

*Midweek Lenten  
Worship 2020  
Week 5*

*John 6:66-68*

*"The Warrior Rejected by  
Many Followers"*



*St. Luke Ev. Lutheran Church*

*Rev. Ronald C. Szep, pastor*

**Wednesday, March 25, 2020**

## EVENING DEVOTION

*Greeting by the minister*

### **OPENING DIALOGUE:**

Minister: Lord Jesus, you are the light of the world,

**Congregation: The light no darkness can overcome.**

**M:** Stay with us, for it is evening,

**C:** **And the day is almost over.**

M: Let your light scatter the darkness.

**C: Let it shine in our hearts and lives. Amen.**

### **PRAYER FOR PEACE:**

M: 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.**

### **PASSION HISTORY OF OUR LORD:** EHV Lesson 4

*As soon as it was day, the council of the elders of the people met together, both chief priests and experts in the law. They brought Jesus into their Sanhedrin and said, "If you are the Christ, tell us."*

*But he said to them, "If I tell you, you will not believe, and if I ask you, you will not answer me or release me. But from now on, the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the power of God."*

*They all said, "Are you then the Son of God?"*

*He said to them, "I am what you are saying."*

*Then they said, "Why do we need any more testimony? For we ourselves have heard it from his own mouth!" Then the chief priests with the elders and experts in the law, together with the whole Sanhedrin, reached a decision. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pontius Pilate, the governor.*

*Then when Judas, who had betrayed him, saw that Jesus was condemned, he felt remorse. He brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders and said, "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood."*

*But they said, "What is that to us? That's your problem."*

*He threw the pieces of silver into the temple and left. Then he went out and hanged himself. The chief priests took the pieces of silver and said, "It is not lawful to put these into the treasury, since it is blood money." They reached a decision to buy the potter's field with the money, as a burial place for foreigners. So that field has been called The Field of Blood to this day. Then what was spoken through Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled:*

*They took the thirty pieces of silver, the price the sons of Israel had set for him, and they gave them for the potter's field, just as the Lord commanded me.*

*Early in the morning, the Jews led Jesus from Caiaphas to the Praetorium. They did not enter the Praetorium themselves, so that they would not become ceremonially unclean.*

*(They wanted to be able to eat the Passover meal.) So Pilate went out to them and said, "What charge do you bring against this man?"*

*They answered him, "If this man were not a criminal, we would not have handed him over to you."*

*Pilate told them, "Take him yourselves and judge him according to your law."*

*The Jews said, "It's not legal for us to put anyone to death." This happened so that the statement Jesus had spoken indicating what kind of death he was going to die would be fulfilled.*

*They began to accuse him, saying, "We found this fellow misleading our nation, forbidding the payment of taxes to Caesar, and saying that he himself is Christ, a king."*

*Pilate asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" "It is as you say," Jesus replied.*

*The chief priests accused him of many things. When he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he answered nothing.*

*Pilate questioned him again, "Are you not going to answer anything? See how many charges they are bringing against you!"*

*But Jesus still did not answer anything, so Pilate was amazed.*

*Pilate went back into the Praetorium and summoned Jesus. He asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?"*

*Jesus answered, "Are you saying this on your own, or did others tell you about me?"*

*Pilate answered, "Am I a Jew? Your own people and chief priests handed you over to me. What have you done?"*

*Jesus replied, "My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would fight so that I would not be handed over to the Jews. But now my kingdom is not from here."*

*"You are a king then?" Pilate asked.*

*Jesus answered, "I am, as you say, a king. For this reason I was born, and for this reason I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice."*

*"What is truth?" Pilate said to him.*

*After he said this, he went out again to the Jews and told them, "I find no basis for a charge against him."*

*But they kept insisting, "He stirs up the people, teaching all through Judea, beginning from Galilee all the way here."*

*When Pilate heard this, he asked if the man was a Galilean. When he learned that he was under Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him to Herod, who was also in Jerusalem during those days.*

*When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad. For a long time he had wanted to see him, because he had heard many things about him. He hoped to see some miracle performed by him. He questioned him with many words, but Jesus gave him no answer. The chief priests and the experts in the law stood there, vehemently accusing him. Herod, along with his soldiers, treated him with contempt and ridiculed him. Dressing him in bright clothing, Herod sent Jesus back to Pilate. Herod and Pilate became friends with each other on that day. Before this they had been enemies of each other.*

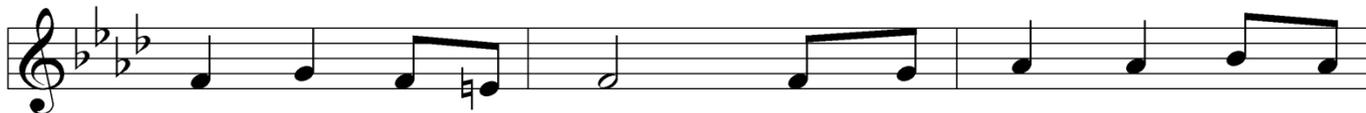
**HYMN OF THE DAY: CW Hymn 127 (next page)**

**"Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted"**

## Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted



1 Strick - en, smit - ten, and af - flict - ed, See him  
 2 Tell me, as you hear him groan - ing, Was there  
 3 If you think of sin but light - ly Nor sup -  
 4 Here we have a firm foun - da - tion, Here the



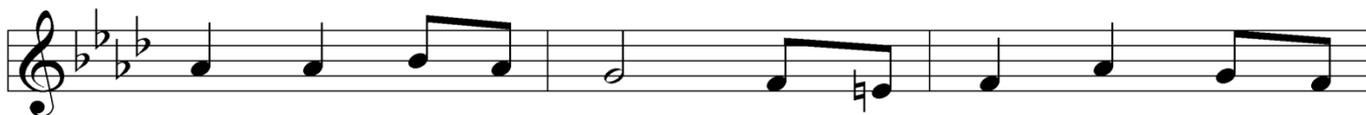
dy - ing on the tree! 'Tis the Christ, by man re -  
 ev - er grief like his? Friends through fear his cause dis -  
 pose the e - vil great, Here you see its na - ture  
 ref - uge of the lost; Christ's the rock of our sal -



ject - ed; Yes, my soul, 'tis he, 'tis he.  
 own - ing, Foes in - sult - ing his dis - tress,  
 right - ly, Here its guilt may es - ti - mate.  
 va - tion, His the name of which we boast.



'Tis the long - ex - pect - ed Proph - et, Da - vid's  
 Man - y hands were raised to wound him, None would  
 Mark the sac - ri - fice ap - point - ed; See who  
 Lamb of God, for sin - ners wound - ed, Sac - ri -



Son, yet Da - vid's Lord; Proofs I see suf - fi - cient  
 in - ter - vene to save, But the deep - est stroke that  
 bears the aw - ful load— 'Tis the Word, the Lord's A -  
 fice to can - cel guilt— None shall ev - er be con -



of it: 'Tis the true and faith - ful Word.  
 pierced him Was the stroke that Jus - tice gave.  
 noint - ed, Son of Man and Son of God.  
 found - ed Who on him their hope have built.

**SERMONETTE:** *based on John 6:66-68 (NIV)*  
**“The Warrior Rejected by Many Followers”**

<sup>66</sup> *From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him.*

<sup>67</sup> *“You do not want to leave too, do you?” Jesus asked the Twelve.*

<sup>68</sup> *Simon Peter answered him,*

*“Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.*

**PRAYERS:**

**Luther’s Evening Prayer** *(in unison)*

**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.**

*Special prayers and intercessions: optional, read by the minister*

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

*Silent Prayer*

M: O Lord, your Word is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness. Guide our footsteps by your Word so that we may remain steadfast in faith, love you with all our hearts, and love our neighbor as ourselves; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. .

**C: Amen.**

**The Lord’s Prayer** *(in unison)*

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

**BLESSING:**

M: May the blessing of the eternal God be upon us: his light to guide us, his presence to shelter us, his peace to unite us.

**C: Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN: CW Hymn 593** *(next page)*

**“Now the Light Has Gone Away”**

## 593

## Now the Light Has Gone Away



1 Now the light has gone a - way;  
 2 Je - - sus, Sav - ior, wash a - way  
 3 Let my near and dear ones be  
 4 Now my eve - ning praise I give;  
 5 Ah, my best and kind - est Friend,



Fa - ther, lis - ten while I pray,  
 All that I've done wrong to - day.  
 Safe with you e - ter - nal - ly.  
 You once died that I might live.  
 You will love me to the end.



Ask - ing you to watch and keep  
 Make me ev - er more like you,  
 Oh, bring me and all I love  
 All your pre - cious gifts are free—  
 Let me love you more and more,



And to send me qui - et sleep.  
 Good and gen - tle, kind and true.  
 To your hap - py home a - bove.  
 Oh, how good you are to me!  
 Al - ways bet - ter than be - fore.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–79, alt.

Tune: MÜDE BIN ICH (77 77) *Liederbuch für Kleinkinder-Schulen*, Kaiserwerth, 1842, alt.