

PLACES *of the* PASSION



The High Priest's Courtyard

APRIL 2ND, 2025

WEDNESDAY MIDWEEK LENT 4

7PM SERVICE

SAINT PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

4660 West 94th Street, Oak Lawn, Illinois 60453

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Pastor: Rev. Gregg Ramirez

www.stpauloaklawn.org

Director of Music: Jeff Kiel

Join us for the Places of the Passion special service for Week 4 of Lent, as we follow in the footsteps of our Savior, contemplating the places where Jesus stood on his path to salvation.

✠ Divine Service: Places of Passion

Midweek 4: The High Priest's Courtyard ✠

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

In this service, we go to 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.

Prelude and Pastoral Greeting

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!

Opening Hymn "Let us Ever Walk with Jesus" (verses 1 & 3 only) #685

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.

✠ 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 (the) 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. 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.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

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.

L 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.

Peter Denies Jesus

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.

G Praise to You, O Christ.

Sermon Hymn *(Sit)*

"My Hope is Built on Nothing Less"

#575

1 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

3 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

ref On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand.

4 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*

2 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

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Sermon

Offering—*may be left in the offering plates near the doors as you leave. Offerings may also be dropped off at the office or mailed, and on-line giving is available to everyone on our website at www.stpauloaklawn.org. For information about regular electronic giving, please call the church office.*

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, —

G 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, —

G 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!

Closing Hymn

“Go, My Children with My Blessing”

#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.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS & THANKS

Guest Pastor: Rev. Gregg Ramirez

Lector: David Witkosky

Organist: Jeff Kiel

Elder on Duty: Bill Leise

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