

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.1,5

**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.**

**Grant that I your passion view With repentant grieving.
Let me not bring shame to you By unholy living.
How could I refuse to shun Ev'ry sinful pleasure
Since for me God's only Son Suffered without measure?**

PASSION HISTORY READING

Mark 14:66–15:15

⁶⁶While Peter was in the courtyard below, one of the servant girls of the high priest came there. ⁶⁷When she saw Peter warming himself, she looked directly at him and said, "You were also with the Nazarene, Jesus!"

⁶⁸But he denied it, saying, "I don't know or understand what you are saying," and he went out to the entryway. Then a rooster crowed.

⁶⁹When the servant girl saw him, once more she began to tell those standing there, "This is one of them."

⁷⁰But again he denied it. After a little while those who were standing there said to Peter, "Surely you are one of them, because you are a Galilean."

⁷¹But he began to curse and to swear, "I do not know this man you are talking about!" ⁷²Just then, the rooster crowed for the second time. Then Peter remembered what Jesus had said to him: "Before the rooster crows twice, you will deny me three times." And he broke down and wept.

As soon as it was morning, the chief priests, along with the elders, the experts in the law, and the whole Sanhedrin, reached a decision. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. ²Pilate asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?"

He answered him, "It is as you say."

³The chief priests accused him of many things. ⁴Pilate questioned him again, "Are you not going to answer anything? See how many charges they are bringing against you!"

⁵But Jesus still did not answer anything, so Pilate was amazed.

⁶At each Festival, Pilate used to release to the people one prisoner whom they requested. ⁷There was one named Barabbas, who was imprisoned with the rebels and had committed murder in the rebellion. ⁸The crowd came up and began to ask Pilate to do for them what he usually did.

⁹Pilate replied, "Do you want me to release the King of the Jews to you?" ¹⁰In fact, he knew that it was because of envy that the chief priests had handed him over.

¹¹But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas to them instead.

¹²Again, Pilate replied to them, "Then what do you want me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews?"

¹³"Crucify him!" they shouted back.

¹⁴But Pilate said to them, "Why? What has he done wrong?"

But they shouted even louder, "Crucify him!"

¹⁵Since he wanted to satisfy the crowd, Pilate released Barabbas to them. After he had Jesus flogged, he handed him over to be crucified.

HYMN

In the Hour of Trial | 116

**In the hour of trial, Jesus, plead for me
Lest by base denial I unworthy be.
When you see me waver, With a look recall,
Nor for fear or favor Ever let me fall.**

**With forbidden pleasures Should this vain world charm
Or its tempting treasures Spread to work me harm,
Bring to my remembrance Sad Gethsemane
Or, in darker semblance, Cross-crowned Calvary.**

**Should your mercy send me Sorrow, toil, and woe,
Or should pain attend me On my path below,
Grant that I may never Fail your cross to view;
Grant that I may ever Cast my care on you.**

**When my life is ending, Though in grief or pain,
When my body changes Back to dust again,
On your truth relying, Through that mortal strife,
Jesus, take me, dying, To eternal life.**

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

Bless Our Loved Ones, Holy Father | 504

**Bless our loved ones, Holy Father; Hear our anxious prayer;
By your mercy keep them always In your care.**

**Jesus, Savior, let your presence Be their light and guide;
Keep, oh, keep them in their weakness At your side.**

**When in sorrow, when in danger, When in loneliness,
In your love look down and comfort Their distress.**

**May the joy of your salvation Be their strength and stay!
May they love and may they praise you Day by day!**

**Holy Spirit, let your teaching Sanctify their life;
Send your grace that they may conquer In the strife.**

**Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, God forever true,
Bless them, guide them, save them, keep them Close to you.**