

# St. Peter's Lutheran Church

March 20, 2024



Jesus Christ is the light of the world,  
**the light no darkness can overcome.**

Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening,  
**and the day is almost over.**

Be our light and scatter the darkness,  
**and hear our evening prayer and praise.**

**Hymn 404**

*Jesus, Grant That Balm and Healing*

**Passion History**

*Jesus' Death and Burial*

**Psalm 119D**

*Teach Me, O Lord*

**Psalm Prayer**

Lord, your Word is my delight. When I was lost in the darkness of sin, you penetrated my heart with the light of your Word. Let it enlighten my path each day that I may serve you in holiness. Let your Word shine through all I say and do that others may see you and praise your saving name. In Jesus' name I pray.

**Amen.**

**Sermon Text**

*Matthew 26:57-75*

<sup>57</sup>Those who had arrested Jesus led him away to Caiaphas, the high priest, where the experts in the law and the elders were assembled. <sup>58</sup>Peter was following him at a distance and went as far as the courtyard of the high priest. He went inside and sat down with the guards to see how it would turn out.

<sup>59</sup>The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for false testimony against Jesus so that they could put him to death. <sup>60</sup>They found none, even though many false witnesses came forward. Finally, two came forward <sup>61</sup>and said, "This fellow said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God and rebuild it in three days.'"

<sup>62</sup>The high priest stood up and said to him, "Have you no answer? What is this that these men are testifying against you?" <sup>63</sup>But Jesus remained silent. Then the high priest said to him, "I place you under oath by the living God: Tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God!"

<sup>64</sup>Jesus said to him, "It is as you have said. But I tell you, soon you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of power and coming on the clouds of heaven."

<sup>65</sup>Then the high priest tore his robes and said, "He has spoken blasphemy! Why do we need any more witnesses? See, you have just heard the blasphemy! <sup>66</sup>What do you think?"

They answered, "He is deserving of death!" <sup>67</sup>Then they spit in his face and punched him. Some slapped him <sup>68</sup>and said, "Prophecy to us, Christ! Who hit you?"

Peter Denies Jesus

<sup>69</sup>Meanwhile Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. A servant girl came to him and said, "You were also with Jesus the Galilean."

<sup>70</sup>But he denied it in front of everyone, saying, "I don't know what you're talking about."

<sup>71</sup>When Peter went out to the entryway, someone else saw him and said to those who were there, "This fellow was with Jesus of Nazareth."

<sup>72</sup>Again Peter denied it with an oath and said, "I do not know the man."

<sup>73</sup>After a little while those who stood by came and said to Peter, "Surely you are also one of them because even your accent gives you away."

<sup>74</sup>Then he began to curse and to swear, "I do not know the man!" Just then the rooster crowed. <sup>75</sup>And Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken, "Before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times." And he went outside and wept bitterly.

+ The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to You, O Christ!**

Hymn 515

*Christ Is the World's Light*

Sermon

**God on Trial: Testimony**

*Rev. Ian Headrick, St. Paul's, Town of Forest*

**Gathering of Our Offerings to the Lord**

**Prayers**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and need, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Lord God, all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works come from you. Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments. Defend us also from the fear of our enemies, that we may live in peace and quietness, through the merits of Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your  
 name, your king - dom come, your will be done on  
 earth as in heav - en. Give us to - day our

dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins, as  
 we for - give those who sin a - gainst us.  
 Lead us not in - to temp - ta - tion, but de -  
 liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the  
 pow - er, and the glo - ry are yours  
 now and for - ev - er. A - men.

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Let us praise the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

The grace of our Lord + Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**Amen.**

**Closing Hymn 789**

*All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night*

**Organist:** Tiffany Harley