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**Second Mid-Week Lenten Service
“Here I Stand—Lent with Martin Luther”
March 8, 2017**

Prayer at the Close of the Day—Compline

“Prayer at the Close of the Day” is a version of the historic rite called Compline. It is the final service of the day before one retires for the night. The congregation gathers in silence. Pre-service music is omitted, and the lighting is subdued. This is a time for prayer and meditation. The believer finds peace in God’s forgiveness and security under the shadow of His wings.

Before Service Prayer: (From Luther’s Small Catechism, Book of Concordia)

*In the evening, when you go to bed, you shall bless yourself with the holy cross and say: In the name of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.
Then, kneeling or standing, repeat the Creed and the Lord’s Prayer. If you choose, you may, in addition, say this little prayer:*

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day. Forgive me all my sins, and graciously keep me this night. Into Your hands I commend my body and soul and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Then go to sleep promptly and cheerfully.

Pastor’s Welcome

(Pastor sings parts marked with [L], congregation sings [G])

The image shows a musical score for a hymn, consisting of ten staves of music. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes. Performance instructions are indicated by boxed letters: [L] for the pastor and [G] for the congregation. The lyrics are: "The Lord Al - might - y grant us a qui - et night and peace at the last. A - men. It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praise to your name, O Most High, to her-ald your love in the morn - ing, your truth at the close of day. Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your king - dom. Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your king - dom." The music features various note values, rests, and phrasing slurs.

[L] The Lord Al - might - y grant us a qui - et
night and peace at the last. [G] A -
men. [L] It is good to give
thanks to the Lord, [G] to sing praise to your
name, O Most High, [L] to her-ald your love in the
morn - ing, [G] your truth at the close of day.
[L] Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in -
to your king - dom. [G] Je - sus, re - mem - ber
me when you come in - to your king - dom.

Opening Hymn: (tune CW 117)

**Lord of our life and God of our salvation,
Star of our night and hope of ev'ry nation:
Hear and receive Your Church's supplication,
Lord God Almighty.**

**See round Your ark the hungry billows curling
See how Your foes their banners are unfurling
And with great spite their fiery darts are hurling,
O Lord, preserve us.**

**Lord, be our light when worldly darkness veils us;
Lord, be our shield when earthly armor fails us;
And in the day when hell itself assails us,
Grant us Your peace, Lord.**

Invocation and Responsive Reading (*Mark 8:34-35*)

P: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Jesus said to them, "If anyone would come after Me,

C: **Let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me.**

P: For whoever would save his life will lose it,

C: **But whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it."**

Confession and Absolution

P: Let us confess our sins to God and ask His forgiveness.

C: **Almighty God, we are called to follow Jesus, but instead we turn away to follow our own selfish desires. We have often shunned Your cross and shuttered at the idea of suffering for the sake of Jesus. We listen to the temptations of this world instead of listening to Your Word. We sin against You each day in our thoughts, words and actions. Have mercy and forgive us. Restore us and help us by Your Spirit to follow Jesus.**

P: God has had mercy on you. He sent His Son to be your Savior. Jesus suffered, died and rose from the dead to win for you forgiveness and life. I announce to you that your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

C: **Help us, almighty God, to follow daily in the footsteps of our Savior.**

Prayer of the Day

P: Lord Jesus, for us You were betrayed and arrested. For us You faced the lies and false accusations of Your enemies, an unjust trial and the sentence of death. For us You carried our sins in Your own body to the cross to give us forgiveness and life. If we should face anger or ridicule because we follow You, help us to stand firm in faith and bold in witness. Comfort and protect Your saints in every nation where they are persecuted for the sake of Your holy name. Help each of them to bear the cross and follow You.

C: Amen.

Psalm for the Evening: A New Song Now Shall Be Begun by Martin Luther *(read by John Landenberger)*

On July 1, 1523, the infant Reformation saw executed in Brussels marketplace Heinrich Voes and Johan Esch, to Belgian Augustinian monks and followers of Luther's. Since wandering minstrels and their ballads served as the mass media of the day, Luther wrote this first hymn of the Reformation as a ballad recounting the martyrdom of these witnesses.

The Passion Reading--THE PASSION HISTORY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

LESSON ONE

LEADER: The Festival of Unleavened Bread, which is called the Passover, was approaching. Jesus said to His disciples,

MEN: "You know that after two days it will be the Passover, and the Son of Man will be handed over to be crucified."

LEADER: Then the chief priests and the elders of the people assembled in the palace of the high priest, whose name was Caiaphas.

WOMEN: They plotted together how to arrest Jesus in some deceitful way and kill Him.

CONGREGATION: But they said, "Not during the Festival, or else there might be a riot among the people."

LEADER: Satan entered Judas, called Iscariot, who was one of the Twelve. He went away and spoke with the chief priests and officers of the temple guard about how he could betray Jesus to them. They were glad and agreed to give him money. He promised to do it and was looking for an opportunity to betray Jesus to them away from the crowd.

WOMEN: On the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb is sacrificed, His disciples asked Him,

MEN: “Where do You want us to go and prepare for You to eat the Passover?”

LEADER: He sent two of His disciples and said to them, “Go into the city, and there a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him. Wherever he enters, tell the owner of the house that the Teacher says, ‘Where is My guest room, where I may eat the Passover with My disciples?’ He will show you a large upper room, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there.”

WOMEN: They went and found things just as He had told them, and they prepared the Passover.

LEADER: When the hour had come, Jesus reclined at the table with the twelve apostles.

MEN: He said to them, “I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer, for I tell you, I will not eat it again until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.”

CONGREGATION: A dispute arose among the disciples about which of them was considered to be greatest.

LEADER: But He told them, “The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who have authority over them are called Benefactors. But it is not to be that way with you. Instead, let the greatest among you become like the youngest, and the one who leads like the one who serves. For who is greater, one who reclines at the table or one who serves? Isn’t it the one who reclines at the table? But I am among you as one who serves. You are those who have remained with Me in My trials. I am going to grant a kingdom to you, just as My Father granted to Me, so that you may eat and drink at My table in my kingdom. And you will sit on thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.”

WOMEN: Before the Passover Festival, Jesus knew that the time had come for Him to leave this world and go to the Father.

CONGREGATION: Having loved those who were His own in the world, He loved them to the end.

MEN: By the time the supper took place, the Devil had already put the idea into the heart of Judas, son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus.

CONGREGATION: Jesus knew that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come from God and was going back to God.

LEADER: He got up from the supper and laid aside His outer garment. He took a towel and tied it around His waist.

WOMEN: Then He poured water into a basin and began to wash His disciples’ feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around Him.

MEN: He came to Simon Peter, who asked Him, “Lord, are you going to wash my feet?”

LEADER: Jesus answered him, “You do not understand what I am doing now, but later you will understand.”

MEN: Peter told Him, “You will never, ever, wash my feet!”

LEADER: Jesus replied, “If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me.”

MEN: “Lord, not just my feet,” Simon Peter replied, “but also my hands and my head!”

CONGREGATION: Jesus told him, “A person who has had a bath needs only to wash his feet, but his body is completely clean. And you are clean, but not all of you.” Indeed, He knew who was going to betray Him. That is why He said, “Not all of you are clean.”

WOMEN: After Jesus had washed their feet and put on His outer garment, He reclined at the table again.

LEADER: “Do you understand what I have done for you?” He asked them. “You call Me Teacher and Lord. You are right, because I am. Now if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. Yes, I have given you an example so that you also would do just as I have done for you. Amen, Amen, I tell you: A servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.”

CONGREGATION: He took a cup, gave thanks, and said, “Take this and divide it among yourselves, for I tell you, from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.”

LEADER: While they were reclining and eating, Jesus said, “Amen I tell you: One of you will betray Me, one who is eating with Me.”

CONGREGATION: They were very sad and began to say to Him one after another, “Surely, not I, Lord?”

MEN: 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.”

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

WOMEN: The disciples were looking at each other, uncertain which of them He meant.

CONGREGATION: 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.

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

LEADER: Jesus replied, “It is the one to whom I will give this piece of bread, after I have dipped it in the dish.”

WOMEN: 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.

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

CONGREGATION: 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.

WOMEN: As soon as Judas had taken the bread, he went out. And it was night.

LEADER: 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.”

L In - to your hands I com-mend my spir - it. **G** In - to your

hands I com-mend my spir - it. **L** You have re-deemed me, O

Lord, God of truth. **G** In - to your hands I com-mend my

spir - it. **L** Glo - ry to the Fa - ther and to the Son (✠)

and to the Ho - ly Spir - it. **G** In - to your

hands I com-mend my spir - it.

The Sermon Hymn: CW 457 “Fight the Good Fight”

The Sermon Text: Matthew 26:59-68

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

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

⁶² Then 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?” ⁶³ But 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.”

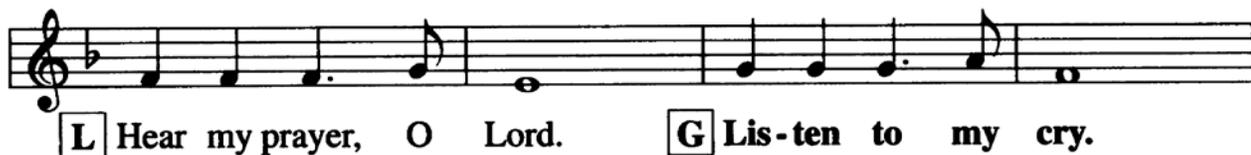
⁶⁵ Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, “He has spoken blasphemy! Why do we need any more witnesses? Look, now you have heard the blasphemy. ⁶⁶ What do you think?”

“He is worthy of death,” they answered.

⁶⁷ Then they spit in His face and struck Him with their fists. Others slapped Him ⁶⁸ and said, “Prophecy to us, Messiah. Who hit you?” (NIV 2011)

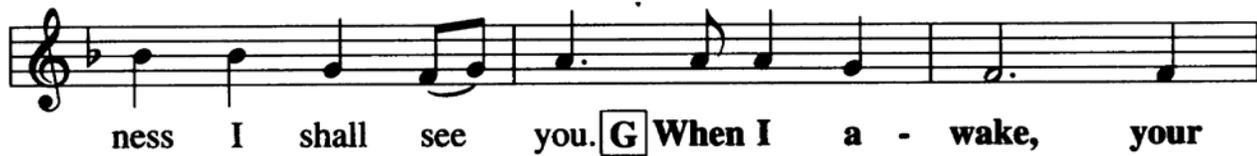
The Sermon Theme: Here I Stand—Standing through Persecution

The Offering





in the shadow of your wings. **L** In right-eous -



ness I shall see you. **G** When I a - wake, your



pres - ence will give me joy.

The Prayer

P: Lord Jesus, You overcame persecution, suffering and death for the sake of our salvation. You triumphed over all of Your enemies to win for us forgiveness, life and peace with God. Jesus, conquering King,

C: Nothing can separate us from Your love.

P: Lord Jesus, so many of Your saints around the world suffer because of their love for You. We pray that You would strengthen their faith and comfort them with the hope of eternal life. Cause all leaders worldwide to rule in justice and wisdom. Jesus, conquering King,

C: Nothing can separate us from Your love.

P: Lord Jesus, when we face ridicule or shame for our faith, strengthen us in Your love. Help us to remain firm in hope, loving even our enemies. Your victory over sin, death and the devil is our victory, and in You we are more than conquerors. Jesus, conquering King,

C: Nothing can separate us from Your love.

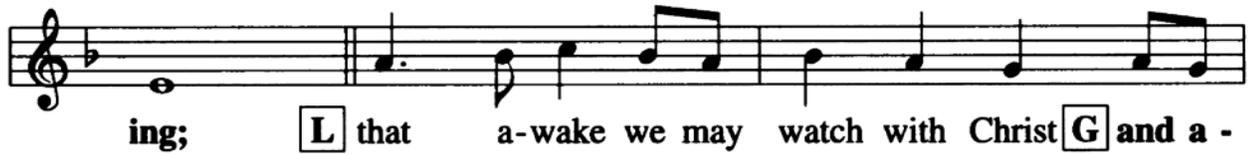
P: We now ask that for Your sake our Father in heaven would hear us, as we pray together the words You taught us to pray....

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.



[L] Guide us wak-ing, O Lord, **[G]** and guard us sleep -



ing; **[L]** that a-wake we may watch with Christ **[G]** and a -



sleep we may rest in peace.

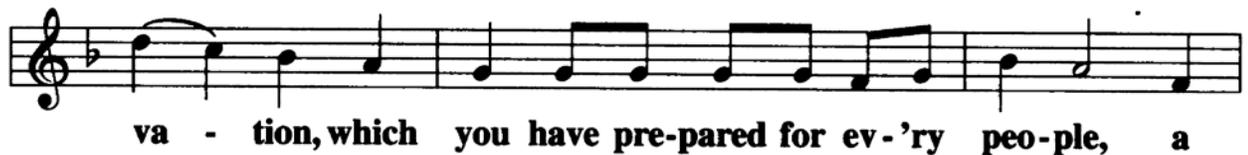
Song of Simeon



[G] In peace, Lord, in peace 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. In peace, in peace.

The Blessing

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

C: Amen.

The Closing Hymn: CW 589 “Now the Day Is Over”

Announcements

Thank you to the LaPlante family for serving the supper we enjoyed before the service.

Thank you to Rev. Jack Kelly who served as our guest preacher this evening. Rev. Kelly is the pastor of Our Savior Lutheran Church in Zion, IL.

Next Wednesday, Pastor Robert Meiselwitz from St. Paul’s Lutheran Church in Round Lake will serve as our guest preacher. Next Wednesday’s theme is “Standing in Truth.”

After the service the Church council will have its March meeting.

After the service, Toby James will provide training to those who are signed up to work the booth on Saturday at the LZACC Showcase.