



Standing *at the* Cross

March 25, 2020 • 7:00 p.m.

Standing through Persecution

Theme Verse:

*Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?
Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution,
or famine or nakedness, or danger, or sword?
Romans 8:35*

PRELUDE *“Abide With Me”*.....*Jamie Baker,*
ukulele

P In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Jesus said to them, “If anyone would come after me,

C Let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.

P For whoever would save his life will lose it,

C But whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it.”

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P Let us confess our sins to God and ask his forgiveness.

C Almighty God, we are called to follow Jesus, but instead we turn away to follow our own selfish desires. We listen to the temptations of this world instead of listening to your Word. We sin against you each day in our thoughts, words and actions. Have mercy and forgive us. Restore us and help us by your Spirit to follow Jesus.

P God has had mercy on us. He sent his Son to be our Savior. Jesus suffered, died and rose from the dead to win for us forgiveness and life. I announce to you that your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

C Help us, almighty God, to follow daily in the footsteps of our Savior.

P Lord Jesus, for us you were betrayed and arrested. For us you faced the lies and false accusations of your enemies, an unjust trial and the sentence of death. For us you carried our sins in your own body to the cross to give us forgiveness and life. If we should face anger or ridicule because we follow you, help us to stand firm in faith and bold in witness. Comfort and protect your saints in every nation where they are persecuted for the sake of your holy name. Help each of them to bear the cross and follow you.

C Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Psalm 2:1-6

Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together,

HYMN OF RESPONSE*Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am*
(sing 2 times)

Take, oh, take me as I am; sum-mon out what I shall be;
set your seal up-on my heart and live in me.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of four staves. The first two staves are for the first line of the hymn, and the last two staves are for the second line. The music is written in a key with three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and a common time signature. The melody is in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. The lyrics are written below the staves.

against the Lord and against his Anointed, saying, “Let us burst their bonds apart and cast away their cords from us.” He who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord holds them in derision. Then he will speak to them in his wrath, and terrify them in his fury, saying, “As for me, I have set my King on Zion, my holy hill.”

EPISTLE READING: Romans 8:31-39

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written, “For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.” No, in all these things

we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 26:59-68

Now the chief priests and the whole council were seeking false testimony against Jesus that they might put him to death, but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. At last two came forward and said, "This man said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God, and to rebuild it in three days.'" And the high priest stood up and said, "Have you no answer to make? What is it that these men testify against you?" But Jesus remained silent. And the high priest said to him, "I adjure you by the living God, tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God." Jesus said to him, "You have said so. But I tell you, from now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven." Then the high priest tore his robes and said, "He has uttered blasphemy. What further witnesses do we need? You have now heard his blasphemy. What is your judgment?" They answered, "He deserves death." Then they spit in his face and struck him. And some slapped him, saying, "Prophecy to us, you Christ! Who is it that struck you?"

MARTIN LUTHER QUOTE: *(read in unison)*

"Thus Christ was not killed in a rebellion, nor in a riot, nor by people who had no legal power; no, he was killed by those who held full, legal power."

(Martin Luther, from his second sermon for Holy Week, 1534)

SERMON—*"Standing through Persecution"*

PRAYERS

P Jesus, conquering King,

C Nothing can separate us from your love.

P Lord Jesus, you overcame persecution, suffering and death for the sake of our salvation. You triumphed over all of your enemies to win for us forgiveness, life and peace with God.
Jesus, conquering King,

C Nothing can separate us from your love.

P Lord Jesus, so many of your saints around the world suffer because of their love for you. We pray that you would strengthen their faith and comfort them with the hope of eternal life. Cause all leaders worldwide to rule in justice and wisdom. Jesus, conquering King,

C Nothing can separate us from your love.

P Lord Jesus, when we face ridicule or shame for our faith, strengthen us in your love. Help us to remain firm in hope, loving even our enemies. Your victory over sin, death and the devil is our victory, and in you we are more than conquerors. Jesus, conquering King,

C Nothing can separate us from your love. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

BENEDICTION

P I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers,

C Nor things present nor things to come,

P Nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation,

C Will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

P The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C Amen.

P Go in peace and Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *“This is My Father’s World”*

Jake Guild, YouTube Creative Commons