



MIDWEEK—LENT 3

MARCH 15, 2023

**congregation stands*

THEME VERSE

Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, "Sit here, while I go over there and pray." Matthew 26:36

***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 walk with Jesus to the Garden of Gethsemane.**
- P Where he is betrayed by Judas.
- C **And arrested by the Jews.**
- P So that the Scriptures might be fulfilled.
- C **Faithful Lord, with me abide. I shall follow where you guide!**

HYMN

LET US EVER WALK WITH JESUS

LSB 685

vs. 1, 4

***CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

- P Paul writes in today's second lesson, "Christ came proclaiming peace to those who are far off and those who are near." (Ephesians 2:17) Heavenly Father, this proclamation has reached our ears but we confess it has not settled into our hearts.
- C **We confess that we do not live in the light of Christ's peace.**
- P We prefer being peace-fakers and peace-breakers.
- C **We are more ready to worry than to trust.**
- P More ready to fret than have faith.
- C **More ready to blame than to believe.**
- P Forgive our hard hearts.
- C **And make us more alive to the depths of your love.**
- P Show us what it cost to give up your Son.
- C **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**

- P Heavenly Father, because Jesus walked into the perfect storm—betrayal, arrest, assault with a sword and then all his friends ran away—you are able to bring your perfect peace in the storms of our lives. Empower us to believe it and receive it; through Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, God forever.
- C **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 53:1–5

- ¹Who has believed what they heard from us?
And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?
- ²For he grew up before him like a young plant,
and like a root out of dry ground;
he had no form or majesty that we should look at him,
and no beauty that we should desire him.
- ³He was despised and rejected by men;
a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief;
and as one from whom men hide their faces
he was despised, and we esteemed him not.
- ⁴Surely he has borne our griefs
and carried our sorrows;
yet we esteemed him stricken,
smitten by God, and afflicted.

⁵But he was wounded for our transgressions;
he was crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,
and with his stripes we are healed.

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

EPISTLE READING

Ephesians 2:11–18

¹¹Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called “the uncircumcision” by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands— ¹²remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. ¹³But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility ¹⁵by abolishing the law of commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, ¹⁶and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. ¹⁷And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. ¹⁸For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father.

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

***GOSPEL READING**

Matthew 26:47–56

- P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the third chapter.
C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

⁴⁷While he was still speaking, Judas came, one of the twelve, and with him a great crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people. ⁴⁸Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, “The one I will kiss is the man; seize him.” ⁴⁹And he came up to Jesus at once and said, “Greetings, Rabbi!” And he kissed him. ⁵⁰Jesus said to him, “Friend, do what you came to do.” Then they came up and laid hands on Jesus and seized him. ⁵¹And behold, one of those who were with Jesus stretched out his hand and drew his sword and struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his ear. ⁵²Then Jesus said to him, “Put your sword back into its place. For all who take the sword will perish by the sword. ⁵³Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels? ⁵⁴But how then should the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must be so?” ⁵⁵At that hour Jesus said to the crowds, “Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs to capture me? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not seize me. ⁵⁶But all this has taken place that the Scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled.” Then all the disciples left him and fled.

SERMON HYMN

GO TO DARK GETHSEMANE

LSB 436

SERMON

PLACES OF THE PASSION: GETHSEMANE

OFFERING

*PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

After each petition:

P Lord, in your mercy,

C **Grant us your peace.**

P Heavenly Father, we praise and thank you for your peace that surpasses all understanding. Anchor us in hope, strengthen us in grace and fortify us with resolute courage.

C **Jesus let me faithful be, life eternal grant to me. Amen.**

*LORD'S PRAYER

LSB 241

*BENEDICTION

P Jesus invites us to walk with him to the Garden of Gethsemane, 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.**

HYMN TO DEPART

JESUS SAVIOR, PILOT ME

LSB 715

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Serving Our Lord

		Wed. March 15	Wed. March 22
Supper	5:15pm	served by: Scrapers	served by: Elders
Musician	6:30pm	Marsha Workman	Diane Streich
Cantor	6:30pm	Dave Workman	Andy Koch
Altar Guild	6:30pm	Roxanne Foley	Roxanne Foley
Elder	6:30pm	Kurt Vallin	Andy Olson
Reader	6:30pm	Kurt Vallin	Andy Olson
Usher Team	6:30pm	Layne Streich	Terry Stoerzinger
Acolyte	6:30pm	Dana Vallin	Open
Projection	6:30pm	Jean Peterson	Open
Live Stream	6:30pm	Jim Nicklas	Jim Nicklas