

THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT
“It Happened at the Courtyard”
March 14, 2021
9:00 a.m.

PRELUDE Prelude on “Deo Gracias” by Gordon Young. Carla Barrows, Organ

WELCOME Pastor Michael P. Dorn, Senior Pastor

INVOCATION

- 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.**

CALL TO WORSHIP

- 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!**

OPENING HYMN “Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus” LSB 685, vs. 1, 3

SOLO: 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.

ALL: 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.

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!**

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.

C **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 53:8-12

R The Old Testament Reading is from the 53rd Chapter of Isaiah.

R By 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? And 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. Yet 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. Out 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. Therefore 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. (ESV)

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

EPISTLE James 2:8-13

- R** The Epistle Reading is from the 2nd Chapter of James.
- R** 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 accountable for 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. (ESV)
- R** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**

VERSE LSB 157

- C** **Return to the Lord, your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and abounding in steadfast love.**

HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 26:69-75

- P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 26th Chapter.
- C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**
- P** 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. (ESV)
- P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- C** **Praise to You, O Christ.**

CONFESSION OF FAITH Apostles' Creed

☩ I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life ☩ everlasting. Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Matt Meier, Director of Discipleship

MESSAGE HYMN "My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less" LSB 575

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

SOLO: *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*

SOLO: *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*

SOLO: 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 "It Happened at the Courtyard" Pastor Michael P. Dorn

OFFERING

(Offerings may be submitted online to www.trinitydt.org, by mail to Trinity Downtown, 800 Houston Ave., Houston, TX 77007 or dropped off at the office, M-F, 8:30 - 2:30.)

MUSICAL OFFERING "Wondrous Love" by Eric Nelson Men's Quartet

*What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!
 What wondrous love is this, O my soul!
 What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss
 To bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,
 To bear the dreadful curse for my soul.*

*To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing:
To God and to the Lamb, I will sing.
To God and to the Lamb who is the great I AM,
While millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing:
While millions join the theme, I will sing.*

*And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on;
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on.
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be;
And through eternity, I'll sing on, I'll sing on;
And through eternity, I'll sing through eternity,
I'll sing on, I'll sing on, sing on.*

*What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this!*

PRAYERS

LORD'S PRAYER

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 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.

C Amen.

CLOSING HYMN "Jesus, Refuge of the Weary" LSB 423

ALL: Jesus, refuge of the weary,
Blest Redeemer, whom we love,
Fountain in life's desert dreary,
Savior from the world above:
Often have Your eyes, offended,
Gazed upon the sinner's fall;
Yet upon the cross extended,
You have borne the pain of all.

SOLO: *Do we pass that cross unheeding,
Breathing no repentant vow,
Though we see You wounded, bleeding,
See Your thorn-encircled brow?
Yet Your sinless death has brought us
Life eternal, peace, and rest;
Only what Your grace has taught us
Calms the sinner's deep distress.*

ALL: Jesus, may our hearts be burning
With more fervent love for You;
May our eyes be ever turning
To behold Your cross anew
Till in glory, parted never
From the blessed Savior's side,
Graven in our hearts forever,
Dwell the cross, the Crucified.

POSTLUDE "In the Cross of Christ I Glory" by John Leavitt Carla Barrows, Organ

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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