



**“PLACES OF THE PASSION:  
THE COURTYARD”**  
*Sunday, March 14, 2021 9:00AM*  
*Worship Service*

**AS WE GATHER**

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.

**WELCOME**

**OPENING HYMN**

**“Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways”**

**LSB 707**

- 1 Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways  
To keep His statutes still!  
Oh, that my God would grant me grace  
To know and do His will!
- 2 Order my footsteps by Thy Word  
And make my heart sincere;  
Let sin have no dominion, Lord,  
But keep my conscience clear.
- 3 Assist my soul, too apt to stray,  
A stricter watch to keep;  
And should I e'er forget Thy way,  
Restore Thy wand'ring sheep.
- 4 Make me to walk in Thy commands—  
'Tis a delightful road—  
Nor let my head or heart or hands  
Offend against my God.

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*Stand*

**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 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!**

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

**P** Brothers and Sisters in Christ, we too must confess that we have sinned against our Heavenly Father. Therefore, let us go to Him, seeking His forgiveness. 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!**

### HYMN

### “Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus”

LSB 685 sts. 1 & 3

1 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.

3 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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## 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.

*Sit*

## OLD TESTAMENT READING

**Isaiah 53:8–12**

**P** The Old Testament Reading is from Isaiah, chapter 53.

<sup>8</sup>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?  
<sup>9</sup>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.  
<sup>10</sup>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.  
<sup>11</sup>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.  
<sup>12</sup>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.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## EPISTLE READING

**James 2:8–13**

**P** The Epistle is from James, chapter 2.

<sup>8</sup>If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself,” you are doing well. <sup>9</sup>But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. <sup>10</sup>For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. <sup>11</sup>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. <sup>12</sup>So speak and so act as those who are to be judged under the law of liberty. <sup>13</sup>For judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

**GOSPEL READING**

**Matthew 26:69–75**

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-sixth chapter.

**C** Glory to You, O Lord.

<sup>69</sup>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.” <sup>70</sup>But he denied it before them all, saying, “I do not know what you mean.” <sup>71</sup>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.” <sup>72</sup>And again he denied it with an oath: “I do not know the man.” <sup>73</sup>After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter, “Certainly you too are one of them, for your accent betrays you.” <sup>74</sup>Then he began to invoke a curse on himself and to swear, “I do not know the man.” And immediately the rooster crowed. <sup>75</sup>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** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

**CREED**

**C** 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.**

*Sit*

**HYMN of the DAY**

**“If Your Beloved Son, O God”**

**LSB 568**

1 If Your beloved Son, O God,  
Had not to earth descended  
And in our mortal flesh and blood  
Had not sin’s power ended,  
Then this poor, wretched soul of mine  
In hell eternally would pine  
Because of my transgression.

2 But now I find sweet peace and rest;  
Despair no more reigns o'er me.  
No more am I by sin oppressed,  
For Christ has borne sin for me.  
Upon the cross for me He died  
That, reconciled, I might abide  
With You, my God, forever.

3 I trust in Him with all my heart;  
Now all my sorrow ceases.  
His words abiding peace impart;  
His blood from guilt releases.  
Free grace through Him I now obtain;  
He washes me from ev'ry stain,  
And pure I stand before Him.

4 All righteousness by works is vain;  
The Law brings condemnation.  
True righteousness by faith I gain;  
Christ's work is my salvation.  
His death, that perfect sacrifice,  
Has paid the all-sufficient price;  
In Him my hope is anchored.

△ 5 My guilt, O Father, You have laid  
On Christ, Your Son, my Savior.  
Lord Jesus, You my debt have paid  
And gained for me God's favor.  
O Holy Spirit, Fount of grace,  
The good in me to You I trace;  
In faith and hope preserve me.

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## SERMON

## Places of the Passion: The Courtyard

*Stand*

### PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

**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

**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** 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!**

*Sit*

### CLOSING HYMN

### “Go, My Children, with My Blessing”

LSB 922

- 1 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.
- 2 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.
- 3 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.

- 4 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.

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## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

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