

Collegeville-Trappe Ministerium
Mid-Week Lenten Service
Augustus Lutheran Church
March 17, 2021

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

- P** In this service for Week 4 of Lent, the place of the Passion is the Courtyard, outside of where Jesus is put on trial before the high priest and where Peter denies Jesus. We are called to confess that we often tend to distance ourselves from Christ, when we should be drawing closer to him. The meaning, history, and spiritual inspiration associated with the Courtyard help us to grow to understand more deeply the hard road our Lord took that the way to heaven might be open to us.

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)

PRELUDE: *Adagio from Toccata and Fugue* Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

INVOCATION AND CALL TO WORSHIP

- P** In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

- P** Let us ever walk with Jesus.
To see the depths of his love.
To behold the gift of his forgiveness.
To gaze upon the heights of his grace.
To marvel at the magnitude of his mercy.

- P** We follow Christ to the courtyard.
It belongs to the High Priest Caiaphas—but Peter is there and so are others.
Peter denies Jesus three times.
But all is not lost. After his collapse, God’s grace is amazing.

- P** Faithful Lord, with me abide.
I shall follow where you guide!

HYMN: *Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus* (Stanzas 1 and 3)

Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in the key of D major (two sharps) and 4/4 time. It consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line with lyrics and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are as follows:

1 Let us ev - er walk with Je - sus, fol - low his ex - am - ple pure,
2 Let us suf - fer here with Je - sus, and with pa - tience bear our cross.
3 Let us glad - ly die with Je - sus. Since by death he con - quered death,
4 Let us al - so live with Je - sus. He has ris - en from the dead

through a world that would de - ceive us and to sin our spir - its lure.
Joy will fol - low all our sad - ness; where he is there is no loss.
he will free us from de - struc - tion, give to us im - mor - tal breath.
that to life we may a - wak - en. Je - sus, you are now our head,

On - ward in his foot - steps tread - ing, trav - 'lers here, our home a - bove,
Though to - day we sow no laugh - ter, we shall reap ce - les - tial joy:
Let us mor - ti - fy all pas - sion that would lead us in - to sin;
we are your own liv - ing mem - bers; where you live, there we shall be

full of faith and hope and love, let us do our Sav - ior's bid - ding.
all dis - com - forts that an - noy shall give way to mirth here - af - ter.
and the grave that shuts us in shall but prove the gate of heav - en.
in your pres - ence con - stant - ly, liv - ing there with you for - ev - er.

Faith - ful Lord, with me a - bide; I shall fol - low where you guide.
Je - sus, here I share your woe; help me there your joy to know.
Je - sus, here with you I die, there to live with you on high.
Je - sus, let me faith - ful be; life e - ter - nal grant to me.

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CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

- P** Gracious and most merciful Father—
In the light of your holiness I see myself as I really am.
And I am guilty.
- P** I confess that I have impure thoughts and unclean lips.
I think too highly of myself and too little of others.
I cling too tightly to the treasures of this world.
That I cannot open my hands to receive blessings from you.
My feet walk in the path of sin.
I wander astray and become a stranger to righteousness.
- P** Forgive me, and set me again on the path that leads to life.
Deal with me not as I deserve, but according to your mercy.
Not because I am worthy but because you are gracious.
- P** Lord, have mercy! Christ, have mercy! Lord, have mercy!

- 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.

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.

READING

James 2:8-13

- A** A reading from James.

If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself,” you are doing well. But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become guilty of all of it. For 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. So speak and so act as those who are to be judged under the law of liberty. For judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment. We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia, for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord, begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints—and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us.

- A** The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL

Matthew 26:69-75

- P** The Holy Gospel according to Matthew. Glory to you, O Lord.

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 before them all, saying, “I do not know what you mean.” And 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.” And again he denied it with an oath: “I do not know the man.” After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter, “Certainly you too are one of them, for your accent betrays you.” Then he began to invoke a curse on himself and to swear, “I do not know the man.” And immediately the rooster crowed. And Peter remembered the saying of Jesus, “Before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times.” And he went out and wept bitterly.

P The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Weleck

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A 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.

A 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, grace abounds all the more.

A 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, grace abounds all the more.

A 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, grace abounds all the more.

A 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?

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

LORD'S PRAYER

☐ Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray.
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.

BLESSING (BENEDICTION)

☐ The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✝ give you peace. Amen.

HYMN: *Precious Lord, Take My Hand*

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Prayerfully

1. Pre-cious Lord, take my hand, Lead me on, help me stand; I am
 2. When my way grows drear, Pre-cious Lord, lin-ger near; When my

tired, I am weak, I am worn; Thru the storm, thru the night, Lead me
 life is al-most gone, Hear my cry, hear my call, Hold my

on to the light; Take my hand, pre-cious Lord, lead me home.
 hand lest I fall; Take my hand, pre-cious Lord, lead me home.

OFFERING

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

POSTLUDE: *Alle Menschen Müssen Sterben* Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)