



## Lent Mid-Week Two

February 121, 2024

The Lord's Mercy Is Great St. John Passion:  
The Powerless "I Am" St. John Passion: Two Interrogations

### As We Gather

From earliest days the Christian Church employed the weeks before Easter—what came to be called the season of Lent—as the time of the year to prepare candidates for the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, the catechumenate. Paul wrote, “We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life” (Romans 6:4). Our midweek Lenten services prepare us to consider our identity and connection with the Passion of Christ as the baptized children of God. Today, we see how John puts our attention on two events happening at the same time—the interrogation of Jesus before the high priest and the interrogation of Peter in the courtyard—and we see how these interrogations confront and comfort us.

### Opening Sentences

*Psalm 118:24; 113:3; Joel 2:13; Matthew 16:24; Isaiah 53:5*

- P** This is the day which the Lord has made;  
**C** **let us rejoice and be glad in it.**
- P** From the rising of the sun to its setting,  
**C** **the name of the Lord is to be praised.**
- P** Return to the Lord, your God, for He is gracious and merciful,  
**C** **slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and repents of evil.**
- P** Jesus said: If any man would come after Me,  
**C** **let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me.**
- P** Christ was wounded for our transgressions.  
**C** **He was bruised for our iniquities.**
- P** From the rising of the sun to its setting,  
**C** **the name of the Lord is to be praised.**
- 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.**

### Second Reading

*John 18:12–27*

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.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Responsory

1 John 2:1; Psalm 32:1

**P** We have an advocate with the Father: Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.

**C** He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.

**P** Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

**C** He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.

**P** We have an advocate with the Father: Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.

**C** He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.

## Catechism

Ten Commandments

**C** You shall have no other gods.

You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.

Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.

Honor your father and your mother.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

You shall not covet your neighbor's house.

You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

## Sermon

## Offering

## Prayer

**L** In peace let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**L** For the gift of divine peace and of pardon, with all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**L** For the holy Christian Church, here and scattered throughout the world, and for the proclamation of the Gospel and the calling of all to faith, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**L** For this nation, for our cities and communities, and for the common welfare of us all, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**L** For seasonable weather and for the fruitfulness of the earth, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**L** For those who labor, for those whose work is difficult or dangerous, and for all who travel, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**L** For all those in need, for the hungry and homeless, for the widowed and orphaned, and for all those in prison, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**L** For the sick and dying and for all those who care for them, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**L** For . . . *[additional bids for prayer may be inserted here]* . . . let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**L** Finally, for these and for all our needs of body and soul, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

## Prayer of the Day

- P** Almighty God, our heavenly Father, You have given to all who believe exceedingly great and precious promises. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may without all doubt trust in Your Son, Jesus Christ, so that our faith in Your sight may never be found wanting; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C** Amen.

## Collect for the Word

- P** Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and take them to heart that, by the patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

## Luther's Evening Prayer

- C** I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me.
- Amen.

## Blessing

- P** Let us bless the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.
- P** The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.
- C** Amen.

## Acknowledgments

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