

God that you have joined us at worship today.

Restrooms are located in the basement. Hearing loop headphones and Large Print Hymnals are available from an usher.

If your children need to leave worship, please take them to the basement. A TV broadcasts the service in the basement.

Today we gather together in the presence of God. He is present among us in a special way through his Word and Sacrament. We acknowledge our sin and rejoice in the good news of forgiveness through the life and death of Christ. This is the focus of our worship. March 13, 2024 Lenten Midweek 5



God On Trial The unbelieving world has always insisted on putting God on trial. As our society becomes more secular, we 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 men 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.

Truth Whether Pilate's tone was sincere or sneering or something else, he expressed what may be the most important question in our day: What is truth? Pilate clearly was not on the side of truth, at least not Jesus' truth. We can be tempted to question God's truth, especially with the seeming uncertainty of everything going on around us. However, God has given us truth in a person: his only Son, Jesus Christ. Jesus stood before Pilate as a real flesh and blood person. He gave his real life as a payment for sin, and his empty tomb is proof of God's truth that life overcomes death!

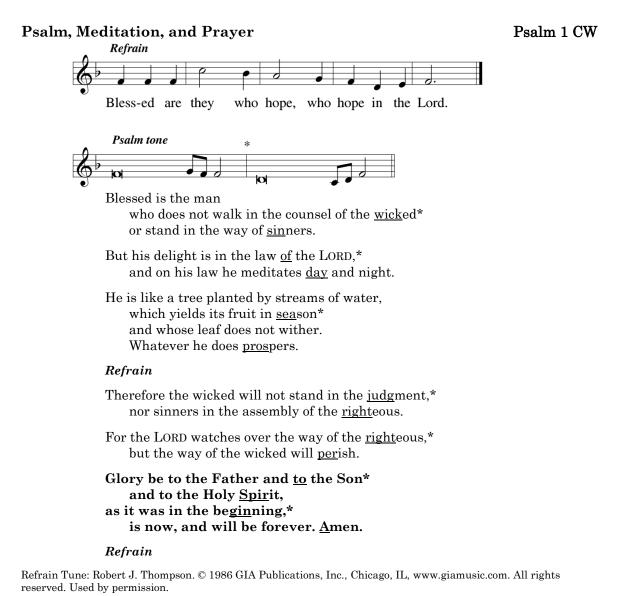


 Text: George W. Briggs, 1875–1959, alt. © 1953. Renewed 1981 by The Hymn Society (admin. Hope Publishing Co., Carol Stream, IL 60188). All rights reserved. Used by permission.
 Tune: REX GLORIAE (87 87 D) Henry T. Smart, 1813–79.

- M: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C: Amen.
- M: Hasten to save me, O God.
- C: O Lord, come quickly to help me.
- M: Evening, morning, and noon
- C: I cry out in distress, and he hears my voice.
- M: You are my God; have mercy on me, Lord,
- C: for I call to you all day long.

Hymn

- M: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,
- C: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.



Silence for meditation

Psalm Prayer

M: Lord, let your Word so saturate our souls that we grow into lush trees bearing fruit for you. When the voices of the wicked tempt us to stray down other paths, keep us on the way that leads to our heavenly home. We ask this, confident that you watch over the way of the righteous; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

5th & 6th Grade (11 am)

Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted CW 127

1 Stricken, smitten, and afflicted, See him dying on the tree! 'Tis the Christ, by man rejected; Yes, my soul, 'tis he, 'tis he. 'Tis the long-expected Prophet, David's Son, yet David's Lord; Proofs I see sufficient of it: 'Tis the true and faithful Word.

2 Tell me, as you hear him groaning, Was there ever grief like his? Friends through fear his cause disowning, Foes insulting his distress, Many hands were raised to wound him, None would intervene to save, But the deepest stroke that pierced him Was the stroke that Justice gave.

3 If you think of sin but lightly Nor suppose the evil great,
Here you see its nature rightly, Here its guilt may estimate.
Mark the sacrifice appointed; See who bears the awful load—
'Tis the Word, the Lord's Anointed, Son of Man and Son of God.

4 Here we have a firm foundation, Here the refuge of the lost; Christ's the rock of our salvation, His the name of which we boast. Lamb of God, for sinners wounded, Sacrifice to cancel guilt— None shall ever be confounded Who on him their hope have built.

Text: Thomas Kelly, 1769–1855, alt.

Choir (7 pm)

I Will Sing of My Redeemer

I will sing of my Redeemer and his wondrous love to me; On the cruel cross he suffered from the curse to set me free. I will sing of my Redeemer, with his blood he purchased me; On the cross he sealed my pardon, paid the debt and made me free.

I will praise my dear Redeemer, his triumphant pow'r I'll tell, How he gives to us the vict'ry over sin and death and hell. I will tell the wondrous story how, my lost estate to save, In his boundless love and mercy he the ransom freely gave.

I will sing of my Redeemer, and his heav'nly love to me, He from death to life has brought me, Son of God, with him to be. I will sing of my Redeemer, with his blood he purchased me, On the cross he sealed my pardon, paid the debt and made me free.

I will sing of my Redeemer.

By Deborah Govenor Copyright 1998 Lorenz Publishing

Passion History

Reading 4 (from booklet)



Text: George W. Doane, 1799-1859, alt.

Tune: DUNDEE (CM) The CL Psalms of David, Edinburgh, 1615.

John 18:33-40

Truth

Sermon

³³ Back inside the palace, summoned Jesus and asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?"

 $^{34}\, ``$ Is that your own idea," Jesus asked, '`or did others talk to you about me?"

³⁵ "Am I a Jew?" Pilate replied. "Your own people and chief priests handed you over to me. What is it you have done?"

³⁶ Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place."

³⁷ "You are a king, then!" said Pilate.

Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me."

³⁸ "What is truth?" retorted Pilate. With this he went out again to the Jews gathered there and said, "I find no basis for a charge against him. ³⁹ But it is your custom for me to release to you one prisoner at the time of the Passover. Do you want me to release 'the king of the Jews'?"

⁴⁰ They shouted back, "No, not him! Give us Barabbas!" Now Barabbas had taken part in an uprising. (NIV)

Offering

Please sign the friendship register located in your pew.

Guests please don't feel a necessity to give an offering today. *"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver"* (2 Corinthians 9:7).

Stand

Prayer of the Church

Brief intercessory prayers may be added in a fitting place.

- M: Heavenly Father, you loved the world and gave your Son to free us from sin and death by his obedient death on the cross.
- C: We confess that without your love we are lost.
- M: Lord of the Church, we thank you for the treasure of the gospel. By your Spirit, keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.
- C: Strengthen our determination to do what pleases you, no matter what the danger or the cost.

M: Guard and guide those who carry a cross in the name of Christ and face ridicule and persecution for the sake of the kingdom: missionaries and chaplains, young people who stand up for what is right in the face of pressure to do what is wrong, and all who pay a high price for their faith and values as Christians.

C: By your Spirit, O Lord, grant them patience and endurance.

M: Keep in your care those who carry heavy burdens in life: the sick and the chronically ill, the depressed and the lonely, those torn by conflict in personal relationships, and those victimized by war and injustice. [We pray especially for...*here name the person and the cause of the petition.*] Comfort all who face the terrors of life with a heavy heart.

C: Grant them peace, O Lord, and in your mercy, be their guardian and friend, their comfort and hope.

- M: Watch over those who care for others: pastors and counselors; physicians and nurses; social workers and caring friends; all who feed the hungry, comfort the hurting, and stand beside the dying.
- C: Strengthen them in their work, O Lord, and do not let them become weary in doing good.
- M: Hear us as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

- M: Help us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Keep us faithful even to the point of death, that we may receive the crown of life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C: Amen.

The 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.

Benediction

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.

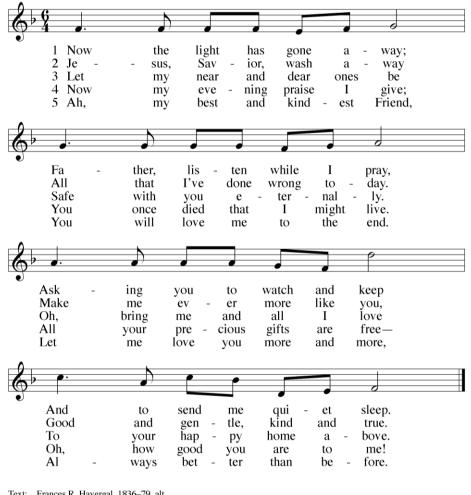
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen.

Be Seated

Hymn

Now the Light Has Gone Away CW 593 (Morning v 2,3,5 / Evening all verses)



Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–79, alt. Tune: MUDE BIN ICH (77 77) *Liederbuch für Kleinkinder-Schulen*, Kaiserwerth, 1842, alt.

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