

PSALM 3

The congregation will sing the refrain and the "Glory be to the Father."

Refrain



From the Lord comes de - liv - er - ance,
there - fore we will not fear.

Psalm Tone



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

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.

Refrain

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 ev'ry side.

Arise, O LORD!
Deliver me, O my God!
From the LORD comes deliverance.
May your blessing be on your people.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Refrain

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.

HYMN

Jesus, I Will Ponder Now | 98 v.1,4

**Jesus, I will ponder now On your holy passion;
With your Spirit me endow For such meditation.
Grant that I in love and faith May the image cherish
Of your suffering, pain, and death That I may not perish.**

**If my sins give me alarm And my conscience grieve me,
Let your cross my fear disarm; Peace of conscience give me.
Help me see forgiveness won By your holy passion.
If for me he slays his Son, God must have compassion!**

PASSION HISTORY READING

Mark 14:43-65

⁴³Just then, while he was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, arrived. A crowd was with him, armed with swords and clubs. They were from the chief priests, the experts in the law, and the elders. ⁴⁴Now his betrayer had given them a signal, saying, "The one I kiss is the man. Arrest him and lead him away under guard." ⁴⁵He went right to Jesus and said, "Rabbi!" and kissed him. ⁴⁶They laid hands on him and arrested him. ⁴⁷But one of those who stood nearby drew his sword, struck the servant of the high priest, and cut off his ear.

⁴⁸Jesus responded by saying to them, "Have you come out with swords and clubs to capture me as you would a criminal? ⁴⁹Day after day I was with you, teaching in the temple courts, and you did not arrest me. But this happened so that the Scriptures may be fulfilled." ⁵⁰Then the disciples all left him and fled.

⁵¹A certain young man was following him, wearing just a linen cloth over his naked body. They seized him, ⁵²but he left behind the linen cloth and fled from them naked.

⁵³They led Jesus away to the high priest. All the chief priests, the elders, and the experts in the law gathered together. ⁵⁴Peter followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest. He was sitting with the guards and warming himself at the fire.

⁵⁵The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for testimony against Jesus in order to put him to death, but they did not find any. ⁵⁶Many testified falsely against him, but their testimonies did not agree. ⁵⁷Some stood up and gave this false testimony against him: ⁵⁸“We heard him say, ‘I will destroy this temple made with hands, and in three days I will build another made without hands.’” ⁵⁹Yet even on this point, their testimony did not agree.

⁶⁰The high priest stepped forward and questioned Jesus, “Have you no answer? What is this they are testifying against you?”

⁶¹But Jesus was silent and did not answer anything.

Again the high priest asked him, “Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed One?”

⁶²“I am,” Jesus said. “And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of power and coming with the clouds of heaven.”

⁶³The high priest tore his robes and said, “Why do we need any more witnesses? ⁶⁴You have heard the blasphemy! What do you think?”

They all condemned him as being worthy of death. ⁶⁵Then some began to spit on him. They covered his face and struck him with their fists, saying, “Prophecy!” The guards also took him and beat him.

HYMN

O Dearest Jesus | 117

**O dearest Jesus, what law have you broken
That such sharp sentence should on you be spoken?
Of what great crime have you to make confession—What dark transgression?**

**They crown your head with thorns, they smite, they scourge you;
With cruel mockings to the cross they urge you;
They give you gall to drink, they still decry you; They crucify you.**

**Whence come these sorrows, whence this mortal anguish?
It is my sins for which you, Lord, must languish;
Yes, all the wrath, the woe that you inherit, This I do merit.**

**What punishment so strange is suffered yonder!
The Shepherd dies for sheep that love to wander;
The Master pays the debt his servants owe him, Who would not know him.**

**The sinless Son of God must die in sadness;
The sinful child of man may live in gladness;
We forfeited our lives, yet are acquitted—God is committed.**

**I'll think upon your mercy without ceasing,
That earth's vain joys to me no more be pleasing;
To do your will shall be my sole endeavor Henceforth forever.**

**And when, dear Lord, before your throne in heaven
To me the crown of joy at last is given,
Where sweetest hymns your saints forever raise you, I too shall praise you.**

DEVOTION

Jesus, I Will Ponder Now

LUTHER'S EVENING PRAYER

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.

HYMN

Now the Day Is Over | **589**

**Now the day is over; Night is drawing nigh.
Shadows of the evening Steal across the sky.**

**Jesus, give the weary Calm and sweet repose;
With your tend'rest blessing May my eyelids close.**

**Comfort ev'ry sufferer Watching late in pain;
Those who plan some evil, From their sin restrain.**

**Through the long night watches May your angels spread
Their bright wings above me, Watching round my bed.**

**When the morning wakens, Then may I arise
Pure and fresh and sinless In your holy eyes.**