

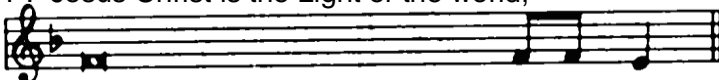


Lenten Vespers Three  
Peter  
Concordia Lutheran Church  
March 6, 2024

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.

## **EVENING SERVICE OF LIGHT**

P: Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,



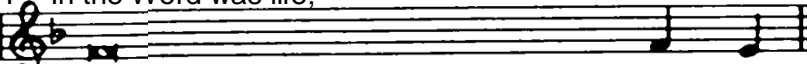
**C: THE LIGHT NO DARKNESS CAN O- VER- COME**

P: In the beginning was the Word,



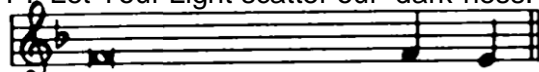
**C: AND THE WORD WAS WITH GOD, AND THE WORD WAS GOD.**

P: In the Word was life;



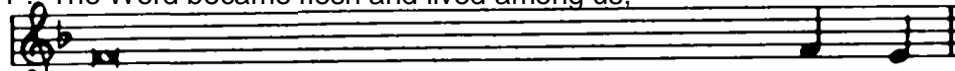
**C: AND THE LIFE WAS THE LIGHT OF ALL PEO - PLE.**

P: Let Your Light scatter our dark-ness.



**C: AND ILLUMINE YOUR CHURCH.**

P: The Word became flesh and lived among us,



**C: WE HAVE SEEN HIS GLORY, FULL OF GRACE AND TRUTH**

## Phos Hilaron - Hymn of Light

Jesus, joyous light of glory,  
Holy and blest,  
Son of the immortal Father,  
Highest and best:  
Now while day to night surrenders,  
In the sunset's fading splendor,  
Songs of praise to You we render—  
Lord, be our rest.

## Tune Maroon Hymnal #922

Christ, of all life's good the Giver,  
With one accord  
You are worthy, now and ever  
To be adored;  
So the world its glory bringing  
Joins celestial voices ringing:  
Father, Son, and Spirit singing—  
"One holy Lord!"

## THANKSGIVING FOR LIGHT

**P:** (Sung) Blessed are You, O Lord, our God, king of the universe, who led Your people Israel by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. Enlighten our darkness by the light of Your Christ; may His Word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path; for You are merciful, and You love Your whole creation and we, Your creatures, glorify You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**C:** **AMEN (SUNG)**

## PSALM 141

1. LORD, LET MY PRAYER LIKE INCENSE RISE,  
AND WHEN I LIFT MY HANDS TO THEE,  
AS ON THE EVENING SACRIFICE  
LOOK DOWN FROM HEAVEN WELL-PLEASSED ON ME.

2. SET NOW A WATCH TO KEEP MY TONGUE,  
LET NOT MY HEART TO SIN INCLINE;  
SAVE ME FROM THOSE WHO PRACTICE WRONG,  
LET ME NOT SHARE THEIR MIRTH AND WINE.

**P:** Let us pray. Let the incense of our repentant prayer ascend before You, O Lord, and let Your loving-kindness descend on us that, with purified minds, we may sing Your praises with the Church on earth and the whole heavenly host, and may glorify You forever.

**C:** **AMEN**

## TUNE MAROON HYMNAL # 615

3. AND LORD REDEEM ME FROM THE SNARES  
WITH WHICH THE WORLD SURROUNDS MY FEET,  
ITS RICHES, VANITIES, AND CARES,  
ITS LOVE, ITS HATRED, ITS DECEIT.

4. TO GOD THE FATHER, GOD THE SON,  
AND GOD THE SPIRIT, THREE IN ONE,  
SHALL GLORY, PRAISE, AND HONOR BE  
NOW AND THROUGHOUT ETERNITY.

*(please be seated)*

## **Old Testament Lesson**

Zechariah 12:10–14

P: A reading from Zechariah, the twelfth chapter.

“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. On that day the mourning in Jerusalem will be as great as the mourning for Hadad-rimmon in the plain of Megiddo. The 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; the 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; and all the families that are left, each by itself, and their wives by themselves.”

L: O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## **New Testament Lesson**

2 Corinthians 12:7–10

P: A reading from Second Corinthians, the twelfth chapter.

So 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. Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. But 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.

For 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.**

P: A reading from St. John, the eighteenth chapter.

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

Simon 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, but 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. The 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.” Now 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.

The high priest then questioned Jesus about His disciples and His teaching. Jesus 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. Why do you ask Me? Ask those who have heard Me what I said to them; they know what I said.” When 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?” Jesus 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?” Annas then sent Him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

Now 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.” One 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?” Peter again denied it, and at once a rooster crowed.

L: In many and various ways, God spoke to His people of old by the prophets.

C: **But now in these last days, He has spoken to us by His Son.**

## Hymn

### *"It is a Thing Most Wonderful"*

1. It is a thing most wonderful, almost too wonderful to be, that God's own Son should come from heav'n,,,, and die to save a child like me.
2. And yet I know that it is true: He chose a poor and humble lot, and wept and toiled and mourned and died,,, for love of those who loved Him not.
3. I cannot tell how He could love ,,a child so weak and full of sin; His love must be most wonderful,,,if He could die my love to win.
4. I sometimes think about the cross, and shut my eyes, and try to see the cruel nails and crown of thorns, and Jesus crucified for me.
5. But even could I see Him die, I could but see a little part of that great love which, like a fire, is always burning in His heart.
6. It is most wonderful to know,,,His love for me so free and sure; but 'tis more wonderful to see,,,my love for Him so faint and poor.
7. And yet I want to love Thee, Lord;,,,O light the flame within my heart, and I will love Thee more and more,,,,,until I see Thee as Thou art.

## Sermon

### *"Peter"*

## Liturgy of Holy Communion

pg.161-163

## Sanctus

pg. 161

## Prayer Of Thanksgiving

pg. 161

## C: Amen

## The Lord's Prayer

pg. 162

## Words of Institution

pg. 162

## Pax Domini

pg. 163

Distribution Hymn

Maroon Hymnal # 528

*"Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing"*

*Please stand for verses 6 & 7*

P: Lamb of God, outwardly we are all dust of the earth.

C: **Yet You abide with us in our mortal bodies, and the Holy Spirit dwells in our hearts.**

P: Lamb of God, our worldly appearance is like the ashes of grief and mourning.

C: **But our souls rejoice in receiving the holy forgiveness accomplished by Your Body and Blood, that takes away our sin. Feed our faith, nourish our hope and strengthen our sacrificial love, to obey you and serve others.**

P: Lamb of God we follow Your way that leads to Your cross.

C: **Give us faith to endure our pilgrimage of earthly sufferings. Grant us hope to persevere on our paths of worldly trials and temptations. Only by faith in Your cross, shall we take up our crosses, and follow You beyond the hill of Calvary, to joyously greet the dawn of Easter resurrection.**

P: Let us pray.

C: **Merciful God, let Your presence protect us through the hours of this coming night. We are wearied by the changes of this corrupt creation, We are tired of this deceitful world's false promises. Guide us by Your Holy Spirit, so we always find rest in Your steadfast love and Your constant forgiveness. Grant this through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

P: Let us go forth in peace.

C: **In the Name of Christ Jesus, the Lord. Amen.**

## **Benediction**

**P:** The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord lift up His countenance on you and give you peace.

**C:** **Amen.**

**Evening Hymn**

*“Father, We Praise Thee“*

**Maroon Hymnal # 875**