

Sermon for Mid-week Lent 4

Date: March 11, 2026

Location: Zion – Colby, WI

Old Testament: Isaiah 30:15–18

Epistle Reading: Romans 8:18–25

Gospel Reading: John 2:13–22

Sermon Series: Songs in the Night

Sermon Title: Still Waiting for Morning

Sermon Text: Psalm 6



Hymns:

LSB 442 – All Glory, Laud, and Honor (v.1,4)

LSB 439 – O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken (v. 7)

LSB 645 – Built on the Rock (v. 1-2 Offering)

LSB 645 – Built on the Rock (v. 3-5 Closing)

Distribution:

LSB 709 – The King of Love My Shepherd Is

LSB 707 – Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways

LSB 849 – Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness

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(No Internet or Smart Phone needed)



Text: Psalm 6

- ¹O LORD, rebuke me not in your anger,
nor discipline me in your wrath.
- ²Be gracious to me, O LORD, for I am languishing;
heal me, O LORD, for my bones are troubled.
- ³My soul also is greatly troubled.
But you, O LORD— how long?
- ⁴Turn, O LORD, deliver my life;
save me for the sake of your steadfast love.
- ⁵For in death there is no remembrance of you;
in Sheol who will give you praise?
- ⁶I am weary with my moaning;
every night I flood my bed with tears;
I drench my couch with my weeping.
- ⁷My eye wastes away because of grief;
it grows weak because of all my foes.
- ⁸Depart from me, all you workers of evil,
for the LORD has heard the sound of my weeping.
- ⁹The LORD has heard my plea;
the LORD accepts my prayer.
- ¹⁰All my enemies shall be ashamed and greatly troubled;
they shall turn back and be put to shame in a moment.

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Grace and peace, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Opening – Remembering the Night So Far

We are continuing walking through the night together. Over these weeks, we have listened to songs sung in darkness, not songs pretending everything is easy, not songs rushing to the dawn, but songs faithful enough to speak honestly, walking diligently, while waiting through the night.



Tonight, the song teaches us how to wait. Not busy waiting. Not anxious waiting. Faithful waiting. Tonight, God teaches us how hope waits, anchored in forgiveness and trust in God.

Out of the Depths – The Cry of Psalm 6

Psalm 6 begins where many prayers begin, down low.

Be gracious to me, O Lord,
for I am languishing.

Heal me, O Lord,
for my bones are troubled.¹

This is not a polite prayer spoken from a distance. This is a cry rising from guilt, fear, weariness, and unanswered longing. The psalm does not hide the truth. If the Lord kept a record of sins, no one would stand. Waiting has a way of bringing that truth to the surface. When relief does not arrive quickly, hearts begin to race. Consciences grow loud in the silence.

Here the Law speaks clearly. We want solutions now. We want God to move on our schedule. When He does not, frustration and doubt creep in. Waiting exposes how easily we trust timing more than promises.

Waiting on the LORD – Hope Anchored in His Word

Psalm 6 refuses despair. The cry from the depths turns toward hope.

The Lord has heard my plea.
The Lord accepts my prayer.²



The author reaches for a picture everyone in his day would understand: a watchman waiting for morning. The watchman doesn't hurry the sunrise, no matter how eager he is to see it. He doesn't command the light. He waits with certainty. The morning will come, because it always does. That is the picture the psalm is teaching.

Biblical hope, faithful hope, works the same way. Hope rests on the Word of the God. Waiting becomes an act of faith.

¹ Psalm 6:2

² Psalm 6:9

A Sign Delayed – The Temple and the Promise



The Gospel reading for today places us in another moment of tension. Jesus cleansing the Temple. He is filled with passion for His Father’s house and the souls that should gather there.

The leaders demand a sign. Jesus says “My Father’s house…” They want proof of who He claims to be, now. Jesus answers with a promise.

Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.³

They hear the words and miss the hope and the truth in them. The sign will come later. The meaning will unfold on and after the cross. Resurrection waits beyond suffering. The disciples themselves will only fully understand after Easter.⁴ God often works that way. Action now, sometimes in silence, sometimes behind the sphere of our vision. The understanding comes later. Promise spoken. Fulfillment delayed.

Hymn Anchor – LSB 439, Verse 7

Into this waiting, the hymn places a confession on our lips:

*O wondrous love, whose depth no heart hath sounded,
That brought Thee here, by foes and thieves surrounded!
All worldly pleasures, heedless, I was trying
While Thou wert dying.⁵*

The hymn does not hurry past the cross. It doesn’t hurry to the cross. It stays with Jesus following Him in His timing, His purpose, and His process. He, the Light of the world,⁶ and the Author of Light,⁷ lingers in the darkness. His suffering secures the morning before we see it. Forgiveness, the true morning’s dawn, stands firm. The night may linger, but dark as it may be:

The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness has not overcome it.⁸

Morning comes! The transfiguration of Jesus just weeks ago now begins to make more sense. The reason Jesus show them those things was so they would know the night does not last forever. Morning comes.



Gospel – The Morning Is Certain

God doesn’t promise quick relief. He promises final freedom and redemption. With Him there is forgiveness. Faith holds on through the challenge. Psalm 6 says:

- 3 John 2:19
- 4 John 2:22
- 5 LSB 439, Verse 7
- 6 John 8:12
- 7 Genesis 1:3
- 8 John 1:5

Turn, O Lord, deliver my life.⁹

Jesus prayer, “Why have You forsaken Me?” was spoken so we would never have to. He entered the deepest night. He carried the mess of the whole and entire human race onto the cross and into the grave. Between the cross and the resurrection, He waited again through silence and death, but it could not hold Him. The morning comes!

Closing – Holding the Watch

Tonight, the psalm teaches us to hold the watch. Waiting is faithfulness at work. Prayer spoken in that dark still reaches the throne of heaven. Hope anchored in Jesus does not fail, and will not fail you.



As we walk this trek, the night is thinning. It is losing its grasp, on the world, and on you. Morning draws nearer. It’s not here yet, but we know it will come. First these songs will move closer to the cross, where waiting gives way to watching, watching gives way to sorrow, but that is not the end of the story. We can’t see it yet, but it will get here.

Until then, wait. And trust the One who is Light Incarnate.

Amen.



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5:17-Prayer Requests: 715-390-0517 (1 Thessalonians 5:17) *Your prayer request will be forward to our prayer team.*