATION: So they went and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone and posting a guard.

HYMN OF THE DAY

433 – God Was There on Calvary



1 God was there on Cal - va - ry, God the Fa - ther's on - ly Son,
2 All the world on Cal - va - ry cru - ci - fied the Prince of life,
3 Sin was there on Cal - va - ry, all the sins of ev - 'ry - one,
4 Love was there on Cal - va - ry, stream - ing from the heart of God,



dy - ing that the world might live, there on Cal - va - ry.
pierced the hands of God's own Son, there on Cal - va - ry.
laid up - on God's sin - less Lamb there on Cal - va - ry.
reach - ing out for ev - 'ry - one there on Cal - va - ry.

5 Life was there on Calvary,
flowing from his wounded side,
spent that death itself might die
there on Calvary.

6 We were there on Calvary;
we were pardoned, saved, set free,
saved to live eternally—
blessèd Calvary!

✠ Sermon ✠

Luke 23:26-34

Pastor David Strucely (Atonement Lutheran Church, Plano)

LUKE 23:26 As the soldiers led him away, they seized Simon from Cyrene, who was on his way in from the country, and put the cross on him and made him carry it behind Jesus. ²⁷ A large number of people followed him, including women who mourned and wailed for him. ²⁸ Jesus turned and said to them, “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep for yourselves and for your children. ²⁹ For the time will come when you will say, ‘Blessed are the childless women, the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!’ ³⁰ Then

“they will say to the mountains, ‘Fall on us!’
and to the hills, ‘Cover us!’”

³¹ For if people do these things when the tree is green, what will happen when it is dry?”

³² Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed. ³³ When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him there, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left. ³⁴ Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.” And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.

God on Trial - Sympathy

Sermon notes:

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.

Please stand

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

784 – Now the Light Has Gone Away



1 Now the light has gone a - way; Fa - ther, lis - ten while I pray,
2 Je - sus, Sav - ior, wash a - way all that I've done wrong to - day.
3 Let my near and dear ones be safe with you e - ter - nal - ly.
4 Now my eve - ning praise I give; you once died that I might live.
5 Ah, my best and kind - est Friend, you will love me to the end.



ask - ing you to watch and keep and to send me qui - et sleep.
Make me ev - er more like you, good and gen - tle, kind and true.
O bring me and all I love to your hap - py home a - bove.
All your pre - cious gifts are free— oh, how good you are to me!
Let me love you more and more, al - ways bet - ter than be - fore.

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



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Hymn 425 – Go to Dark Gethsemane

Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854, alt.

Tune: Richard Redhead, 1820-1901; setting: Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978

Scripture references: Mt 26:36-46; Mk 14:53-65; 15:2-5; Lk 23:26-49; Jn 19:30; 20:10-18

Text and music: public domain

Psalm 138C

Refrain tune: Ray Makeever ©2006 Augsburg Fortress

Tone: Psalter for Worship 31 ©1998 Augsburg Fortress

Hymn 433 – God Was There on Calvary

Text: Kurt J. Eggert, 1923-1993

Tune: Kurt J. Eggert, 1923-1993; setting: Kermit G. Moldenhauer, b. 1949

Scripture references: 1 Jn 4:9; Isa 53:6; Jn 3:16

Text and tune: ©1993 Kurt J. Eggert, admin. Northwestern Publishing House

Setting: ©1993 Kermit G. Moldenhauer, admin. Northwestern Publishing House

Hymn 784 – Now the Light Has Gone Away

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879, alt.

Tune: *Liederbuch für Kleinkinder-Schulen*, Kaiserswerth, 1842; setting: *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941

Scripture references: Ps 4:8; 51:2,7; Jn 14:1-3; 1 Th 5:10; 1 Jn 4:19

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GOD ON TRIAL

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

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.

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.