

*Where in the world is God?
On Trial*



**SHINING MOUNTAINS LUTHERAN CHURCH
Bozeman, MT**

Midweek Lent—March 17, 2021

Tonight's order of worship is an adapted version of the historic rite called Compline. It is the final service of the day before one retires for the night. This is a time for prayer and meditation. The believer finds peace in God's forgiveness and security under the shadow of His wings.

OPENING PRAYER

M: Blessed are You, O Lord, the God of our Fathers, Creator of the changes of day and night, giving rest to the weary, renewing the strength of those who are spent, giving us reason to sing in the evening. As You have protected us in the day that is past, so be with us in the coming night. Keep us from every sin, every evil, and every fear, for You are our light and salvation and the strength of our life. To You be the glory for endless ages.

C: Amen.

OPENING RESPONSES

M: The Lord Almighty grant us a quiet night and peace at the last.

C: Amen.

M: It is good to give thanks to the Lord,

C: To sing praise to Your Name, O Most High;

M: To herald Your love in the morning,

C: Your truth at the close of day.

M: Jesus, remember me when you come into Your kingdom.

C: Jesus, remember me when you come into Your kingdom.

OPENING HYMN #115

He Stood Before the Court



1 He stood be - fore the court On trial in - stead of
2 These are the crimes that tell The tale of hu - man
3 The sen - tence must be passed, The un - known pris - 'ner
4 Shall we be judged and tried? In Christ our trial is



us; He met its pow'r to hurt, Con - demned to
guilt; Our sins, our death, our hell— On these the
killed; The price is paid at last, The law of
done; We live, for he has died, Our con - dem -

face the cross— Our King, ac - cused of treach - er -
 case is built. To this world's pow'rs the Lord stays
 God ful - filled. He takes our blame, and from that
 na - tion gone. In Christ are we both dead and

y; Our God, a - bused for blas - phe - my!
 dumb. The guilt is ours; no an - swers come.
 day Th' ac - cu - ser's claim is wiped a - way.
 raised, A - live and free— his name be praised!

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: Dear friends, let us confess our sins in the presence of God and one another.

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

A moment of silence for self-examination

ABSOLUTION

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.**

FIRST READING

Numbers 14:1-23

That night all the people of the community raised their voices and wept aloud. ²All the Israelites grumbled against Moses and Aaron, and the whole assembly said to them, "If only we had died in Egypt! Or in this desert! ³Why is the LORD bringing us to this land only to let us fall by the sword? Our wives and children will be taken as plunder. Wouldn't it be better for us to go back to Egypt?" ⁴And they said to each other, "We should choose a leader and go back to Egypt."

⁵ Then Moses and Aaron fell facedown in front of the whole Israelite assembly gathered there. ⁶ Joshua son of Nun and Caleb son of Jephunneh, who were among those who had explored the land, tore their clothes ⁷ and said to the entire Israelite assembly, “The land we passed through and explored is exceedingly good. ⁸ If the LORD is pleased with us, he will lead us into that land, a land flowing with milk and honey, and will give it to us. ⁹ Only do not rebel against the LORD. And do not be afraid of the people of the land, because we will swallow them up. Their protection is gone, but the LORD is with us. Do not be afraid of them.”

¹⁰ But the whole assembly talked about stoning them. Then the glory of the LORD appeared at the Tent of Meeting to all the Israelites. ¹¹ The LORD said to Moses, “How long will these people treat me with contempt? How long will they refuse to believe in me, in spite of all the miraculous signs I have performed among them? ¹² I will strike them down with a plague and destroy them, but I will make you into a nation greater and stronger than they.”

¹³ Moses said to the LORD, “Then the Egyptians will hear about it! By your power you brought these people up from among them. ¹⁴ And they will tell the inhabitants of this land about it. They have already heard that you, O LORD, are with these people and that you, O LORD, have been seen face to face, that your cloud stays over them, and that you go before them in a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. ¹⁵ If you put these people to death all at one time, the nations who have heard this report about you will say, ¹⁶ ‘The LORD was not able to bring these people into the land he promised them on oath; so he slaughtered them in the desert.’

¹⁷ “Now may the Lord’s strength be displayed, just as you have declared: ¹⁸ ‘The LORD is slow to anger, abounding in love and forgiving sin and rebellion. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation.’ ¹⁹ In accordance with your great love, forgive the sin of these people, just as you have pardoned them from the time they left Egypt until now.”

²⁰ The LORD replied, “I have forgiven them, as you asked. ²¹ Nevertheless, as surely as I live and as surely as the glory of the LORD fills the whole earth, ²² not one of the men who saw my glory and the miraculous signs I performed in Egypt and in the desert but who disobeyed me and tested me ten times— ²³ not one of them will ever see the land I promised on oath to their forefathers. No one who has treated me with contempt will ever see it.

I My song is love un - known, My Sav - ior's love to
me, Love to the love - less shown That they might
love - ly be. Oh, who am I That for my
sake My Lord should take Frail flesh and die?

5. **They rise and needs will have My dear Lord made away.
A murderer they save; The Prince of life they slay.
Yet cheerful he To suffering goes
That he his foes From death might free.**
7. **Here might I stay and sing; No story so divine,
Never was love, dear King, Never was grief like thine.
This is my friend, In whose sweet praise
I all my days Could gladly spend!**

SERMON**Luke 22:66-23:25**

⁶⁶ 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. ⁶⁷ "If you are the Christ," they said, "tell us."

Jesus answered, "If I tell you, you will not believe me, ⁶⁸ and if I asked you, you would not answer. ⁶⁹ But from now on, the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the mighty God."

⁷⁰ They all asked, "Are you then the Son of God?" He replied, "You are right in saying I am." ⁷¹ Then they said, "Why do we need any more testimony? We have heard it from his own lips."

23 Then the whole assembly rose and led him off to Pilate. ² 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.” ³ So Pilate asked Jesus, “Are you the king of the Jews?” “Yes, it is as you say,” Jesus replied.

⁴ Then Pilate announced to the chief priests and the crowd, “I find no basis for a charge against this man.” ⁵ 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.” ⁶ On hearing this, Pilate asked if the man was a Galilean. ⁷ When he learned that Jesus was under Herod’s jurisdiction, he sent him to Herod, who was also in Jerusalem at that time.

⁸ 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. ⁹ He plied him with many questions, but Jesus gave him no answer. ¹⁰ The chief priests and the teachers of the law were standing there, vehemently accusing him. ¹¹ Then Herod and his soldiers ridiculed and mocked him. Dressing him in an elegant robe, they sent him back to Pilate. ¹² That day Herod and Pilate became friends—before this they had been enemies.

¹³ Pilate called together the chief priests, the rulers and the people, ¹⁴ 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. ¹⁵ Neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us; as you can see, he has done nothing to deserve death. ¹⁶ Therefore, I will punish him and then release him.”

¹⁸ With one voice they cried out, “Away with this man! Release Barabbas to us!” ¹⁹ (Barabbas had been thrown into prison for an insurrection in the city, and for murder.) ²⁰ Wanting to release Jesus, Pilate appealed to them again. ²¹ But they kept shouting, “Crucify him! Crucify him!”

²² 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.”

²³ But with loud shouts they insistently demanded that he be crucified, and their shouts prevailed. ²⁴ So Pilate decided to grant their demand. ²⁵ 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.

PRAYERS

M: Be present, O merciful God, and protect us through the silent hours of this night,

C: So that we who are wearied by the changes and chaos of this fleeting world may rest in Your eternal changelessness.

M: O God our Father, by Your mercy and might, the world turns safely into darkness and returns again to light.

C: We place into Your hands our unfinished tasks, our unsolved problems, and our unfulfilled hopes, knowing that only what You bless will prosper.

M: To Your great love and protection we commit each other and all those we love,

C: Knowing that You alone are our sure Defender.

M: Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who watch or work or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep.

C: Tend the sick, give rest to the weary, pity the afflicted, soothe the suffering, bless the dying - all for Your love's sake.

M: Guide us waking, O Lord, and guard us sleeping,

C: That awake we may watch with Christ, and asleep we may rest in peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE 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: The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the Son (+), and the Holy Spirit, bless us and keep us this night and always.

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN #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



bless - 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.