

**I Never Will
BE HOPELESS**

MIDWEEK FIVE

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 2026

Pilgrim Evangelical Lutheran Church (WELS)

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I Never Will . . . Be Hopeless

Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.” We know that keeping little children occupied for an entire church service can be a challenge. Don’t worry; most of those worshipping around you have been in your shoes at one time. If you feel that you need to take your child out of church at any time, we have a Children’s Room to the right as you exit the worship area. The first parking space in front of church is designated for **expectant mothers and families with small children**.

Restrooms are located to your left as you exit the worship area. There are **changing tables in both restrooms**.

LARGE PRINT copies of worship materials are available from the ushers. If you have any questions or need assistance, please feel free to ask an usher.

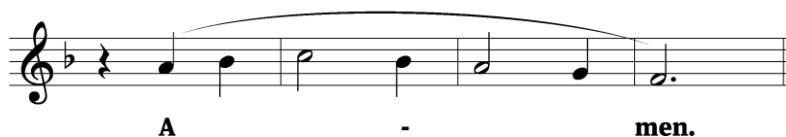
SERVING IN WORSHIP

Presiding Minister
Preacher
Organist

Pastor Collin Vanderhoof
Pastor Aaron Winkelman
David Porth/Amy Balza

Prayer at the Close of Day

Remain seated



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What Grace Is This

CW 395



- 1 What grace is this! My Lord and King
- 2 What grace is this— that ver - y God
- 3 What grace is this! Though Lord of all,
- 4 What grace is this! Rude ag - o - nies!



has set his face to suf - fer - ing. My God e -
would stoop to lift a cross of wood and walk a
he yields to Pon - tius Pi - late's law and lets the
With com - mon thieves he hangs and bleeds. The sin - less



ter - nal dies to bring e - ter - nal life to me.
road of rock and blood, a sin - ner's road, for me.
Ro - man ham - mers draw a rush of blood for me.
Son bears each mis - deed; he pays for all, for me.

- 5 What grace is this! Once wrapped in cloths
and gently laid in manger-trough,
he's taken, dead, from wretched cross
and wrapped again for me.
- 6 What grace is this? How can it be?
He wears this raw humility
to lift me to eternity.
Such grace—sweet grace—for me.

Text: Laurie F. Gauger, b. 1965 Tune: G. A. Hennig, b. 1966 Text: © 2005 Laurie F. Gauger, admin. Faith Alive Christian Resources. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 712872 Tune: © 2005 G. A. Hennig, admin. Faith Alive Christian Resources. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 712872

Confession

CW 226

Our help is in the name of the Lord,
the maker of heaven and earth.

Let us confess our sins in the presence of God and of one another.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father,

we have sinned against you

in our thoughts,

in our words,

in our deeds,

and in all that we have not done.

Forgive us in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Deliver and restore us,

that we may rest in peace.

By the mercy of God we are redeemed by Jesus Christ,
and in him we are forgiven.

Let us rest in his peace until the rising of the sun,
when we shall serve him in newness of life.

Amen.

Anthem

3:30am, Sung by Grades 7-8

1 Oh, to see the dawn
of the darkest day:
Christ on the road to Calvary.

Tried by sinful men,
torn and beaten, then
nailed to a cross of wood.

Ref This the pow'r of the cross:
Christ became sin for us.
Took the blame, bore the wrath;
we stand forgiven at the cross.

2 Oh, to see the pain
written on your face,
bearing the awesome weight of sin.

The Power of the Cross

Ev'ry bitter thought,
ev'ry evil deed
crowning your bloodstained brow.

4 Oh, to see my name
written in the wounds,
for through your suffering I am free.
Death is crushed to death;
life is mine to live,
won through your selfless love!

This the pow'r of the cross:
Son of God—slain for us.
What a love, what a cost!
We stand forgiven at the cross.

My Feet Had Almost Slipped

Psalm 73C



1 My feet had al - most slipped; I near - ly lost my hold when
2 My sanc - tu - ar - y sure, my por - tion and my rest, the
3 My flesh and heart may fail but God is still my strength; his



wick - ed lies were on the lips of ar - ro - gant and bold.
LORD re - mains my hope se - cure, the ref - uge of the blest.
prom - is - es will soon pre - vail and o - ver - come at length.



Their un - re - pent - ant mouths caused mis - er - y and fears un -
His pres - ence cheers my soul, his right hand holds me fast; he
Whom have I, LORD, but you? I turn my eyes from earth and



til I en - tered God's own house and wiped a - way my tears.
guides my path with his con - trol, takes me to heav'n at last.
seek those things which, good and true, a - lone have price - less worth.

Text: Paul Prange Tune: English; adapt. Franklin L. Sheppard Text: © 2021 Paul Prange, admin. Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission:
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Passion History

Matthew 27:1–26

¹Early in the morning, all the chief priests and the elders of the people made their plans how to have Jesus executed. ²So they bound him, led him away and handed him over to Pilate the governor.

³When Judas, who had betrayed him, saw that Jesus was condemned, he was seized with remorse and returned the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders. ⁴“I have sinned,” he said, “for I have betrayed innocent blood.”

“What is that to us?” they replied. “That’s your responsibility.”

⁵So Judas threw the money into the temple and left. Then he went away and hanged himself.

⁶The chief priests picked up the coins and said, “It is against the law to put this into the treasury, since it is blood money.” ⁷So they decided to use the money to buy the potter’s

field as a burial place for foreigners. ⁸That is why it has been called the Field of Blood to this day. ⁹Then what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled: “They took the thirty pieces of silver, the price set on him by the people of Israel, ¹⁰and they used them to buy the potter’s field, as the Lord commanded me.”

¹¹Meanwhile Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked him, “Are you the king of the Jews?”

“You have said so,” Jesus replied.

¹²When he was accused by the chief priests and the elders, he gave no answer. ¹³Then Pilate asked him, “Don’t you hear the testimony they are bringing against you?” ¹⁴But Jesus made no reply, not even to a single charge—to the great amazement of the governor.

¹⁵Now it was the governor’s custom at the festival to release a prisoner chosen by the crowd. ¹⁶At that time they had a well-known prisoner whose name was Jesus Barabbas. ¹⁷So when the crowd had gathered, Pilate asked them, “Which one do you want me to release to you: Jesus Barabbas, or Jesus who is called the Messiah?” ¹⁸For he knew it was out of self-interest that they had handed Jesus over to him.

¹⁹While Pilate was sitting on the judge’s seat, his wife sent him this message: “Don’t have anything to do with that innocent man, for I have suffered a great deal today in a dream because of him.”

²⁰But the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus executed.

²¹“Which of the two do you want me to release to you?” asked the governor.

“Barabbas,” they answered.

²²“What shall I do, then, with Jesus who is called the Messiah?” Pilate asked.

They all answered, “Crucify him!”

²³“Why? What crime has he committed?” asked Pilate.

But they shouted all the louder, “Crucify him!”

²⁴When Pilate saw that he was getting nowhere, but that instead an uproar was starting, he took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd. “I am innocent of this man’s blood,” he said. “It is your responsibility!”

²⁵All the people answered, “His blood is on us and on our children!”

²⁶Then he released Barabbas to them. But he had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

In - to your hands I com-mend my spir - it.

In - to your hands I com-mend my spir - it.

You have re - deemed me, O Lord God of

truth. **In - to your hands I com-mend my spir - it.**

Glo - ry to the Fa - ther and to the + Son

and to the Ho - ly Spir - it. **In - to your**

hands I com - mend my spir - it.

Christ, the Life of All the Living

CW 396 sts. 1, 5, 7



1 Christ, the life of all the liv - ing, Christ, the death of
5 Thou hast suf - fered men to bruise thee that from pain I
7 Then, for all that wrought my par - don, for thy sor - rows



death, our foe, who, thy - self for me once giv - ing
might be free; false - ly did thy foes ac - cuse thee:
deep and sore, for thine an - guish in the gar - den,



to the dark - est depths of woe: through thy suf - f'rings,
thence I gain se - cur - i - ty. Com - fort - less thy
I will thank thee ev - er - more, thank thee for thy



death, and mer - it I e - ter - nal life in - her - it.
soul did lan - guish me to com - fort in my an - guish.
groan - ing, sigh - ing, for thy bleed - ing and thy dy - ing,



Thou-sand, thou-sand thanks shall be, dear - est Je - sus, un - to thee.
Thou-sand, thou-sand thanks shall be, dear - est Je - sus, un - to thee.
for that last tri - um - phant cry and shall praise thee, Lord, on high.

Text: Ernst C. Homburg, 1605–1681, abr.; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt. Tune: Das grosse Cantional, Darmstadt, 1687, alt.
Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

Prayer

CW 228

The musical score is written in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. It consists of seven staves of music. The lyrics are: "Hear my prayer, O Lord; lis - ten to my cry. Keep me as the ap - ple of your eye; hide me in the shad - ow of your wings. In right - eous - ness I shall see you; when I a - wake, your pres - ence will give me joy." The music is a simple, hymn-like melody with a steady rhythm.

Hear my prayer, O Lord;
lis - ten to my cry.
Keep me as the ap - ple of your eye;
hide me in the shad - ow of your wings.
In right - eous - ness I shall see you;
when I a - wake, your pres - ence will give me joy.

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Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who watch or work or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, give rest to the weary, pity the afflicted, soothe the suffering, bless the dying—and all for your love's sake; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

CW 230

Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your
name, your king - dom come, your will be done on
earth as in heav - en. Give us to - day our
dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins, as
we for - give those who sin a - gainst us.
Lead us not in - to temp - ta - tion, but de -
liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the
pow - er, and the glo - ry are yours
now and for - ev - er. A - men.

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Song of Simeon

CW 231



Guide us wak - ing, O Lord,



and guard us sleep - ing



that a - wake we may watch with Christ



and a - sleep we may rest in peace.



In peace, Lord, in peace you let your ser - vant



now de - part ac - cord - ing to your word. For my



eyes have seen your sal - va - tion, which



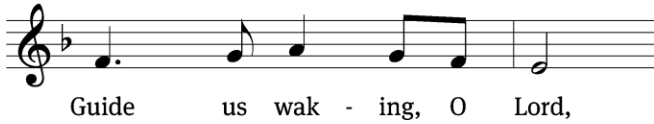
you have pre - pared for ev - 'ry peo - ple, a




light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the



glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.



Guide us wak - ing, O Lord,



and guard us sleep - ing



that a - wake we may watch with Christ



and a - sleep we may rest in peace,



in peace, in peace.

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Let us praise the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Blessing

The almighty and merciful Lord—the Father, the † Son, and the Holy Spirit—bless us and keep us.

Amen.

In Hopelessness and Near Despair



1 In hope - less - ness and near de - spair, I
 2 I see my heart's con - di - tion now, My
 3 I trem - ble as I feel your hand, Ex -
 4 For - giv - en, free of guilt and shame, Grant



cry to you, my Sav - ior! My guilt is more than
 heart's di - verse af - fec - tions. Why do I love the
 pec - ting re - tri - bu - tion, Yet hear no curse or
 me some time to ren - der A gift to glo - ri -



I can bear. I have not earned your fav - or. You
 things you loathe; I'm torn in two di - rec - tions: Now
 re - pri - mand, But grace and ab - so - lu - tion: With
 fy your name, Love to re - flect your splen - dor: This



know me as I real - ly am: How
 prod - i - gal, now Phar - i - see. O
 you there is for - give - ness, Lord, You
 world must know what I have learned, That



much is truth, how much is sham; Why
 God, be mer - ci - ful to me; Who
 speak the sweet, con - sol - ing Word, And
 you be - stow what none has earned: The



should you heed my plead - ing?
 else but you can help me?
 I am sure you love me!
 joy of full for - give - ness!

Worship Schedule for the Lenten Season

Ash Wednesday – (2/18)	3:30pm & 6:30pm
Midweek Lenten Services – (2/25 – 3/25)	3:30pm & 6:30pm
Palm Sunday (3/29) –	9:30am in the Gym (One Service)
Holy Thursday (4/2) –	6:30pm with Communion
Good Friday (4/3) –	1:00pm (Service of the Seven Words from the Cross) 6:30pm (Tenebrae)
Easter Sunday (4/5) –	7:00am Dawn Service 8:30 & 10:00am Festival Service
No Worship Services on Wednesday 4/1	

Acknowledgments

Prayer at the Close of Day from Christian Worship

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