

Midweek Lent 4 + March 13, 2024 MW Lent 4

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, 3

1 Let us ev - er walk with Je - sus, Fol - low His ex -
3 Let us glad - ly die with Je - sus. Since by death He
am - ple pure, Through a world that would de - ceive us And to
con - quered death, He will free us from de - struc - tion, Give to
sin our spir - its lure. On - ward in His foot - steps tread - ing,
us im - mor - tal breath. Let us mor - ti - fy all pas - sion
Pil - grims here, our home a - bove, Full of faith and
That would lead us in - to sin; And the grave that
hope and love, Let us do the Fa - ther's bid - ding. Faith - ful
shuts us in Shall but prove the gate to heav - en. Je - sus,
Lord, with me a - bide; I shall fol - low where You guide.
here with You I die, There to live with You on high.

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 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!

Kneel for Confession

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!
- 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! 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** Merciful and mighty Father, like Peter we can make great boasts, “Even if I must die with you, I will not deny you!” 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.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 53:8–12

⁸By 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? ⁹And 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. ¹⁰Yet 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. ¹¹Out 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. ¹²Therefore 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

⁸If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself,” you are doing well. ⁹But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. ¹⁰For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. ¹¹For 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. ¹²So speak and so act as those who are to be judged under the law of liberty. ¹³For 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.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 26:69–75

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

⁶⁹Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. And a servant girl came up to him and said, “You also were with Jesus the Galilean.” ⁷⁰But he denied it before them all, saying, “I do not know what you mean.” ⁷¹And 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.” ⁷²And again he denied it with an oath: “I do not know the man.” ⁷³After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter, “Certainly you too are one of them, for your accent betrays you.” ⁷⁴Then he began to invoke a curse on himself and to swear, “I do not know the man.” And immediately the rooster crowed. ⁷⁵And 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.

575 My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

LSB 575

1 My hope is built on nothing less Than Je-sus'
2 When dark-ness veils His love-ly face, I rest on
3 His oath, His cov-e-nant and blood Sup-port me
4 When He shall come with trum-pet sound, Oh, may I
blood and righ-teous-ness; No mer-it of my
His un-chang-ing grace; In ev-ry high and
in the rag-ing flood; When ev-ry earth-ly
then in Him be found, Clothed in His righ-teous-own I claim But whol-ly lean on Je-sus' name.
storm-y gale My an-chor holds with-in the veil.
prop gives way, He then is all my hope and stay.
ness a-lone, Re-deemed to stand be-fore His throne!

Refrain
On Christ, the sol-id rock, I stand; All oth-er ground is sink-ing sand.

Text: Edward Mote, 1797–1874, alt. Tune: John Stainer, 1840–1901 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. 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.

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 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!

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.

922 Go, My Children, with My Blessing

LSB 922 sts. 1–4

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