



SYMPATHY

**February 28, 2024
Abiding Word Evangelical Lutheran Church
Maineville, Ohio
Guest Preacher: Pastor Alex Groth**

Please stand.

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

M: Dear friends, let us approach God with a true heart and confess our sins, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

C: **Lord of life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin. For faithless worrying and selfish pride, for sins of habit and sins of choice, for the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do, you should cast me away from your presence forever.**

Like the disciples, I have boldly declared loyalty to you only to fail to proclaim your name; I have foolishly listened to the devil's lies only to be crushed with guilt and shame.

O Lord, I am sorry for my sins. Forgive me, for Jesus' sake.

M: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. In his great mercy, God made us alive in Christ even when we were dead in our sins. Hear the word of Christ through his called servant: I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

Prayer

M: Lord God, you have brought us safely to this hour of evening prayer. We thank you for providing all that we need for body and life. Bless us who have gathered in your name. Forgive our sins. Speak to our hearts. Dispel our sorrows with the comfort of your Word, and receive our hymns of thanks and praise, through Jesus Christ, our living Savior, who reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Please be seated.

Psalm Prayer

- M:** 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.
- C:** **Amen.**

Passion Reading from a Harmony of the Gospels: Gethsemane

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.

Sermon on Luke 23:26-34

Sympathy

²⁶As they 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. ²⁷A large number of people followed him, including women who mourned and wailed for him.

²⁸Jesus turned and said to them, “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep for yourselves and for your children. ²⁹For the time will come when you will say, ‘Blessed are the barren women, the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!’

³⁰Then

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

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

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

Please stand.

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.

Evening Prayer

M: O God our Father, by your mercy and might, the world turns safely into darkness and returns again to light. We place into your hands our unfinished tasks, our unsolved problems, and our unfulfilled hopes, knowing that only what you bless will prosper. To your great love and protection, we commit each other and all those we love, knowing that you alone are our sure defender; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Blessing

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

C: Amen.

Please be seated.

HYMN: ALL PRAISE TO THEE, MY GOD THIS NIGHT

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We thank Pastor Alex Groth for sharing God's Word with us.
Please join us next week as Pastor Tom Westra leads our Lenten worship under the theme *God on Trial: Restraint*.