



April 2, 2025
Guest Preacher: Colin Rixe
Reconnaissance Report: Know Your Enemy

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 18 selected verses

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

**I am trusting you, Lord Jesus, trusting only you;
trusting you for full salvation, free and true.**

I love you, O LORD, my strength. The LORD is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge. He is my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. I call to the LORD, who is worthy of praise, and I am saved from my enemies.

**I am trusting you for pardon; at your feet I bow,
for your grace and tender mercy trusting now.**

To the faithful you show yourself faithful, to the blameless you show yourself blameless, to the pure you show yourself pure, but to the crooked you show yourself shrewd. You save the humble but bring low those whose eyes are haughty.

**I am trusting you for power; you can never fail.
Words which you yourself shall give me must prevail.**

You, O LORD, keep my lamp burning; my God turns my darkness into light. With your help I can advance against a troop; with my God I can scale a wall. As for God, his way is perfect; the word of the LORD is flawless. He is a shield for all who take refuge in him.

**I am trusting you to guide me; you alone shall lead,
ev'ry day and hour supplying all my need.**

For who is God besides the LORD? And who is the Rock except our God? It is God who arms me with strength and makes my way perfect.

**I am trusting you, Lord Jesus; never let me fall.
I am trusting you forever and for all.**

Psalm Prayer:

M: Lord God, our mighty rock of salvation, give us such strength of faith that we may cling to you in every trouble and, armed with your strong Word, be preserved from every assault of Satan and his forces of evil; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Passion Reading from Luke 23:1-25

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: WHEN I SURVEY THE WONDROUS CROSS

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Sermon on Ephesians 6:12 - Reconnaissance Report: Know Your Enemy

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

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: NOW THE LIGHT HAS GONE AWAY

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We thank Vicar Colin Rixe for leading our worship this evening. Next week Pastor Tom Westra will continue our series with *Skrimishes*.