

*Midweek Lenten  
Worship 2020  
Week 6*

*John 18:38*

*"The Warrior Faces  
Satan's Ally, the World"*



*St. Luke Ev. Lutheran Church*

*Rev. Ronald C. Szep, pastor*

**Wednesday, April 1, 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 5

*Pilate called together the chief priests, the rulers, and the people, and said to them, "You brought this man to me as one who is misleading the people. Look, I have examined him in your presence. I have found in this man no basis for the charges you are bringing against him. Herod did not either, for he sent him back to us. See, he has done nothing worthy of death. So I will have him flogged and release him."*

*At the time of the Festival the governor had a custom to release to the crowd any one prisoner they wanted. At that time they were holding a notorious prisoner named Barabbas, who had been thrown in prison for a rebellion in the city and for murder. The crowd came up and began to ask Pilate to do for them what he usually did.*

*So when they were assembled, Pilate said to them, "Do you want me to release the King of the Jews to you? Which one do you want me to release to you? Barabbas—or Jesus, who is called Christ?" For Pilate in fact knew that they had handed Jesus over to him because of envy.*

*While he was sitting on the judgment seat, Pilate's wife sent him a message. "Have nothing to do with that righteous man," she said, "since I have suffered many things today in a dream because of him." But the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus put to death. The governor asked them, "Which of the two do you want me to release to you?"*

*They all shouted together with one voice: "Take him away! Release Barabbas to us!"*

*Pilate said to them, "Then what do you want me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews? What should I do with Jesus, who is called Christ?"*

*They all said to him, "Crucify him!"*

*But the governor said, "Why? What has he done wrong?"*

*But they kept shouting even louder: "Crucify him!"*

*Pilate addressed them again, because he wanted to release Jesus. But they kept shouting, "Crucify! Crucify him!"*

*He said to them the third time, "Why? What evil has he done? I have found no grounds for sentencing him to death. So I will whip him and release him." But they kept pressuring him with loud voices, demanding that he be crucified. And their voices were overwhelming. Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged.*

*The governor's soldiers took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole cohort of soldiers around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him. They twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head. They put a staff in his right hand, knelt in front of him, and mocked him by saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" They spit on him, took the staff, and hit him repeatedly on his head. They also kept hitting him in the face.*

*Pilate went outside again and said to them, "Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no basis for a charge against him."*

*So Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, "Behold the man!"*

*When the chief priests and guards saw him, they shouted, "Crucify! Crucify!"*

*Pilate told them, "Take him yourselves and crucify him, for I find no basis for a charge against him."*

*The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die, because he claimed to be the Son of God."*

*When Pilate heard this statement, he was even more afraid. He went back inside the palace again and asked Jesus, "Where are you from?"*

*But Jesus gave him no answer.*

*So Pilate asked him, "Are you not talking to me? Don't you know that I have the authority to release you or to crucify you?"*

*Jesus answered, "You would have no authority over me at all if it had not been given to you from above. Therefore the one who handed me over to you has the greater sin."*

*From then on Pilate tried to release Jesus. But the Jews shouted, "If you let this man go, you are no friend of Caesar! Anyone who claims to be a king opposes Caesar!"*

*When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus outside. He sat down on the judge's seat at a place called the Stone Pavement, or Gabbatha in Aramaic. It was about the sixth hour on the Preparation Day for the Passover. Pilate said to the Jews, "Here is your king!"*

*They shouted, "Away with him! Away with him! Crucify him!"*

*Pilate said to them, "Should I crucify your king?"*

*"We have no king but Caesar!" the chief priests answered.*

*When Pilate saw that he was accomplishing nothing and that instead it was turning into a riot, he decided that what they demanded would be done. He took water, washed his hands in front of the crowd, and said, "I am innocent of this righteous man's blood. It is your responsibility."*

*And all the people answered, "Let his blood be on us and on our children!"*

*Since he wanted to satisfy the crowd, Pilate released Barabbas to them.*

*So then Pilate handed Jesus over to them to be crucified.*

*After they had mocked him, the soldiers took off the robe and put his own clothes on him.*

*Then they led him away to crucify him. Jesus was carrying his own cross.*

*As they were going out of the city, a certain man, Simon of Cyrene (the father of Alexander and Rufus), was passing by on his way in from the country. They placed the cross on him and made him carry it behind Jesus. A large crowd of the people was following him, including women who were mourning and wailing for him.*

Jesus turned to them and said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, stop weeping for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. Be sure of this: The days are coming when they will say, 'Blessed are the childless women, the wombs that never gave birth, and the breasts that never nursed.' Then they will begin to say to the mountains, 'Fall on us!' and to the hills, 'Cover us.' For if they do these things to the green wood, what will happen to the dry?"

**HYMN OF THE DAY: CW Hymn 472**  
**"Rise, My Soul, to Watch and Pray"**

COMMITMENT

**472 Rise, My Soul, to Watch and Pray**



1 Rise, my soul, to watch and pray; From your sleep a -  
 2 Watch! Let not the wick - ed world With its lies de -  
 3 Watch a - gainst your - self, my soul, Lest with grace you  
 4 But while watch - ing al - so pray To the Lord un -



wak - en! Be not by the e - vil day Un - a -  
 feat you Lest with bold de - cep - tions hurled It be -  
 tri - fle; Let not self your thoughts con - trol Nor God's  
 ceas - ing. God pro - tects you day by day, Strength and



wares o'er - tak - en. For the foe, Well we know, Is a  
 tray and cheat you. Watch and see Lest there be Faith - less  
 mer - cy sti - fle. Pride and sin Lurk with - in, All your  
 faith in - creas - ing, So that still Mind and will Shall u -



har - vest reap - ing While the saints are sleep - ing.  
 friends to charm you Who but seek to harm you.  
 hopes to shat - ter; Heed not when they flat - ter.  
 nite to serve him And for - ev - er love him.

Text: Johann B. Freystein, 1671–1718, abr.; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.  
 Tune: STRAF MICH NICHT (76 76 33 66) *Hundert . . . geistlicher Arien*, Dresden, 1694, alt.

**SERMONETTE:** *based on John 18:38 (NIV)*  
**“The Warrior Faces Satan’s Ally, the World”**

<sup>38</sup> *“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.”*

**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: Lord God, you anointed your Son to be King for the sake of your church. Help us, as members of his kingdom, to serve him faithfully and to come to the full knowledge of his grace and glory, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**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 592 *(next page)*

**“All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night”**

# 592 All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night



1 All praise to thee, my God, this night For all the  
 2 Teach me to live that I may dread The grave as  
 3 When in the night I sleep - less lie, My soul with



bles - ings of the light. Keep me, oh, keep me,  
 lit - tle as my bed. Teach me to die so  
 heav'n - ly thoughts sup - ply; Let no ill dreams dis -



King of kings, Be - neath thine own al - might -  
 that I may Rise glo - rious at the awe -  
 turb my rest, No pow'rs of dark - ness me



y wings. For - give me, Lord, for thy dear  
 full day. Oh, may my soul on thee re -  
 dis - tress. Praise God, from whom all bless - ings



Son The ill that I this day have  
 pose And may sweet sleep mine eye - lids  
 flow; Praise him, all crea - tures here be -



done, That with the world, my - self, and thee  
 close, Sleep that shall me more vig - 'rous make  
 low; Praise him a - bove, ye heav'n - ly host;



I, ere I sleep, at peace may be.  
 To serve my God when I a - wake.  
 Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.