



Scattered Sheep

*Midweek Lent
March 4, 2026*

Opening Hymn

526 What Wondrous Love Is This

Confession of Sins

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.

Silence for personal reflection

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.

Psalm

Refrain

73A God Is the Strength of My Heart



God is the strength of my heart and my por-tion for-ev - er.

Tone



As for me, my feet had / almost slipped;
I had nearly lost my / foothold.
For I envied the / arrogant
when I saw the prosperity of the / wicked.
It troubled me deeply till I entered the sanctuary / of God;
then I understood their final / destiny. *Refrain*

You guide me with your / counsel,
and afterward you will take me into / glory.
Whom have I in / heav'n but you?
And earth has nothing I desire be- / sides you.
My flesh and my / heart may fail,
but God is the strength of my heart and my portion for- / ever.
Glory be to the Father and / to the Son
and to the Holy / Spirit,
as it was in the be- / ginning,
is now, and will be forever. / Amen. *Refrain*

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Passion History

Matthew 26:36–56

³⁶Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane. He told his disciples, “Sit here, while I go over there and pray.” ³⁷He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and he began to be sorrowful and distressed. ³⁸Then he said to them, “My soul is very sorrowful, even to the point of death. Stay here, and keep watch with me.”

³⁹He went a little farther, fell on his face, and prayed. He said, “**My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.**”

⁴⁰He came to the disciples and found them sleeping. He said to Peter, “So, were you not able to stay awake with me for one hour? ⁴¹Watch and pray, so that you do not enter into temptation. **The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.**”

⁴²He went away a second time and prayed, “My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to pass from me unless I drink it, may your will be done.” ⁴³Again he returned and found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy. ⁴⁴He left them again, went away, and prayed a third time. He said the same words as before. ⁴⁵Then he returned to his disciples and said to them, “Are you still sleeping and resting? Look, the hour is near, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. ⁴⁶**Rise. Let us go. Look, my betrayer is near.**”

⁴⁷While Jesus was still speaking, suddenly Judas (one of the Twelve) arrived. With him was a large crowd with swords and clubs, who came from the chief priests and elders of the people. ⁴⁸Now the betrayer had given them a sign: “The one I kiss is the man. Arrest him.” ⁴⁹Immediately he went to Jesus and said, “Greetings, Rabbi!” and kissed him.

⁵⁰Jesus said to him, “**Friend, why are you here?**”

Then they advanced, took hold of Jesus, and arrested him. ⁵¹Suddenly, one of the men with Jesus reached out his hand, drew his sword, and struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his ear. ⁵²Then Jesus said to him, “Put your sword back into its place, because all who take the sword will die by the sword. ⁵³Do you not realize that I could call on my Father, and at once he would provide me with more than twelve legions of angels? ⁵⁴But then how would the Scriptures be fulfilled that say it must happen this way?”

⁵⁵At that same time Jesus said to the crowd, “**Have you come out to arrest me with swords and clubs as if I were a robber?** Day after day I was sitting in the temple courts teaching, and you did not arrest me. ⁵⁶But all this has happened so that the writings of the prophets would be fulfilled.” Then all the disciples deserted him and fled. (EHV®)

Hymn of the Day

432 *O Dearest Jesus, What Law Have You Broken* sts. 1, 3–6

Reading

Zechariah 13:7–9

⁷Awake, O sword, against my shepherd,
and against the man who is my associate, declares the LORD of Armies.
Strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered,
and I will turn my hand against the little ones.

⁸This will take place in the whole land, declares the LORD:
Two thirds of those who remain in it will be cut off and perish,
but one third will be left in it.

⁹I will put that third into the fire, and I will refine them as silver is refined,
and I will test them as gold is tested.

They will call on my name, and I will answer them.

I will say, “This is my people.”

And they will say, “The LORD is my God.” (EHV®)

Sermon

Offering

Prayer

Lord Jesus, we are shortsighted and focus only on this life. We try to make this earth our perfect home and become discontent when life goes better for the wicked than it does for us. Turn our eyes toward you, and help us to live each day with the confidence that heaven is our ultimate and perfect home, for there we will live with you and the Father and the Spirit.
Amen.

Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.**

Blessing

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him.
Amen.

Closing Hymn

951 Lord, Now You Let Your Servant