



April 9, 2025
Guest Preacher: Tom Westra
Reconnaissance Report: Skirmishes

M: In the name of our God, to whom all hearts are open and from whom no secrets are hidden. Amen.

C: **O Lord, hear my prayer, listen to my cry for mercy, and in your faithfulness, come to my relief. Do not bring your servant into judgment, for no one living is righteous before you. Answer me quickly, O Lord; my spirit fails. Do not hide your face from me, for I have put my trust in you. Show me the way I should go, for to you I lift up my soul. Teach me to do your will, for you are my God.**

Almighty God, merciful Father, I, a troubled and repentant sinner, confess that I have sinned against you in my thoughts, my words, and my actions. I have not loved you with my whole heart; I have not loved others as I should. I am distressed by the sins that trouble me and am deeply sorry for them.

Silence for private confession.

M: Jesus says to his people: “If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven.” His death paid for the guilt of your sins and the sins of the whole world. Do you believe this?

C: **Yes, I believe.**

M: Because of the promise of our Savior Jesus, I forgive you all your sins. Be assured that you are a dear child of God and an heir of eternal life.

Prayer

M: Lord God, we thank you for this day of grace now drawing to a close. Stay with us and warm our hearts with your forgiving love in Christ. May your Word keep our faith burning brightly, that we may walk in the light of your presence through the darkness of this world.

Come and bless us as we worship you: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

PSALM 3 (sung to the tune of *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*)

The pastor reads the psalm verses; the congregation sings the verses in bold.

O LORD, how many are my foes! How many rise up against me! Many are saying of me, “God will not deliver him.” Selah

**Oh, be our mighty fortress, God, A bulwark sure, unshaken.
Lord, be our help in direst need; Let us not be forsaken.
O Lord, in justice rise, Enthroned above the skies.
Lord, let all people see The truth of your decree.
Your judgment stands forever.**

But you are a shield around me, O LORD; you bestow glory on me and lift up my head. To the LORD I cry aloud, and he answers me from his holy hill. Selah

**Oh, be our mighty fortress, God, A bulwark sure, unshaken.
Lord, be our help in direst need; Let us not be forsaken.
O Lord, in justice rise, Enthroned above the skies.
Lord, let all people see The truth of your decree.
Your judgment stands forever.**

I lie down and sleep; I wake again, because the LORD sustains me. I will not fear the tens of thousands drawn up against me on every side. Arise, O LORD! Deliver me, O my God! Strike all my enemies on the jaw; break the teeth of the wicked. From the LORD comes deliverance. May your blessing be on your people. Selah

**Oh, be our mighty fortress, God, A bulwark sure, unshaken.
Lord, be our help in direst need; Let us not be forsaken.
O Lord, in justice rise, Enthroned above the skies.
Lord, let all people see The truth of your decree.
Your judgment stands forever.**

Psalm Prayer:

M: Lord God, our refuge and strength, when the restless powers of this world and the fury of Satan rise up against your holy city, watch over it and keep it safe. Be with us in every time of trouble and bring us to the new Jerusalem where you live and reign, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Passion Reading from Luke 23:26-56**Seasonal Response**

All: 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.

<i>HYMN: WHAT A FRIEND WE HAVE IN JESUS</i>
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Sermon on Hebrews 4:15 - Skirmishes

We do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin.

Lord's Prayer**Evening Prayer**

C: In the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. 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.

Blessing

M: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ †, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: Amen.

<i>HYMN: JESUS, STILL LEAD ON</i>
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We thank Pastor Tom Westra for leading our worship this evening. Next week is Holy Week. Services for Maundy Thursday and Good Friday start at 7pm.