



The Garden of Gethsemane

Wednesday, March 15, 2023 ~ 4:30 & 6:30 PM Worship Services ~ Pastor Steve Roth

*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*



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 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!

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 also live with Jesus.
He has risen from the dead
That to life we may awaken.
Jesus, You are now our head.
We are Your own living members;
Where You live, there we shall be
In Your presence constantly,
Living there with You forever.
Jesus, let me faithful be,
Life eternal grant to me.

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Confession and Forgiveness

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!

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 53:1-5

- 1 Who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?
- 2 He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.
- 3 He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.
- 4 Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted.
- 5 But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.

A: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading

Ephesians 2:11-18

- 11 Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called "uncircumcised" by those who call themselves "the circumcision" (that done in the body by the hands of men)--
- 12 remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world.
- 13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ.
- 14 For he himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility,
- 15 by abolishing in his flesh the law with its commandments and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new man out of the two, thus making peace,
- 16 and in this one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility.
- 17 He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near.
- 18 For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.

A: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 26:47-56

- 47 While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, arrived. With him was a large crowd armed with swords and clubs, sent from the chief priests and the elders of the people.
- 48 Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them: "The one I kiss is the man; arrest him."
- 49 Going at once to Jesus, Judas said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" and kissed him.
- 50 Jesus replied, "Friend, do what you came for."
- 51 Then the men stepped forward, seized Jesus and arrested him. With that, one of Jesus' companions reached for his sword, drew it out and struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his ear.
- 52 "Put your sword back in its place," Jesus said to him, "for all who draw the sword will die by the sword.
- 53 Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels?
- 54 But how then would the Scriptures be fulfilled that say it must happen in this way?"
- 55 At that time Jesus said to the crowd, "Am I leading a rebellion, that you have come out with swords and clubs to capture me? Every day I sat in the temple courts teaching, and you did not arrest me.
- 56 But this has all taken place that the writings of the prophets might be fulfilled." Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.

A: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

Message Hymn: Go to Dark Gethsemane

LSB #436

vs. 1-4

Go to dark Gethsemane,
All who feel the tempter's pow'r;
Your Redeemer's conflict see,
Watch with Him one bitter hour;
Turn not from His griefs away;
Learn from Jesus Christ to pray.

Follow to the judgment hall,
View the Lord of life arraigned;
Oh, the wormwood and the gall!
Oh, the pangs His soul sustained!
Shun not suff'ring, shame, or loss;
Learn from Him to bear the cross.

Calv'ry's mournful mountain climb;
There, adoring at His feet,
Mark that miracle of time,
God's own sacrifice complete.
"It is finished!" hear Him cry;
Learn from Jesus Christ to die.

Early hasten to the tomb
Where they laid His breathless clay;
All is solitude and gloom.
Who has taken Him away?
Christ is ris'n! He meets our eyes.
Savior, teach us so to rise.

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

Offering

Offering Song: My Song Is Love Unknown

LSB #430
vs. 1-3, 6-7

My song is love unknown,
My Savior's love to me,
Love to the loveless shown
That they might lovely be.
Oh, who am I
That for my sake
My Lord should take
Frail flesh and die?

He came from His blest throne
Salvation to bestow;
But men made strange, and none
The longed-for Christ would know.
But, oh, my friend,
My friend indeed,
Who at my need
His life did spend!

Sometimes they strew His way
And His sweet praises sing;
Resounding all the day
Hosannas to their King.
Then "Crucify!"
Is all their breath,
And for His death
They thirst and cry.

In life no house, no home
My Lord on earth might have;
In death no friendly tomb
But what a stranger gave.
What may I say?
Heav'n was His home
But mine the tomb
Wherein He lay.

Here might I stay and sing,
No story so divine!
Never was love, dear King,
Never was grief like Thine.
This is my friend,
In whose sweet praise
I all my days
Could gladly spend!

Text & Music: Public domain

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. Heavenly Father, you haven't promised us a storm-less life. You don't offer quick fixes or shallow solutions. But you do promise perfect peace, in the midst of whatever happens. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Grant us your peace.

P: Heavenly Father when we're out of bootstraps to pull up, come to the end of our rope and feel like quitting, you are with us and for us. Thank you for being a Father who will never forget or abandon us in our storms. Thank you for working all things together for the good of those who love you. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Grant us your peace.

P: Heavenly Father, thank you for your perfect peace—a peace perfectly suited for the moment. Our calling is not to take control, but to mine the riches of the Gospel and never lose sight of your wonderful love. You are the Rock that is higher than us, the Rock of refuge, the Rock of ages. 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

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 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!

Sending Hymn: Jesus, Savior, Pilot Me

LSB #715, vs. 1-3

Jesus, Savior, pilot me
Over life's tempestuous sea;
Unknown waves before me roll,
Hiding rock and treach'rous shoal.
Chart and compass come from Thee.
Jesus, Savior, pilot me.

As a mother stills her child,
Thou canst hush the ocean wild;
Boist'rous waves obey Thy will
When Thou say'st to them, "Be still!"
Wondrous Sov'reign of the sea,
Jesus, Savior, pilot me.

When at last I near the shore
And the fearful breakers roar
Twixt me and the peaceful rest,
Then, while leaning on the Thy breast,
May I hear Thee say to me,
"Fear not, I will pilot thee."

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