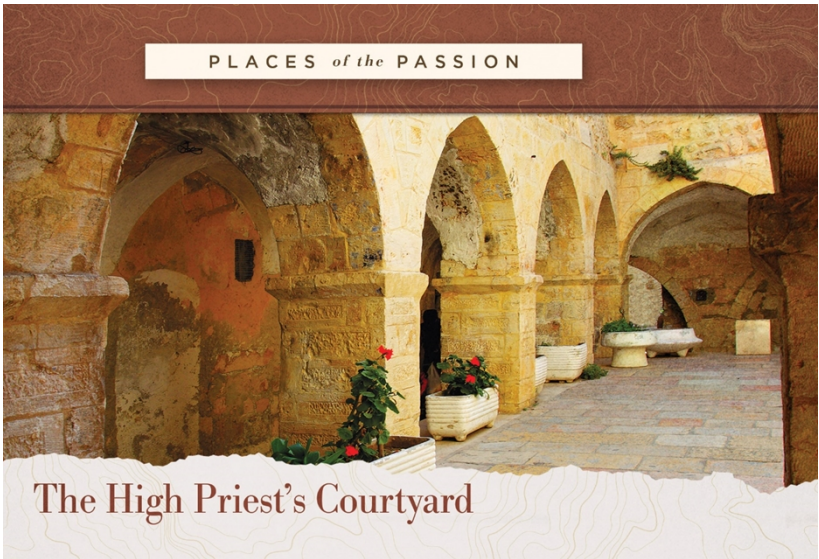


PLACES *of the* PASSION

The High Priest's Courtyard



Meanwhile Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. A servant girl came to him and said, "You were also with Jesus the Galilean." But he denied it in front of everyone, saying, "I don't know what you're talking about."
- Matthew 26:69-70

March 17, 2021

ORDER OF SERVICE

OPENING HYMN

He Stood before the Court | CW 115
Verse 1-All; 2-Men; 3-Women; 4-All

Please stand.

INVOCATION AND CALL TO WORSHIP

M: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: And also with you.

M: Let us ever walk with Jesus.

C: To see the depths of his love.

M: To behold the gift of his forgiveness.

C: To gaze upon the heights of his grace.

M: To marvel at the magnitude of his mercy.

C: We follow Christ to the courtyard.

M: It belongs to the High Priest Caiaphas—but Peter is there and so are others.

C: Peter denies Jesus three times.

M: But all is not lost. After his collapse, God's grace is amazing.

C: Faithful Lord, with me abide. I shall follow where you guide!

♪ Let us ever walk with Jesus, follow his example pure,
Through a world that would deceive us and to sin our spirits lure.
Onward in his footsteps treading, pilgrims here, our home above,
Full of faith and hope and love, Let us do the Father's bidding.
Faithful Lord, with me abide; I shall follow where you guide. ♪

CONFESSION

M: Gracious and most merciful Father—in the light of your holiness I see myself as I really am—and I am guilty.

C: I confess that I have impure thoughts and unclean lips; I think too highly of myself and too little of others.

M: I cling so tightly to the treasures of this world that I cannot open my hands to receive blessings from you.

C: My feet walk in the path of sin; I wander astray and become a stranger to righteousness.

M: Forgive us, and set us again on the path that leads to life. Deal with us not as we deserve, but according to your mercy. Not because we are worthy, but because you are gracious.

C: Lord, have mercy! Christ, have mercy! Lord, have mercy!

Please silently reflect on the fact that though our sin is great, Christ's love is greater.

PROCLAMATION OF FORGIVENESS

M: Hear the good news! Jesus walked to places of rejection, suffering, torment and death—for you. Jesus was determined to go to Gethsemane, Gabbatha and Golgotha—for you. Because he walked the way of sacrifice, Jesus forgives you completely and loves you eternally. Faithful Lord, with us abide!

C: We shall follow where you guide!

READING

James 2:8-13

SERMON TEXT

Matthew 26:69-75

HYMN

*My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less | CW 382
Verse 1-All; 2-Men; 3-Women; 4-All; All sing the refrain*

SERMON

OFFERING

Please stand.

PRAYERS

M: Gracious Father, we stand in awe and wonder at your abounding grace which you've lavished on us through your Son, Jesus. That is why we celebrate, where sin abounds,

C: Grace abounds all the more.

M: Gracious Father, in Peter's failure we see our own failure and sin. Too often we are spiritually dead—living in the reign of sin and death. But now, through Jesus, you make us alive and children of your great affection and grace! We delight to say, where sin abounds,

C: Grace abounds all the more.

M: Gracious Father, as lost as we get in guilt, so much more do you restore us in grace—amazing, life-changing, overflowing grace. Grace planned for Jesus to be arrested, tried, condemned, crucified, buried and risen for us. That’s why we are eternally grateful, because where sin abounds,

C: Grace abounds all the more.

M: Indeed, gracious Father, this gospel shows us how fervently “for us” you really are. You didn’t spare your own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will you not also, along with Jesus, graciously give us all things?

**C: Receive our thanks and praise for all your blessings to us.
Amen.**

LORD’S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

BENEDICTION

M: Jesus invites us to walk with him to the high priest’s courtyard, a place of great suffering and a place of great love. We will walk with Jesus all the way to the empty tomb—and resurrection victory.

C: Let us ever walk with Jesus! Amen.

Please be seated.

CLOSING HYMN

*Go, My Children, with My Blessing | CW 332
Verse 1, All; 2, Men; 3, Women; 4, All*

