

Midweek Lent 3 + March 6, 2024

March Verse of the Month – “For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.” – John 3:17

Welcome

685 Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus

LSB 685 sts. 1, 4

1 Let us ev - er walk with Je - sus, Fol - low His ex -
4 Let us al - so live with Je - sus. He has ris - en
am - ple pure, Through a world that would de - ceive us And to
from the dead That to life we may a - wak - en. Je - sus,
sin our spir - its lure. On - ward in His foot - steps tread - ing,
You are now our head. We are Your own liv - ing mem - bers;
Pil - grims here, our home a - bove, Full of faith and
Where You live, there we shall be In Your pres - ence
hope and love, Let us do the Fa - ther's bid - ding. Faith - ful
con - stant - ly, Liv - ing there with You for - ev - er. Je - sus,
Lord, with me a - bide; I shall fol - low where You guide.
let me faith - ful be, Life e - ter - nal grant to me.

Text: Sigismund von Birken, 1626–81; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, alt. Tune: Georg G. Boltze, 18th cent. Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110004541 Tune: Public domain

Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

Opening Sentences

- 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!

Kneel for Confession

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." 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!**

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. As a Called and Ordained Servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you of all your sins in the Name of the Father, and of The Son, and of The Holy Spirit. Faithful Lord, with me abide!

C **I shall follow where you guide!**

Prayer of the Day

P Heavenly Father, because Jesus walked into the perfect storm—betrayal, arrest, assault with a sword and then all his friends ran away—you are able to bring your perfect peace in the storms of our lives. Empower us to believe it and receive it; through Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, God forever.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 53:1–5

¹Who has believed what they heard from us? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? ²For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him. ³He was despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. ⁴Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. ⁵But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle Reading

Ephesians 2:11–18

¹¹Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called “the uncircumcision” by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands— ¹²remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. ¹³But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility ¹⁵by abolishing the law of commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, ¹⁶and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. ¹⁷And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. ¹⁸For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel

Matthew 26:47–56

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

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

⁴⁷While he was still speaking, Judas came, one of the twelve, and with him a great crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people. ⁴⁸Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, “The one I will kiss is the man; seize him.” ⁴⁹And he came up to Jesus at once and said, “Greetings, Rabbi!” And he kissed him. ⁵⁰Jesus said to him, “Friend,

do what you came to do.” Then they came up and laid hands on Jesus and seized him. ⁵¹And behold, one of those who were with Jesus stretched out his hand and drew his sword and struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his ear. ⁵²Then Jesus said to him, “Put your sword back into its place. For all who take the sword will perish by the sword. ⁵³Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels? ⁵⁴But how then should the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must be so?” ⁵⁵At that hour Jesus said to the crowds, “Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs to capture me? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not seize me. ⁵⁶But all this has taken place that the Scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled.” Then all the disciples left him and fled.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

436 Go to Dark Gethsemane

LSB 436



1 Go to dark Geth - sem - a - ne, All who feel the
 2 Fol - low to the judg - ment hall, View the Lord of
 3 Cal - v'ry's mourn - ful moun - tain climb; There, a - dor - ing
 4 Ear - ly has - ten to the tomb Where they laid His



tempt - er's pow'r; Your Re - deem - er's con - flict see,
 life ar - raign'd; Oh, the worm - wood and the gall!
 at His feet, Mark that mir - a - cle of time,
 breath - less clay; All is sol - i - tude and gloom.



Watch with Him one bit - ter hour; Turn not from His
 Oh, the pangs His soul sus - tained! Shun not suf - f'ring,
 God's own sac - ri - fice com - plete. "It is fin - ished!"
 Who has tak - en Him a - way? Christ is ris'n! He



griefs a - way; Learn from Je - sus Christ to pray.
 shame, or loss; Learn from Him to bear the cross.
 hear Him cry; Learn from Je - sus Christ to die.
 meets our eyes. Sav - ior, teach us so to rise.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854 Tune: Richard Redhead, 1820–1901 Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

There will be an offering plate available on the back pew of the sanctuary. Thank you for your continued generous support of the Lord's work through our congregation.

The Prayers

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.

The 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.

Closing Sentences

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!

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.

715 Jesus, Savior, Pilot Me

LSB 715



1 Je - sus, Sav - ior, pi - lot me O - ver life's
2 As a moth - er stills her child, Thou canst hush
3 When at last I near the shore And the fear -



tem - pes - tuous sea; Un - known waves be - fore me roll,
the o - cean wild; Bois - t'rous waves o - bey Thy will
ful break - ers roar Twixt me and the peace - ful rest,



Hid - ing rock and treach - 'rous shoal. Chart and com -
When Thou say'st to them, "Be still!" Won - drous Sov -
Then, while lean - ing on Thy breast, May I hear



pass come from Thee. Je - sus, Sav - ior, pi - lot me.
'reign of the sea, Je - sus, Sav - ior, pi - lot me.
Thee say to me, "Fear not, I will pi - lot thee."

Text: Edward Hopper, 1818–88 Tune: John E. Gould, 1822–75 Text and tune: Public domain