

Sermon for Mid-week Lent 3

Date: March 4, 2026

Location: Zion – Colby, WI

Old Testament: Isaiah 30:15–18

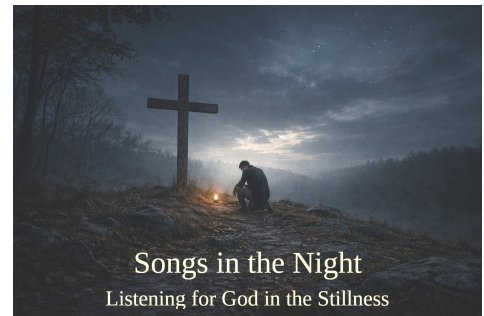
Epistle Reading: Romans 8:18–25

Gospel Reading: Mark 4:35–41

Sermon Series: Songs in the Night

Sermon Title: Waiting for the Morning

Sermon Text: Psalm 130



Hymns:

LSB 696 – O God, My Faithful God (1-2)

LSB 439 – O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken (v. 5)

LSB 422 – On My Heart Imprint Your Image

LSB 435 – Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain (v.1,3,4)

Distribution:

LSB 440 – Jesus, I Will Ponder Now

LSB 433 – Glory Be to Jesus

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ZionColby.org



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715-316-4098

(No Internet or Smart Phone needed)



Text: Psalm 130

¹Out of the depths

I cry to you, O LORD!

²O Lord, hear my voice!

Let your ears be attentive
to the voice of my pleas for mercy!

³If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities,

O Lord, who could stand?

⁴But with you there is forgiveness,

that you may be feared.

⁵I wait for the LORD, my soul waits,

and in his word I hope;

⁶my soul waits for the Lord

more than watchmen for the morning,
more than watchmen for the morning.

⁷O Israel, hope in the LORD!

For with the LORD there is steadfast love,
and with him is plentiful redemption.

⁸And he will redeem Israel

from all his iniquities.

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Grace, mercy and peace to you in Jesus' name. Amen.

Opening Orientation – Remembering the Night So Far

Last week, as we continued this *Songs in the Night* journey, we listened to the honest cries of God's people in the darkness. We heard how the Lord does not despise lament, He receives it. He invites it. He draws His people closer, and builds faith, through it.

Today the song changes just a little. The night remains. The darkness hasn't lifted yet, but the cry grows quieter, steadier, more focused. Tonight, the psalm teaches us how to wait in the night. Not how to escape or ignore it, but how to remain faithful while the darkness lingers.

Out of the Depths – The Song of Waiting

The psalm for tonight gives us the kind of words that speak from the heart:

Out of the depths
I cry to You, O Lord.¹



This is not a simple problem. These are not small frustrations. These are deep. The kind of darkness where the bottom can't be felt and the road ahead can't be seen. The author of this psalm cries out for mercy, then does something unexpected. He slows down. He waits.

I wait for the Lord, my soul waits,
and in His word I hope;
my soul waits for the Lord
more than watchmen for the morning.²

The night does not immediately end. The psalm doesn't rush to daylight. God's Word teaches patience and growth in the darkness.

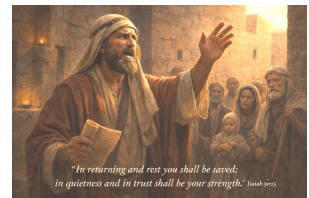
The Law – Our Struggle to Wait



Waiting is not always our strength. When the challenges comes, we want answers. We want progress. We want resolution. We don't like to wait through the night. The lights come on, the pacing starts. We want the dawn to arrive on our schedule. When it doesn't, anxiety creeps in. Our craving for control replaces our trust in God. Noise and activity replaces prayer. We reach for distraction instead of patient hope. Isaiah speaks directly to this kind restlessness:

In returning and rest you shall be saved;
in quietness and in trust
shall be your strength.³

We hear those words, we know God is, as He has always been, faithful throughout history, still: We resist rest. We resist quiet. We resist



1 Psalm 130:1
2 Psalm 130:6
3 Isaiah 30:15

trust. We resist waiting. The deeper problem beneath our impatience is fear. We struggle to believe God is still working, or still paying attention to someone as insignificant as me. When we cannot see movement we fill in the gaps with our imagination. Too often we see those gaps through a glass half-empty. We measure faith by outcomes rather than by promises from the very mouth of God.

The Gospel – The Lord Who Entered the Night



The good news tonight is not that waiting is made easier. It is that Jesus has already waited for us. He waited in Gethsemane while His disciples slept. He waited under false accusation, in an illegal court, knowing the verdict that was coming. He waited beneath the weight of the cross, waiting for death to engulf him. He carried the pain. He carried our punishment. Then He waited in the silence of the tomb.

Even the stormy night on the sea reveals this truth. In Mark 4, Jesus sleeps while the disciples panic.⁴ He remains present even when fear screams loudly. It is Jesus' waiting that sanctifies (or holy-ifies) our waiting. His stillness gives meaning to our patience. His resurrection promises the night cannot and does not last forever. The Lord does not keep silent forever.⁵ Morning comes in His time.

The Hymn – O Dearest Jesus...

The hymn verse for tonight helps us see the heart of Jesus' willing suffering:

*The Jews did mock Thee with crowns of thorn,
They smote Thee, Lord, with scourges;
The fetters and the blows were borne
That we might have forgiveness.⁶*

Here is where our waiting finds its meaning. In the psalm he waits for the morning because Jesus has already endured the longest night. The blows, the thorns, and the silence were endured willingly so forgiveness would greet us as the morning comes. This hymn teaches us our waiting rests securely in what He has already done.

Catechetical Thread – Prayer in the Night

When Luther explains prayer,⁷ he reminds us that prayer is not performance. It is reliance. Prayer in the night does not demand immediate answers. It clings to God's Word and promises. Waiting in prayer reshapes the heart.



4 Mark 4:35–41

5 Lamentations 3:31–33

6 LSB 439:5

7 Luther's Small Catechism – The Lord's Prayer

Pastoral Application – Keeping Watch




Lent is that time of year that invites a bit more faithfulness and quiet prayer. Scripture read more slowly. This mild monastic discipline⁸ forms trust without spectacle. Like the watchman on the wall, God’s people remain alert, hopeful, grounded. We don’t rush the morning. We wait for it, knowing it must come.


Closing Direction – Watching for the Morning

Tonight’s song teaches us patience in the darkness. Next week, the song will grow stronger, moving from waiting in prayer to confidence in faith. Until then, we wait with hope. The Lord who entered the night remains with His people. Out of the depths, He hears. In the waiting, He works. At the right time, He brings the morning’s light.

Amen.





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3:16-Sermons by Phone: 715-316-8149 (John 3:16) *No Internet or smartphone needed*
5:17-Prayer Requests: 715-390-0517 (1 Thessalonians 5:17) *Your prayer request will be forward to our prayer team.*

8 The ordered spiritual practices, rules, and habits followed by those living in a monastery, often monks or nuns.