



March 19, 2025 - Third Midweek Lenten Service

Life Together: A Series of Services for Lent

As We Gather: Using texts from 1 Peter this series addresses popular assumptions of postmodernism which we encounter in our daily lives and which question and challenge traditional ideas and values. Through the sermons, we will see that the words which Peter wrote to the first century believers still give us guidance as we deal with the challenges we face today. Tonight's theme is: "I Can't Believe in a God Who Would..."

Welcome

HYMN: LSB 433 "Glory Be to Jesus"

Invocation and Opening Sentences

Pastor: In the name of the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: Surely He has borne our griefs

People: **And carried our sorrows.**

Pastor: He was wounded for our transgressions,

People: **And with His stripes we are healed.**

Confession of Sins

Pastor: Let us confess our sins to our gracious and merciful God.

All: **Lord of all mercy, we come to you with bowed heads and bended knees seeking your pardon. We confess that we have turned away from the Savior in thoughts, words and deeds. We have sought our own way, and forgotten about His sacrifice for us. Forgive us, Lord. Strengthen our faith, renew our commitment to Jesus' way, empower us by the Spirit to live the life of faithful witnesses to your love for us in Jesus Christ.**

Pastor: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them His Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

People: **Amen.**

Scripture Lesson: 1 Peter 1:6-9

⁶ In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷ so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. ⁸ Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, ⁹ obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Reading of the Passion History: Luke 22:24-38

²⁴ A dispute also arose among them, as to which of them was to be regarded as the greatest. ²⁵ And he said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them, and those in authority over them are called benefactors. ²⁶ But not so with you. Rather, let the greatest among you become as the youngest, and the leader as one who serves. ²⁷ For who is the greater, one who reclines at table or one who serves? Is it not the one who reclines at table? But I am among you as the one who serves. ²⁸ "You are those who have stayed with me in my trials, ²⁹ and I assign to you, as my Father assigned to me, a kingdom, ³⁰ that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel. ³¹ "Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, ³² but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers." ³³ Peter said to him, "Lord, I am ready to go with you both to prison and to death." ³⁴ Jesus said, "I tell you, Peter, the rooster will not crow this day, until you deny three times that you know me." ³⁵ And he said to them, "When I sent you out with no moneybag or knapsack or sandals, did you lack anything?" They said, "Nothing." ³⁶ He said to them, "But now let the one who has a moneybag take it, and likewise a knapsack. And let the one who has no sword sell his cloak and buy one. ³⁷ For I tell you that this Scripture must be fulfilled in me: 'And he was numbered with the transgressors.' For what is written about me has its fulfillment." ³⁸ And they said, "Look, Lord, here are two swords." And he said to them, "It is enough."

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Hymn: LSB 450 "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded" vs. 1, 2, 3, & 5

Sermon: 1 Peter 1:6-9 "I Can't Believe in a God Who Would..."

Hymn: LSB 722 "Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me"

Prayers

Pastor: O God, we cry: My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

People And you answer: I will never leave you nor forsake you.

Pastor: O God, be near us, and hear our prayer.

People: Remind us again that life alone is nothing without life together, and that life together is nothing without life in you.

Pastor: Lord, be near us in this despairing, forsaken world. Hear the prayers of your people.

People: O Lord, be near your church, your people everywhere, and this congregation. Hear the prayers of your people.

Pastor: O Lord, be near the sick and suffering Be near those who grieve Be near all these lives with your tender mercy.

People: Hear the prayers of your people.

Pastor: We lift these prayers to you, O God, because, though we have not seen you, we believe you, you have filled us with inexpressible joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

Lord's Prayer

All: 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

Pastor: Go in confidence for God the Father watches over you. Go in peace for God, the Son, walks beside you. Go in joy for God, the Holy Spirit, lives in you.

People: Amen.

Hymn: LSB 883 "All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night" vs. 1, 2, 3, & 4