

MIDWEEK-LENT 4

MARCH 22, 2023

*congregation stands

AS WE GATHER

Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. And a servant girl came up to him and said, "You also were with Jesus the Galilean." But he denied it. Matthew 26:69-70

INVOCATION AND CALL TO WORSHIP

- P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C Amen.
- P Let us ever walk with Jesus.
- C To see the depths of his love.
- P To behold the gift of his forgiveness.
- C To gaze upon the heights of his grace.
- P To marvel at the magnitude of his mercy.
- C We follow Christ to the courtyard.
- P It belongs to the High Priest Caiaphas—but Peter is there and so are others.
- C Peter denies Jesus three times.
- P But all is not lost. After his collapse, God's grace is amazing.
- C Faithful Lord, with me abide. I shall follow where you guide!



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***CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

- P Gracious and most merciful Father—
- C In the light of your holiness I see myself as I really am.
- P And I am guilty.
- C I confess that I have impure thoughts and unclean lips.
- P I think too highly of myself and too little of others.
- C I cling too tightly to the treasures of this world.
- P That I cannot open my hands to receive blessings from you.
- C My feet walk in the path of sin.

- P I wander astray and become a stranger to righteousness.
- C Forgive me, and set me again on the path that leads to life.
- P Deal with me not as I deserve, but according to your mercy.
- C Not because I am worthy but because you are gracious. Lord, have mercy! Christ, have mercy! Lord, have mercy!

(Please silently reflect on the fact that though our sin is great, Christ's love is greater.)

- P Hear the good news! Jesus walked to places of rejection, suffering, torment and death for you. Jesus was determined to go to Gethsemane, Gabbatha and Golgotha—for you. That's why Jesus forgives you completely and loves you eternally. Faithful Lord, with me abide!
- C I shall follow where you guide!

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Merciful and mighty Father, like Peter we can make great boasts, "Even if I must die with you, I will not deny you!" (Matthew 26:35) When we fail and fall, and get lost in guilt, restore to us the joy of our salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

C Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 53:8–12

⁸By oppression and judgment he was taken away; and as for his generation, who considered that he was cut off out of the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people? ⁹And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth. ¹⁰Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for sin, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand. ¹¹Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities. ¹²Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many,

and he shall divide the spoil with the strong, because he poured out his soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors.

- A This is the Word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

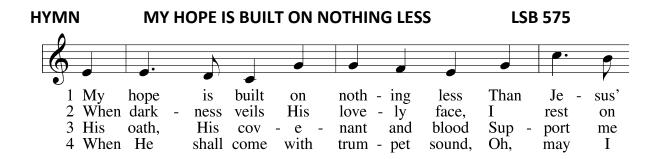
EPISTLE READING

⁸If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing well. ⁹But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. ¹⁰For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. ¹¹For he who said, "Do not commit adultery," also said, "Do not murder." If you do not commit adultery but do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. ¹²So speak and so act as those who are to be judged under the law of liberty. ¹³For judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

*GOSPEL READING

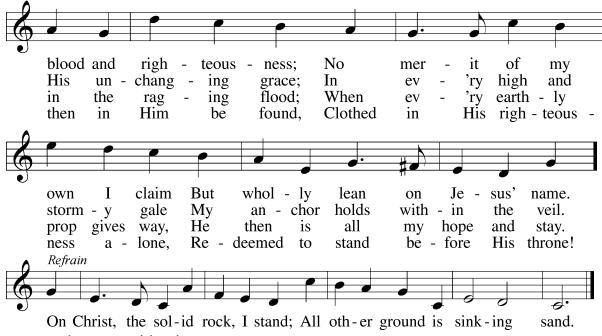
⁶⁹Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. And a servant girl came up to him and said, "You also were with Jesus the Galilean." ⁷⁰But he denied it before them all, saying, "I do not know what you mean." ⁷¹And when he went out to the entrance, another servant girl saw him, and she said to the bystanders, "This man was with Jesus of Nazareth." ⁷²And again he denied it with an oath: "I do not know the man." ⁷³After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter, "Certainly you too are one of them, for your accent betrays you." ⁷⁴Then he began to invoke a curse on himself and to swear, "I do not know the man." And immediately the rooster crowed. ⁷⁵And Peter remembered the saying of Jesus, "Before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times." And he went out and wept bitterly.

- A This is the Word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.



James 2:8–13

Matthew 26:69–75



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SERMON PLACES OF THE PASSION: THE COURTYARD

OFFERING

***PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

- P Onward in Christ's footsteps treading, pilgrims here, our home above. Full of faith and hope and love. Let us do the Father's bidding. And so we pray. Gracious Father, we stand in awe and wonder at your abounding grace which you've lavished on us through your Son, Jesus. That's why we celebrate, where sin abounds,
- C Grace abounds all the more.
- P Gracious Father, in Peter's failure we see our own failure and sin. Too often we are spiritually dead—living in the reign of sin and death. But now, through Jesus, you make us alive and children of your great affection and grace! We delight to say, where sin abounds,
- C Grace abounds all the more.
- P Gracious Father, as lost as we get in guilt, so much more do you restore us in grace amazing, life-changing, overflowing grace. Grace planned for Jesus to be arrested, tried, condemned, crucified, buried and risen for us. That's why we are eternally grateful, because where sin abounds,
- C Grace abounds all the more.

- P Indeed, gracious Father, this Gospel shows us how fervently "for us" you really are. You didn't spare your own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will you not also, along with Jesus, graciously give us all things?
- C Jesus, let me faithful be, life eternal grant to me. Amen.

*LORD'S PRAYER

LSB 179

- P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:
- C 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 Jesus invites us to walk with him to the high priest's courtyard, a place of great suffering and a place of great love. We will walk with Jesus all the way to the empty tomb—and resurrection victory.
- C Let us ever walk with Jesus! Amen.





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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Serving our Lord Wed. March 22, 6:30pm Wed. March 29, 6:30pm Soup supper served by: Quilters 5:15pm Soup supper served by: Elders Musician **Diane Streich** Marsha Workman 6:30pm Cantor Andy Koch **Dave Workman** 6:30pm Altar Guild 6:30pm **Roxanne Foley** Roxanne Foley Elder(s) Andy Olson Jon Peterson 6:30pm Andy Olson Reader 630pm Jon Peterson **Usher Team** 6:30pm **Terry Stoerzinger** Jon Peterson Acolyte 6:30pm Open Open Projection 6:30pm Open Open Live Stream Jim Nicklas 6:30pm Jim Nicklas

Join us for Holy Week and Easter Worship



Maundy Thursday—Thursday, April 6 5:00pm Seder Meal; reservations in the narthex or church office by April 2 6:30pm Worship with Holy Communion



Good Friday—Friday, April 7 6:30pm* Worship



Easter—Sunday, April 9 8:00am* and 10:30am Worship with Holy Communion 9:15am Food and Fellowship; no Sunday school, no Adult Bible Class

*livestream at www.trinityloneoak.org