



**REFLECTIONS**  
**on**  
**REPENTANCE**

*March 26, 2025*

ZION EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH, MONROE, MI

(Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod)

Third Midweek Lenten Worship

Order of Service

March 26, 2025

**WELCOME TO ZION.** It is our hope and prayer that the message you hear today from God's Word will strengthen your faith and fill your heart with the peace only God can give and the joy we have in believing that JESUS CHRIST is our Savior from sin.

OPENING HYMN: *CW 108*

“Jesus, Refuge of the Weary”

LENT

108

Jesus, Refuge of the Weary



1 Je - sus, Ref - uge of the wea - ry, Blest Re - deem - er,  
2 Dare we pass that cross un - heed - ing, Breath - ing no re -  
3 Je - sus, may our hearts be burn - ing With more fer - vent



whom we love, Foun - tain in life's des - ert drea - ry,  
pent - ant vow, As we see you wound - ed, bleed - ing,  
love for you! May our eyes be ev - er turn - ing



Sav - ior from the world a - bove, Oh, how oft your  
See your thorn - en - cir - cled brow? Since your sin - less  
To be - hold your cross a - new, Till in glo - ry,



eyes, of - fend - ed, Gaze up - on a sin - ner's fall! Yet, up -  
death has brought us Life e - ter - nal, peace, and rest, On - ly  
part - ed nev - er From the bless - ed Sav - ior's side, Grav - en



on the cross ex - tend - ed, You en - dured the pain of all.  
what your grace has taught us Calms the sin - ner's deep dis - tress.  
in our hearts for - ev - er, Dwell the cross, the Cru - ci - fied!

Text: Girolamo Savonarola, 1452–98; tr. Jane F. Wilde, 1826–96, alt.

Tune: O DU LIEBE MEINER LIEBE (87 87 D) *Erbaulicher Musicalischer Christen-Schatz*, Basel, 1745, alt.

INVOCATION

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son  $\dagger$  and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

## CONFESSION OF SINS

P: If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

**C: If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

P: Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

**C: Holy God, gracious Father,**

**I am sinful by nature**

**and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.**

**I have not loved you with my whole heart;**

**I have not loved others as I should.**

**I deserve your punishment both now and forever.**

**But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins  
with his holy life and innocent death.**

**Trusting in him, I pray:**

**God, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

*Silence for meditation and reflection.*

## ABSOLUTION

P: Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son ✝ and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

## LITANY PRAYER

P: O God the Father, you are not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to the saving knowledge of the Truth.

**C: Have mercy on us.**

P: O God the Son, you carried the sin of the whole world and laid down your life to draw all people to yourself.

**C: Have mercy on us.**

P: O God the Holy Spirit, you make the hearts of the spiritually dead alive and transform rebellious people into your children.

**C: Have mercy on us.**

P: Most holy and triune God, we offer our praise for your mercy and grace which you pour out through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C: We praise you, O Lord.**

P: For revealing yourself in the Book of Truth, for gathering nations to faith by that Word, for bringing our souls to believe and rejoice,

C: **We thank you, O Lord.**

P: For martyrs, reformers, and steadfast Christians who scorned personal danger to proclaim the gospel,

C: **We thank you, O Lord.**

P: Stir up our hearts with the joy of our salvation and increase our love and loyalty to you.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: Constantly cleanse, reform, and protect your Church in this day of spreading error and confusion.

C: **Christ, have mercy.**

P: Bring your kingdom to all blood-bought souls who remain lost.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: The Lord Almighty is with us; he is our mighty fortress. Let us exalt his holy name.

### PSALM 31

CW 77

#### *Refrain*

Sure-ly, it is God who saves me; I will trust in him and  
not be a - fraid. For the Lord is my strong-hold and my  
sure de-fense, and he will be my Sav - ior.

#### *Psalm tone*

\*

In you, O LORD, I have taken refuge;\*  
deliver me in your righteousness.

Be my rock of refuge,\*  
a strong fortress to save me.

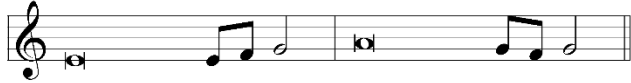
Into your hands I commit my spirit;\*  
redeem me, O LORD, the God of truth.

*Refrain*



Sure-ly, it is God who saves me; I will trust in him and  
not be a - fraid. For the Lord is my strong-hold and my  
sure de-fense, and he will be my Sav - ior.

*Psalm tone*



\*  
A musical staff with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a 4/4 time signature. The melody consists of a series of eighth and quarter notes: G4, A4, Bb4, C5, Bb4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4. There is a double bar line at the end.

*Refrain*

My times are in your hands; \*  
save me in your unfailing love.

How great is your goodness, \*  
which you have stored up for those who fear you.

You heard my cry for mercy \*  
when I called to you for help.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son \*  
and to the Holy Spirit,  
as it was in the beginning, \*  
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

*Refrain*

Refrain Tune: Jack Noble White. © 1976 Belwin-Mills Publishing Corp. (admin. Alfred Publishing Co.). All rights reserved. Used by

**PASSION HISTORY RESPONSIVE READING**

**THE PASSION HISTORY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST  
LESSON THREE**

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

**Congregation: 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.

Pastor: “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.

Pastor: 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.

Pastor: 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.

Pastor: 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<sup>1</sup> 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.”

**Women:** Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> A Roman *legion* contained as many as six thousand soldiers.

<sup>2</sup> Matthew 26:47-56; Mark 14:43-52; Luke 22:47-54; John 18:1-14

**Pastor:** 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.”

**Congregation:** **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.**

**Men:** **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.**

**Women:** **The servants and guards were standing around a fire of coals that they had made because it was cold.**

**Men:** **While they warmed themselves, Peter was standing with them, warming himself too.<sup>3</sup>**

**Pastor:** 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.”

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

**Women:** **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.”**

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

**Congregation:** **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!”**

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

**Pastor:** 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.<sup>4</sup>

**Women:** **The high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching.**

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<sup>3</sup> John 18:12-18

<sup>4</sup> Matthew 26:69-75; Mark 14:66-72; Luke 22:54-62; John 18:15-18, 25-27

**Congregation:** 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.”

**Men:** 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.

**Pastor:** “If I said something wrong,” Jesus answered, “testify about what was wrong. But if I was right, why did you hit me?”<sup>5</sup>

**Congregation:** 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.

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

**Women:** Yet even on this point, their testimony did not agree.

**Congregation:** The high priest stood up and said to him, “Have you no answer? What is this that these men are testifying against you?”

**Pastor:** 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!”

**Men:** 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.”

**Pastor:** 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?”

**Women:** They answered, “He is deserving of death!”

**Congregation:** 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?”

**Pastor:** The guards also took him and beat him. And they went on saying many other blasphemous things against him.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> John 18:19-23

<sup>6</sup> Matthew 26:59-68; Mark 14:53-65; Luke 22:65



## JUSTIFICATION

## 391 God Loved the World So that He Gave



1 God loved the world so that he gave His on - ly  
 2 Christ is the sol - id rock of faith, Who was made  
 3 God would not have the sin - ner die— His Son with  
 4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son For - gives the  
 5 When you are sick, when death draws near, This truth your



Son the lost to save That all who would in  
 flesh and suf - fered death. All who con - fide in  
 sav - ing grace is nigh. His Spir - it in the  
 sins that you have done. You're jus - ti - fied by  
 trou - bled heart can cheer: Christ Je - sus saves my



him be - lieve Should ev - er - last - ing life re - ceive.  
 him a - lone Are built on this chief cor - ner - stone.  
 Word does teach How we the bless - ed goal may reach.  
 Je - sus' blood; Bap - tized, you are a child of God.  
 soul from death— This is the an - chor of my faith!

6 Glory to God the Father, Son,  
 And Holy Spirit, Three in One!  
 To you, O blessed Trinity,  
 Be praise now and eternally!

Text: *Heiliges Lippen . . . Gesangbuch*, Stettin, c. 1778; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.  
 Tune: ST. CRISPIN (LM) George J. Elvey, 1816–93.

## SERMON TEXT AND THEME

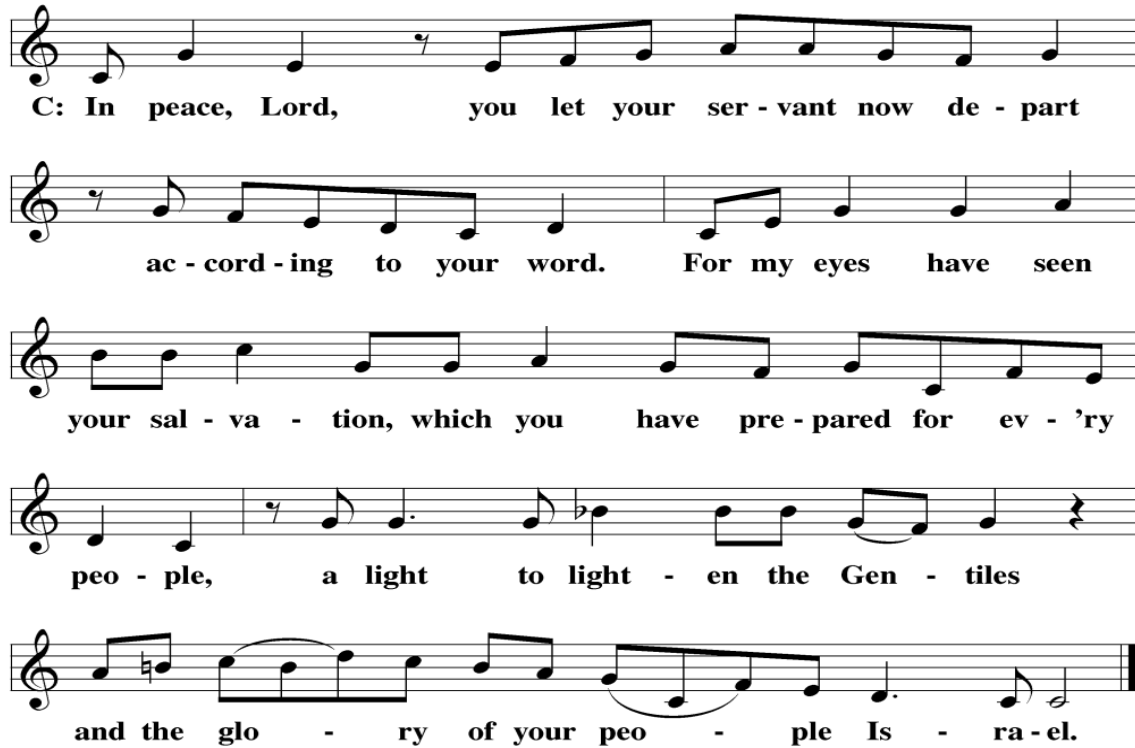
Psalm 51:7

Remove my sin with hyssop, and I will be clean. Wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. (EHV)

## RELYING ON GOD'S GRACE

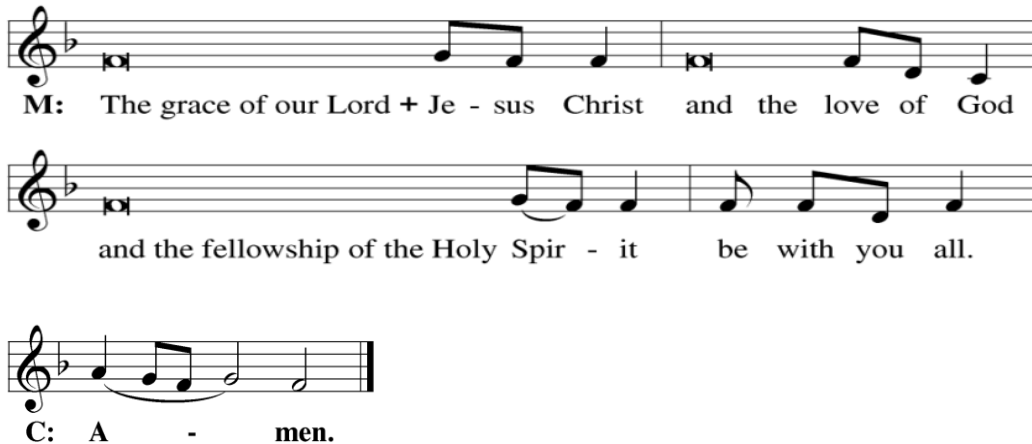
## SONG OF SIMEON

*Nunc Dimittis*



C: 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.

## BLESSING



M: The grace of our Lord + Je - sus Christ and the love of God  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spir - it be with you all.  
C: A - men.

## PRAYER FOR PEACE

P: Lord God, all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works come from you. Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments. Defend us also from the fear of our enemies that we may live in peace and quietness, through the merits of Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

LENT

120

What Wondrous Love Is This



1 What won - drous love is this, O my soul, O my  
 2 When I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, sink - ing  
 3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will  
 4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing



soul! What won - drous love is this, O my soul!  
 down, When I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down,  
 sing; To God and to the Lamb I will sing;  
 on; And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on.



What won-drous love is this That caused the Lord of  
 When I was sink - ing down Be - neath God's right - eous  
 To God and to the Lamb, Who is the great I  
 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing his love for



bliss To bear the dread - ful curse for my soul, for my  
 frown, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul, for my  
 Am, While mil - lions join the theme, I will sing, I will  
 me, And through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on, I'll sing



soul, To bear the dread - ful curse for my soul!  
 soul, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul.  
 sing, While mil - lions join the theme, I will sing.  
 on, And through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.

Text: *A General Selection of . . . Spiritual Songs*, Lynchburg, 1811, alt.  
 Tune: WONDROUS LOVE (12 9 66 12 9) *Southern Harmony*, New Haven, 1835.

Officiants

Accompanist: Abbey Johnson

Liturgist & Preacher: Pastor Greg Sitzman