

Places of the Passion

Week 4: The Courtyard

Order of Service

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

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!**

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.

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

Children's Sermon

Old Testament Reading ... Isaiah 53:8–12

Epistle Readings ... James 2:8–13

Gospel Reading... Matthew 26:69–75

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
On Christ the solid rock I stand; all other ground is sinking sand.

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.
On Christ the solid rock I stand; all other ground is sinking sand.

His oath, his covenant, is blood support me in the raging flood
When ev'ry earthly prop gives way, he then is all my hope and stay.
On Christ the solid rock I stand; all other ground is sinking sand.

When he shall come with trumpet sound, oh may I then in him be found
Clothed in his righteousness alone redeemed to stand before the throne.
On Christ the solid rock I stand; all other ground is sinking sand.

Sermon

Offering

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.

Lord's Prayer

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!

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.

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.

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.

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.