



March 19, 2025
Guest Preacher: Alex Groth
The Warrior Faces Satan's Ally, the World

M: In the name of our God, to whom all hearts are open and from whom no secrets are hidden. Amen.

C: **O Lord, hear my prayer, listen to my cry for mercy, and in your faithfulness, come to my relief. Do not bring your servant into judgment, for no one living is righteous before you. Answer me quickly, O Lord; my spirit fails. Do not hide your face from me, for I have put my trust in you. Show me the way I should go, for to you I lift up my soul. Teach me to do your will, for you are my God.**

Almighty God, merciful Father, I, a troubled and repentant sinner, confess that I have sinned against you in my thoughts, my words, and my actions. I have not loved you with my whole heart; I have not loved others as I should. I am distressed by the sins that trouble me and am deeply sorry for them.

Silence for private confession.

M: Jesus says to his people: “If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven.” His death paid for the guilt of your sins and the sins of the whole world. Do you believe this?

C: **Yes, I believe.**

M: Because of the promise of our Savior Jesus, I forgive you all your sins. Be assured that you are a dear child of God and an heir of eternal life.

Prayer

M: Lord God, we thank you for this day of grace now drawing to a close. Stay with us and warm our hearts with your forgiving love in Christ. May your Word keep our faith burning brightly, that we may walk in the light of your presence through the darkness of this world.

Come and bless us as we worship you: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

PSALM 2 (to the tune of Alleluia! Let Praises Ring)

The pastor reads the psalm verses; the congregation sings the verses in bold.

REFRAIN: **Oh, haste, my soul, your song to raise;**
 Do not delay your Lord to praise;
 Bow down in adoration.
 All glory to the Lord belongs,
 Whose praise resounds in grateful songs,
 The Lord of all creation.
 Hearing, fearing, bow before him and adore him, ev'ry nation.
 Praise the God of our salvation!

Why do the nations conspire and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers gather together against the LORD and against his Anointed One. "Let us break their chains," they say, "and throw off their fetters." The One enthroned in heaven laughs; the Lord scoffs at them. Then he rebukes them in his anger and terrifies them in his wrath, saying, "I have installed my King on Zion, my holy hill." I will proclaim the decree of the LORD: He said to me, "You are my Son; today I have become your Father. Ask of me, and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession. You will rule them with an iron scepter; you will dash them to pieces like pottery."

REFRAIN

Therefore, you kings, be wise; be warned, you rulers of the earth. Serve the LORD with fear and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son, lest he be angry and you be destroyed in your way, for his wrath can flare up in a moment. Blessed are all who take refuge in him.

REFRAIN

Psalm 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.

Passion Reading from Luke 22:39-54**Seasonal Response**

All: All we like sheep have gone astray, and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. By his wounds we are healed.

<i>HYMN: TAKE THE WORLD, BUT GIVE ME JESUS</i>
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Sermon on John 18:38 Satan's Ally – the World

“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.”

Lord's Prayer**Evening Prayer**

C: In the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. 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.

Blessing

M: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ †, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: Amen.

<i>HYMN: ALL PRAISE TO THEE, MY GOD THIS NIGHT</i>
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We thank Pastor Alex Groth for leading our worship this evening. Next week Pastor Luke Italiano will continue our series with *Rejected*.