




## **The Semblance of Legality**

Abiding Word Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Guest Preacher: Tom Westra  
March 30, 2022

M: Jesus Christ is the light of the world,  
C: **the light no darkness can overcome.**

M: Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening,  
C: **and the day is almost over.**

M: Be our light and scatter the darkness,  
C: **and hear our evening hymn of praise.**



1 O gra - cious Light, Lord Je - sus Christ, In you the  
2 Now sun - set comes, but light shines forth; The lamps are  
3 Wor - thy are you of end - less praise, O Son of  
Fa - ther's glo - ry shone. Im - mor - tal, ho - ly,  
lit to pierce the night. Praise Fa - ther, Son, and  
God, life - giv - ing Lord; Where - fore you are through  
blest is he, And blest are you, his on - ly Son.  
Spir - it: God Who dwells in the e - ter - nal light.  
all the earth And in the high - est heav'n a - dored.

## CONFESSION OF SINS

M: Almighty God, our heavenly Father,  
C: **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.**

M: 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.

C: **Amen.**

## PSALM 143

*The congregation will sing the refrain in bold. The pastor will read the verses.*

**To you, O Lord, I lift my soul; I trust you, God, to make me whole.  
Lord, turn to me with saving grace And rescue me – hide not your face!  
Let me recall your steadfast love And seek salvation from above.**

- 1 O LORD, hear my prayer, listen to my cry for mercy;  
in your faithfulness and righteousness come to my relief.
- 2 Do not bring your servant into judgment,  
for no one living is righteous before you.
- 3 The enemy pursues me, he crushes me to the ground;  
he makes me dwell in darkness like those long dead.
- 4 So my spirit grows faint within me; my heart within me is dismayed.
- 5 I remember the days of long ago; I meditate on all your works  
and consider what your hands have done.
- 6 I spread out my hands to you; my soul thirsts for you like a parched land. *Selah*

**To you, O Lord, I lift my soul; I trust you, God, to make me whole.  
Lord, turn to me with saving grace And rescue me – hide not your face!  
Let me recall your steadfast love And seek salvation from above.**

- 7 Answer me quickly, O LORD; my spirit fails.  
Do not hide your face from me or I will be like those who go down to the pit.
- 8 Let the morning bring me word of your unfailing love,  
for I have put my trust in you.  
Show me the way I should go, for to you I lift up my soul.
- 9 Rescue me from my enemies, O LORD, for I hide myself in you.
- 10 Teach me to do your will, for you are my God;  
may your good Spirit lead me on level ground.
- 11 For your name's sake, O LORD, preserve my life;  
in your righteousness, bring me out of trouble.
- 12 In your unfailing love, silence my enemies;  
destroy all my foes, for I am your servant.

**To you, O Lord, I lift my soul; I trust you, God, to make me whole.  
Lord, turn to me with saving grace And rescue me – hide not your face!  
Let me recall your steadfast love And seek salvation from above.**

## **PSALM PRAYER**

**M:** Merciful God, with souls parched by sin and spirits withered by enemies within and without, we lift our hands to you. Lead us by your Spirit on the path of truth, and guard us from all harm, trusting in Jesus Christ, our refuge and our righteousness.

**C:** **Amen**

## **PASSION HISTORY FROM LUKE 23:1-25**

**23** Then the whole assembly rose and led him off to Pilate. <sup>2</sup> And they began to accuse him, saying, “We have found this man subverting our nation. He opposes payment of taxes to Caesar and claims to be Christ, a king.”

<sup>3</sup> So Pilate asked Jesus, “Are you the king of the Jews?”

“Yes, it is as you say,” Jesus replied.

<sup>4</sup> Then Pilate announced to the chief priests and the crowd, “I find no basis for a charge against this man.”

<sup>5</sup> But they insisted, “He stirs up the people all over Judea by his teaching. He started in Galilee and has come all the way here.”

<sup>6</sup> On hearing this, Pilate asked if the man was a Galilean. <sup>7</sup> When he learned that Jesus was under Herod’s jurisdiction, he sent him to Herod, who was also in Jerusalem at that time.

<sup>8</sup> When Herod saw Jesus, he was greatly pleased, because for a long time he had been wanting to see him. From what he had heard about him, he hoped to see him perform some miracle. <sup>9</sup> He plied him with many questions, but Jesus gave him no answer. <sup>10</sup> The chief priests and the teachers of the law were standing there, vehemently accusing him. <sup>11</sup> Then Herod and his soldiers ridiculed and mocked him. Dressing him in an elegant robe, they sent him back to Pilate. <sup>12</sup> That day Herod and Pilate became friends—before this they had been enemies.

<sup>13</sup> Pilate called together the chief priests, the rulers and the people, <sup>14</sup> and said to them, “You brought me this man as one who was inciting the people to rebellion. I have examined him in your presence and have found no basis for your charges against him. <sup>15</sup> Neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us; as you can see, he has done nothing to deserve death. <sup>16</sup> Therefore, I will punish him and then release him.”

<sup>18</sup> With one voice they cried out, “Away with this man! Release Barabbas to us!” <sup>19</sup> (Barabbas had been thrown into prison for an insurrection in the city, and for murder.)

<sup>20</sup> Wanting to release Jesus, Pilate appealed to them again. <sup>21</sup> But they kept shouting, “Crucify him! Crucify him!”

<sup>22</sup> For the third time he spoke to them: “Why? What crime has this man committed? I have found in him no grounds for the death penalty. Therefore I will have him punished and then release him.”

<sup>23</sup> But with loud shouts they insistently demanded that he be crucified, and their shouts prevailed. <sup>24</sup> So Pilate decided to grant their demand. <sup>25</sup> He released the man who had been thrown into prison for insurrection and murder, the one they asked for, and surrendered Jesus to their will.

### SEASONAL RESPONSE

**C: All we like sheep have gone astray, and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. By his wounds we are healed.**



## **Hymn of the Day: 408**

**1 He stood before the court  
On trial instead of us;  
He met its pow'r to hurt,  
Condemned to face the cross --  
Our King, accused of treachery;  
Our God, abused for blasphemy!**

**2 These are the crimes that tell  
The tale of human guilt;  
Our sins, our death, our hell --  
On these the case is built.  
To this world's pow'rs the Lord stays dumb.  
The guilt is ours, no answers come.**

**3 The sentence must be passed,  
The unknown pris'ner killed;  
The price is paid at last,  
The law of God fulfilled.  
He takes our blame, and from that day  
Th' accuser's claim is wiped away.**

**4 Shall we be judged and tried?  
In Christ our trial is done;  
We live, for he has died,  
Our condemnation gone.  
In Christ are we both dead and raised,  
Alive and free -- his name be praised!**

## SERMON ON LUKE 22:66

## The Semblance of Legality

<sup>66</sup> At daybreak the council of the elders of the people, both the chief priests and teachers of the law, met together, and Jesus was led before them.

### OFFERING

*Financial offerings are a regular, proportionate, and joyful response of love by members of a Christian congregation. Our offerings support our work at Abiding Word and around the world through the WELS. As you enter or leave you may place your offering in the plates at the sanctuary entrance. If you are a guest, please do not feel obligated to support our ministry.*

### PRAYER

M: 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 the evening of the day, in the evening of life, in the evening of the world. 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.

C: **Amen.**

### LORD'S PRAYER

C: **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.**

### BLESSING

M: May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face shine on us.

C: **May God bless us still, so that all the ends of the earth will fear him.**

## **CLOSING HYMN: 787**

1 God, who made the earth and heaven, Darkness and light,  
You the day for work have given, For rest the night.  
May your angel host defend us, Slumber sweet your mercy send us,  
Holy dreams and hopes attend us All through the night.

2 And when morn again shall call us To run life's way,  
May we still, whate'er befall us, Your will obey.  
From the pow'r of evil hide us; In the narrow pathway guide us;  
Never be your smile denied us, All through the day.

3 Guard us waking, guard us sleeping, And, when we die,  
May we in your mighty keeping All peaceful lie.  
When the last dread call shall wake us, Then, O Lord, do not forsake us,  
But to reign in glory take us With you on high.

4 Holy Father, throned in heaven, All-holy Son,  
Holy Spirit, freely given -- Blest Three in One,  
Grant us grace, we now implore you, Till we lay our crowns before you  
And in worthier strains adore you While ages run.

We thank Pastor Westra for leading us in worship and sharing God's Word with us this evening. May God continue to bless Pastor Westra's service to our brothers and sisters at Beautiful Savior.