

# WITNESSES TO CHRIST



Lenten Vespers

March 23, 2022

St. Matthew Lutheran Church

Pastor Kirk Peters

## Peter

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.

## Opening Sentences

**P** O Lord, open my lips,

**C** and my mouth will declare Your praise.

**P** Make haste, O God, to deliver me;

**C** make haste to help me, O Lord.

**C** 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.

Praise to You, O Christ, Lamb of our salvation.

## Psalmody

### Psalm

*Psalm 118:19–29; antiphon: v. 26*

**P** Blessèd is he who comes in the name of the LORD!

**C** We bless you from the house of the LORD.

**P** Open to me the gates of righteousness,  
that I may enter through them

**C** and give thanks to the LORD.

- P** This is the gate of the LORD;  
**C** **the righteous shall enter through it.**
- P** I thank You that you have answered me  
**C** **and have become my salvation.**
- P** The stone that the builders rejected  
**C** **has become the cornerstone.**
- P** This is the LORD'S doing;  
**C** **it is marvelous in our eyes.**
- P** This is the day that the LORD has made;  
**C** **let us rejoice and be glad in it.**
- P** Save us, we pray, O LORD!  
**C** **O LORD, we pray, give us success!**
- P** Blessèd is he who comes in the name of the LORD!  
**C** **We bless you from the house of the LORD.**
- P** The LORD is God, and He has made His light to shine upon us.  
**C** **Bind the festal sacrifice with cords,  
up to the horns of the altar!**
- P** You are my God, and I will give thanks to You;  
**C** **You are my God; I will extol You.**
- P** Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good;  
**C** **for His steadfast love endures forever!  
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.**
- P** Blessèd is he who comes in the name of the LORD!  
**C** **We bless you from the house of the LORD.**

*Silence for reflection*

## Psalm Prayer

**P** Holy God, mighty Lord, endless is Your mercy and eternal Your reign. Your own Son has triumphed over sin and the grave and opened to us the gates of everlasting life. Purify our hearts in Him that we may be granted a share in His glory; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord.

**C** Amen.

## 517 By All Your Saints in Warfare

sts. 1, 3

1 By all Your saints in the war - fare, For  
△ 3 Then let us praise the Fa - ther And  
all Your saints at the rest, Your ho - ly name, O  
wor - ship God the Son And sing to God the  
Je - sus, For - ev - er - more be blest! For  
Spir - it, E - ter - nal Three in One, Till  
You have won the bat - tle That they might wear the  
all the ran - somed num - ber Fall down be - fore the  
crown; And now they shine in glo - ry  
throne, As - crib - ing pow'r and glo - ry  
Re - flect - ed from Your throne.  
And praise to God a - lone.

## Readings

Reading

*Zechariah 12:10–14*

**P** A reading from Zechariah, the twelfth chapter.

<sup>10</sup>“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. <sup>11</sup>On that day the mourning in Jerusalem will be as great as the mourning for Hadad-rimmon in the plain of Megiddo. <sup>12</sup>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; <sup>13</sup>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; <sup>14</sup>and 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.**

Reading

*2 Corinthians 12:7–10*

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

<sup>7</sup>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. <sup>8</sup>Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. <sup>9</sup>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. <sup>10</sup>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.**

### Reading

*John 18:12–27*

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

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

<sup>15</sup>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, <sup>16</sup>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. <sup>17</sup>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.” <sup>18</sup>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.

<sup>19</sup>The high priest then questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching. <sup>20</sup>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. <sup>21</sup>Why do you ask me? Ask those who have heard me what I said to them; they know what I said.” <sup>22</sup>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?” <sup>23</sup>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?” <sup>24</sup>Annas then sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

<sup>25</sup>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.” <sup>26</sup>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?” <sup>27</sup>Peter again denied it, and at once a rooster crowed.

**P** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

#### Lent Responsory

**P** Deliver me, O Lord, my God, for You are the God of my salvation.

**C** **Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.**

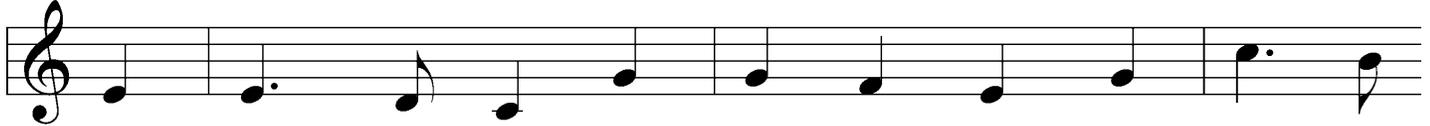
**P** In You, O Lord, do I put my trust, leave me not, O Lord, my God.

**C** **Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.**

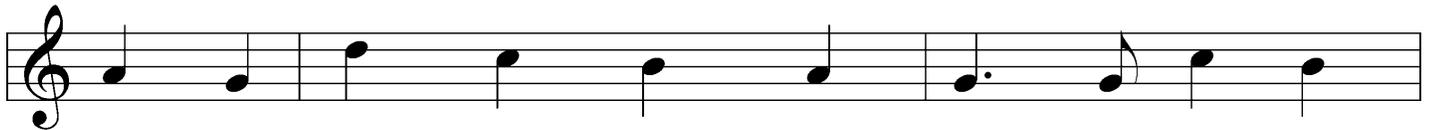
**P** Deliver me, O Lord, my God, for You are the God of my salvation.

**C** Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.

### 575 My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less



1 My hope is built on nothing less Than Je - sus'  
2 When dark - ness veils His love - ly face, I rest on  
3 His oath, His cov - e - nant and blood Sup - port me  
4 When He shall come with trum - pet sound, Oh, may I



blood and righ - teous - ness; No mer - it of my  
His un - chang - ing grace; In ev - 'ry high and  
in the rag - ing flood; When ev - 'ry earth - ly  
then in Him be found, Clothed in His righ - teous -



own I claim But whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.  
storm - y gale My an - chor holds with - in the veil.  
prop gives way, He then is all my hope and stay.  
ness a - lone, Re - deemed to stand be - fore His throne!

*Refrain*



On Christ, the sol-id rock, I stand; All oth-er ground is sink-ing sand.

Text: Edward Mote, 1797-1874, alt.  
Tune: John Stainer, 1840-1901  
Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

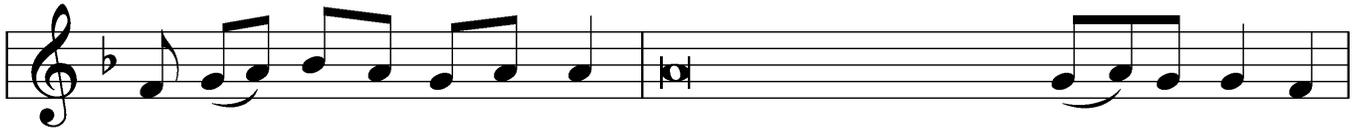
Canticle

Antiphon (Common)

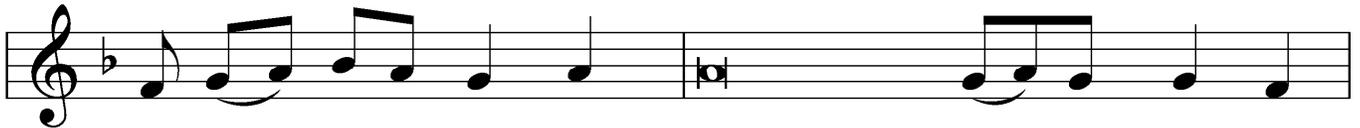
LSB 231

**L** Let my prayer rise before You as incense,  
**C** and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

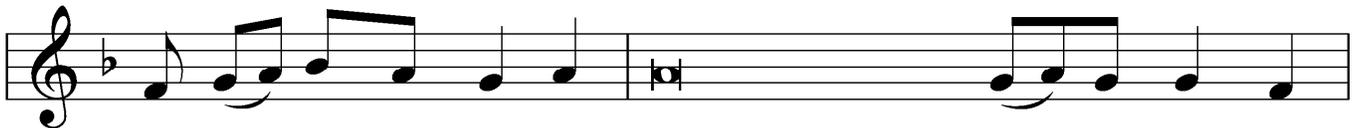
Magnificat



**C** My soul mag-ni-fies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God, my Sav-ior;



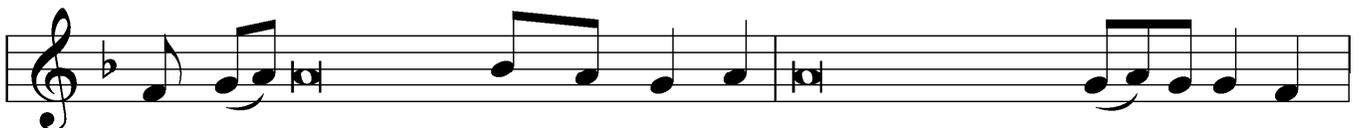
**I** for He has re-gard - ed the lowliness of His hand-maid - en.



**II** For be-hold, from this day all generations will call me bless - ed.



**I** For the Mighty One has done great things to me, and holy is His name;



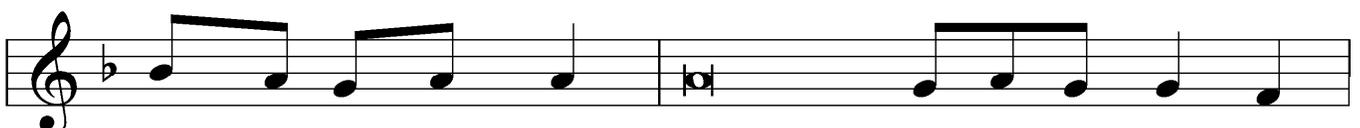
**II** and His mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to gen - er - a - tion.



**I** He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the



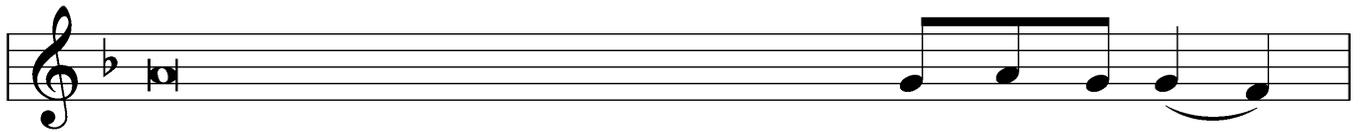
imagination of their hearts. **II** He has cast down the



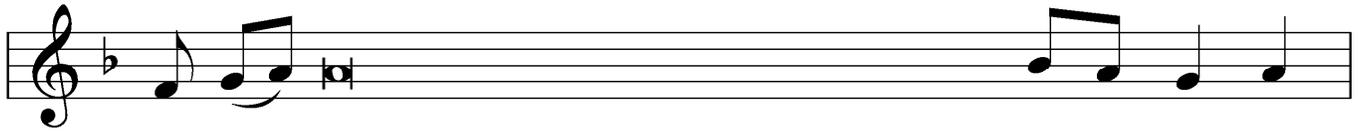
might-y from their thrones and has ex - alt - ed the low - ly.



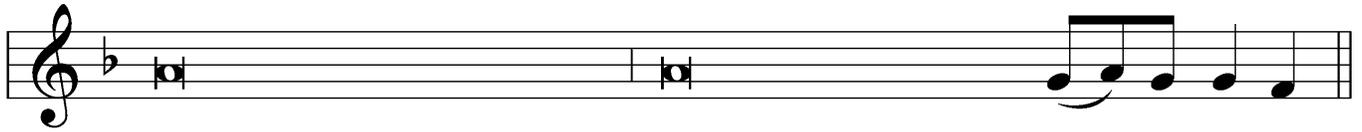
**I** He has filled the hun - gry with good things,



and the rich He has sent emp - ty a - way.



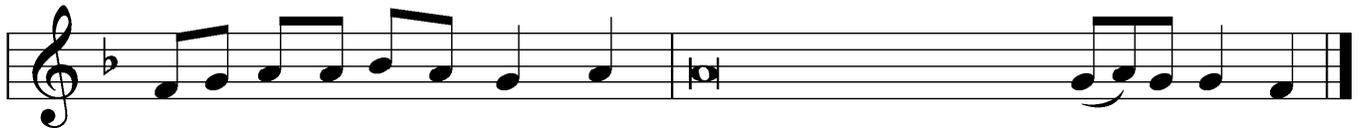
II He has helped His servant Israel in remembrance of His mer - cy



as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed for-ev-er.



III Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Spir-it;



as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and will be for-ev - er. A-men.

### Offering

~ ~ drop your offering in the box in the narthex, mail it, use the link on the church website or the GivePlus app. ~ ~

### 570 Just as I Am, without One Plea



1	Just	as	I	am,	with - out	one plea	But	that	Thy
2	Just	as	I	am	and	wait - ing	not	To	rid
3	Just	as	I	am,	though	tossed a - bout	With	man - y a	
4	Just	as	I	am,	poor,	wretch - ed, blind;	Sight,	rich - es,	



blood	was	shed	for	me	And	that	Thou	bidd'st	me	come	to
soul	of	one	dark	blot,	To	Thee,	whose	blood	can	cleanse	each
con - flict,	man - y a	doubt,	Fight - ings	and	fears	with - in,	with -				
heal - ing	of	the	mind,	Yea,	all	I	need,	in	Thee	to	



Thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.  
spot, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.  
out, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.  
find, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

5 Just as I am, Thou wilt receive,  
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;  
Because Thy promise I believe,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

6 Just as I am; Thy love unknown  
Has broken ev'ry barrier down;  
Now to be Thine, yea, Thine alone,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Text: Charlotte Elliott, 1789-1871  
Tune: William B. Bradbury, 1816-68  
Text and tune: Public domain

## Prayer

Kyrie LSB 233



**C** Lord, have mer-cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer-cy.

## 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.**

**Collects**

**P** O Lord, hear my prayer.

**C** **And let my cry come to You.**

**P** O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy, be gracious to all who have gone astray from Your ways and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of Your Word; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

**P** Lord, Your forgiveness rescues us from ever-failed intention and foolish weakness. Grant to us grace that we may be restored through forgiveness and ever stand before You in the clothing of Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

**P** Merciful God, graciously take into Your fatherly care the sick and needy, the widow and orphan, homeless and homebound, lonely and forgotten, and all who seek Your grace in time of adversity, affliction, or death.

Comfort them, O God, with Your Holy Spirit, [*especially* . . .], that they may patiently endure their afflictions and support them with Your everlasting arms until You grant them a peaceful departure and a joyful entrance into Your eternal kingdom in the resurrection of all flesh; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C** Amen.

**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 grace of our Lord ✠ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C** Amen.

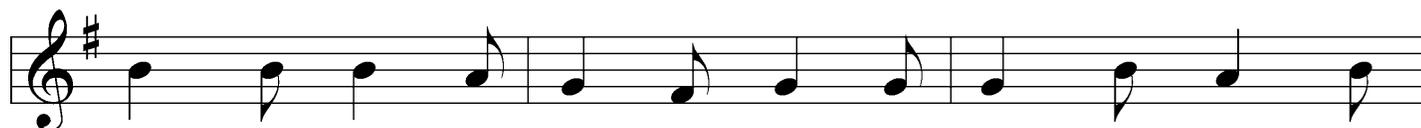
# 587 I Know My Faith Is Founded



1 I know my faith is found - ed On Je - sus Christ, my  
 2 In - crease my faith, dear Sav - ior, For Sa - tan seeks by  
 3 In faith, Lord, let me serve You; Though per - se - cu - tion,



God and Lord; And this my faith con - fess - ing, Un -  
 night and day To rob me of this trea - sure And  
 grief, and pain Should seek to o - ver - whelm me, Let



moved I stand on His sure Word. Our rea - son can - not  
 take my hope of bliss a - way. But, Lord, with You be -  
 me a stead - fast trust re - tain; And then at my de -



fath - om The truth of God pro - found; Who trusts in hu - man  
 side me, I shall be un - dis - mayed; And led by Your good  
 par - ture, Lord, take me home to You, Your rich - es to in -



wis - dom Re - lies on shift - ing ground. God's Word is  
 Spir - it, I shall be un - a - fraid. A - bide with  
 her - it As all You said holds true. In life and



all - suf - fi - cient, It makes di - vine - ly sure; And  
 me, O Sav - ior, A firm - er faith be - stow; Then  
 death, Lord, keep me Un - til Your heav'n I gain, Where



trust - ing in its wis - dom, My faith shall rest se - cure.  
 I shall bid de - fi - ance To ev - 'ry e - vil foe.  
 I by Your great mer - cy The end of faith at - tain.

Text: Erdmann Neumeister, 1671-1756; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.  
 Tune: Conventus novi, 1540, Augsburg  
 Text and tune: Public domain

**Acknowledgments**

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.  
 Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2022 Concordia Publishing House.