



The High Priest's Courtyard

Wednesday, March 22, 2023 ~ 4:30 & 6:30 PM Worship Services ~ Pastor Steve Roth

*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*

Greeting and Opening Prayer

Invocation & 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!



Let us ever walk with Jesus,
Follow His example pure,
Through a world that would deceive us
And to sin our spirits lure.
Onward in His footsteps treading,
Pilgrims here, our home above,
Full of faith and hope and love,
Let us do the Father's bidding.
Faithful Lord, with me abide;
I shall follow where You guide.

Let us gladly die with Jesus.
Since by death He conquered death,
He will free us from destruction,
Give to us immortal breath.
Let us mortify all passion
That would lead us into sin;
And the grave that shuts us in
Shall but prove the gate to heaven.
Jesus, here with You I die,
There to live with You on high.

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Confession and Forgiveness

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!

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 53:8-12

- 8 By oppression and judgment he was taken away. And who can speak of his descendants? For he was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgression of my people he was stricken.
- 9 He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death, though he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth.
- 10 Yet it was the Lord's will to crush him and cause him to suffer, and though the Lord makes his life a guilt offering, he will see his offspring and prolong his days, and the will of the Lord will prosper in his hand.
- 11 After the suffering of his soul, he will see the light of life and be satisfied; by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many, and he will bear their iniquities.
- 12 Therefore I will give him a portion among the great, and he will divide the spoils with the strong, because he poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the transgressors. For he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

A: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading

James 2:8-13

- 8 If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, "Love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing right.
- 9 But if you show favoritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers.
- 10 or whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it.
- 11 For he who said, "Do not commit adultery," also said, "Do not murder." If you do not commit adultery but do commit murder, you have become a lawbreaker.
- 12 Speak and act as those who are going to be judged by the law that gives freedom,
- 13 because judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgment!

A: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 26:69-75

- 69 Now Peter was sitting out in the courtyard, and a servant girl came to him. "You also were with Jesus of Galilee," she said.
- 70 But he denied it before them all. "I don't know what you're talking about," he said.
- 71 Then he went out to the gateway, where another girl saw him and said to the people there, "This fellow was with Jesus of Nazareth."
- 72 He denied it again, with an oath: "I don't know the man!"
- 73 After a little while, those standing there went up to Peter and said, "Surely you are one of them, for your accent gives you away."
- 74 Then he began to call down curses on himself and he swore to them, "I don't know the man!"
- 75 Immediately a rooster crowed. Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken: "Before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times." And he went outside and wept bitterly.

A: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

Message Hymn: My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

LSB #575

vs. 1-4

My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
No merit of my own I claim
But wholly lean on Jesus' name. *Refrain*

Refrain: On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand.

When darkness veils His lovely face,
I rest on His unchanging grace;
In ev'ry high and stormy gale
My anchor holds within the veil. *Refrain*

His oath, His covenant and blood
Support me in the raging flood;
When ev'ry earthly prop gives way,
He then is all my hope and stay. *Refrain*

When He shall come with trumpet sound,
Oh, may I then in Him be found,
Clothed in His righteousness alone,
Redeemed to stand before His throne! *Refrain*

Message:
"Places of the Passion:
The Courtyard"
- Pastor Steve Roth

Offering

Offering Song: In the Cross of Christ I Glory

LSB #427
vs. 1-4

In the cross of Christ I glory,
Tow'ring o'er the wrecks of time.
All the light of sacred story
Gathers round its head sublime.

When the woes of life o'ertake me,
Hopes deceive, and fears annoy,
Never shall the cross forsake me;
Lo, it glows with peace and joy.

When the sun of bliss is beaming
Light and love upon my way,
From the cross the radiance streaming
Adds more luster to the day.

Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure
By the cross are sanctified;
Peace is there that knows no measure,
Joys that through all time abide.

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Prayer

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

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!

Sending Hymn: Go, My Children, with My Blessing

LSB #922
vs. 1-4

Go, My children, with My blessing, Never alone.
Waking, sleeping, I am with you; You are My own.
In My love's baptismal river I have made you Mine forever.
Go, My children, with My blessing—You are My own.

Go, My children, sins forgiven, At peace and pure.
Here you learned how much I love you, What I can cure.
Here you heard My dear Son's story; Here you touched Him, saw His glory.
Go, My children, sins forgiven, At peace and pure.

Go, My children, fed and nourished, Closer to Me;
Grow in love and love by serving, Joyful and free.
Here My Spirit's power filled you; Here His tender comfort stilled you.
Go, My children, fed and nourished, Joyful and free.

I the Lord will bless and keep you and give you peace;
I the Lord will smile upon you and give you peace:
I the Lord will be your Father, Savior, Comforter, and Brother.
Go, My children; I will keep you and give you peace.