

MIDWEEK OF LENT 3

PETER

AS WE GATHER

Simon Peter witnessed much of Christ's ministry on earth. He is featured in many highlights of the four Gospels, but today we see Peter at his lowest point, as he denies Jesus three times. The result of Peter's denial is a massive amount of guilt. Each of us can relate to that unwanted flood of self-disgust that comes when we remember past sin. But guilt is not the final word for Peter, and it is not the final word for us. After His resurrection, Jesus restores and forgives Peter. Jesus offered Peter grace. Jesus also gives us grace, forgiveness, and restoration at the cross.

HYMN

“Chief of Sinners Though I Be” (*LSB* 611)

INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

P As we continue our Lenten journey, we witness Peter's denial of Jesus.

C **Three times Peter denies his Lord.**

P When the rooster crows and Peter realizes what he has done,

C **he is overwhelmed with guilt.**

P Yet when Jesus is raised from the dead, He restores Peter.

C **Three times Jesus tells Peter to feed His sheep.**

P Though Peter had sinned and was filled with guilt,

C **Jesus forgives and fills Peter with grace.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P Like Peter, we have all experienced the pain and guilt of past sins. We know that we have been far from perfect. Though we follow Jesus, our thoughts, words, and actions have been poor representations of Christ to the world. Yet, in His infinite mercy, our heavenly Father invites us to return to Him for forgiveness and restoration.

C **Heavenly Father, we confess that we have sinned against You. We have denied You in what we have done and in what we have failed to do. We have failed to trust You in all things. Lord, forgive us, restore us, and remove our guilt.**

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die and rise for you. On account of Jesus, all of your sin has been forgiven—all of the guilt you feel has been made powerless by God's grace. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I

therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen. We are forgiven and restored by God’s abundant grace.

PSALM

Psalm 130

P Out of the depths

I cry to You, O LORD!

C O Lord, hear my voice!

**Let Your ears be attentive
to the voice of my pleas for mercy!**

P If You, O LORD, should mark iniquities,
O Lord, who could stand?

**C But with You there is forgiveness,
that You may be feared.**

P I wait for the LORD, my soul waits,
and in His word I hope;

**C my soul waits for the Lord
more than watchmen for the morning,
more than watchmen for the morning.**

P O Israel, hope in the LORD!
For with the LORD there is steadfast love,
and with Him is plentiful redemption.

**C And He will redeem Israel
from all his iniquities.**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

HYMN

“From Depths of Woe I Cry to Thee” (*LSB* 607)

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Zechariah 12:10–14

P The Old Testament Reading is from Zechariah, the twelfth chapter.

¹⁰“And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy, so that, when they look on Me, on Him whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for Him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over Him, as one weeps over a firstborn. ¹¹On that day the mourning in Jerusalem will be as great as the mourning for Hadad-rimmon in the plain of Megiddo. ¹²The land shall mourn, each family by itself: the family of the house of David by itself, and their wives by themselves; the family of the house of Nathan by itself, and their wives by themselves; ¹³the family of the house of Levi by itself, and their wives by themselves; the family of the Shimeites by itself, and their wives by themselves; ¹⁴and all the families that are left, each by itself, and their wives by themselves.”

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

2 Corinthians 12:7–10

P The Epistle is from Second Corinthians, the twelfth chapter.

⁷So to keep me from being too elated by the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from being too elated. ⁸Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. ⁹But He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

¹⁰For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL

John 18:12–27

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the eighteenth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹²So the band of soldiers and their captain and the officers of the Jews arrested Jesus and bound Him. ¹³First they led Him to Annas, for he was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was high priest that year. ¹⁴It was Caiaphas who had advised the Jews that it would be expedient that one man should die for the people.

¹⁵Simon Peter followed Jesus, and so did another disciple. Since that disciple was known to the high priest, he entered with Jesus into the court of the high priest, ¹⁶but Peter stood outside at the door. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out and spoke to the servant girl who kept watch at the door, and brought Peter in. ¹⁷The servant girl at the door said to Peter, “You also are not one of this man’s disciples, are you?” He said, “I am not.” ¹⁸Now the servants and officers had made a charcoal fire, because it was cold, and they were standing and warming themselves. Peter also was with them, standing and warming himself.

¹⁹The high priest then questioned Jesus about His disciples and His teaching. ²⁰Jesus answered him, “I have spoken openly to the world. I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all Jews come together. I have said nothing in secret. ²¹Why do you ask Me? Ask those who have heard Me what I said to them; they know what I said.” ²²When He had said these things, one of the officers standing by struck Jesus with his hand, saying, “Is that how You answer the high priest?” ²³Jesus answered him, “If what I said is wrong, bear witness about the wrong; but if what I said is right, why do you strike Me?” ²⁴Annas then sent Him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

²⁵Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. So they said to him, “You also are not one of His disciples, are you?” He denied it and said, “I am not.” ²⁶One of the servants of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked,

“Did I not see you in the garden with Him?” ²⁷Peter again denied it, and at once a rooster crowed.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN

“By All Your Saints in Warfare” (*LSB* 517:1, 10, 3)

SERMON

OFFERING

HYMN

“In the Cross of Christ I Glory” (*LSB* 427)

KYRIE

P Lord, have mercy.

C Christ, have mercy.

P Lord, have mercy.

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.

PRAYERS

P Let us pray to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who hears our prayers and helps us in our afflictions.

Lord, encourage all those who struggle with lingering guilt from past sins. Remind them that by Your death and resurrection, You have conquered sin and removed their guilt forever. O my Savior, help afford,

C by Your Spirit and Your Word.

P Lord, shield all those who suffer the attacks of Satan. Clothe them with Your full armor so that they might believe Your Word rather than the lies of Satan. O my Savior, help afford,

C by Your Spirit and Your Word.

P Lord, grant reasonable weather upon the earth that will nourish Your good creation. Protect us from fire, storm, and flood. Teach us how to better love, appreciate, and care for Your creation. O my Savior, help afford,

C by Your Spirit and Your Word.

P Lord, thank You for the gifts of community and friendship. Thank You for all the joy and laughter You have placed into our lives. Help us always to recognize these as Your good gifts. O my Savior, help afford,

C by Your Spirit and Your Word.

P Lord, comfort all those who worry about family and friends who have wandered from the faith. Give us patience, knowing that You continually pursue Your sheep. Help us welcome them back into Your fold with grace and love. O my Savior, help afford,

C by Your Spirit and Your Word.

P Lord, bring healing and patience to those who suffer illness and injury, [*especially . . .*]. O my Savior, help afford,

C by Your Spirit and Your Word.

P Lord, bring hope to all those who are grieving, [*especially . . .*]. By Your resurrection victory, remind them of the victory to come in Your return. O my Savior, help afford,

C by Your Spirit and Your Word.

P O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

BENEDICAMUS

P Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

P The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

C Amen.

HYMN

Abide with Me (LSB 878 vs. 1,6)