



March 26, 2025
Guest Preacher: Luke Italiano
The Warrior Rejected by Many Followers

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 119 (sung to the tune of *As with Gladness Men of Old*)

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

REFRAIN: **Blest are those – most happy they - Who the law of God obey.
Lord, you gave your laws that we Might obey them faithfully.
Stand beside me, that I may All your goodly laws obey.**

Teach me, O LORD, to follow your decrees; then I will keep them to the end. Give me understanding, and I will keep your law and obey it with all my heart. Direct me in the path of your commands, for there I find delight. Turn my heart toward your statutes and not toward selfish gain. Turn my eyes away from worthless things; preserve my life according to your word.

REFRAIN

Fulfill your promise to your servant, so that you may be feared. Take away the disgrace I dread, for your laws are good. How I long for your precepts! Preserve my life in your righteousness.

REFRAIN

Psalm Prayer:

M: O Lord, your Word is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness. Guide our footsteps by your Word so that we may remain steadfast in faith, love you with all our hearts, and love our neighbor as ourselves; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

C: Amen.

Passion Reading from Luke 22:54-71

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.

HYMN: STRICKEN, SMITTEN, AND AFFLICTED

430

Sermon on John 6:66-68 - The Warrior Rejected by Many Followers

From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him. “You do not want to leave too, do you?” Jesus asked the Twelve. Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.”

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.

HYMN: JESUS, TENDER SHEPHERD HEAR ME

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We thank Pastor Luke Italiano for leading our worship this evening. Next week Vicar Colin Rixe will continue our series with *Reconnaissance*.