

Have I brought this on myself?
Have I brought this on him?
On us?
I have not earned these tears.
I do not deserve this catharsis.
But what else can I do?

HYMN

**Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing
Stanza 3**

ELW 807

**3 Oh, to grace how great a debtor
daily I'm constrained to be;
let that grace now like a fetter
bind my wand'ring heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it;
prone to leave the God I love.
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it;
seal it for thy courts above.**

DISMISSAL

READER 2: "Prone to wander, Lord, we feel it, prone to leave the God we love." Friends, we are more like Peter than we may like to admit. Our Lord has died and we were not there. And so, tonight we grieve with Peter. Our wandering hearts are heavy. But as you leave this place, remember: your wandering heart is always tethered to the love of God. God's abundant grace existed for Peter and it exists for you. God's love will never run out. So go now in peace, trusting that streams of mercy shall find us all. Amen.

HYMN OF GRIEF

**Were You There
Stanzas 1, 2, 3 & 5**

ELW 353

All worshipers depart in silence.

DON'T FORGET

**You are invited to bring a fresh cut flower
from your garden on Easter Sunday to
place on our Easter Cross located in the
planter on our lower Patio.**



EASTER, MARCH 31ST
SUNRISE SERVICE - 6:30 AM (Fire pit)
FESTIVAL - 10:00 AM

Wandering Heart

Figuring out faith with Peter

OUR MISSION
Reaching out to the community to share the Gospel through faith, fellowship, and service.

OUR VISION
Become the visible presence of Christ in this community

GOOD FRIDAY
MARCH 29, 2024
6:30 PM

St. Mark's Lutheran

Church & School

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WELCOME TO WORSHIP

We are glad you are here! May this be a holy time for you to offer your praise to God as well as receive God's grace through word, sacrament, song, and prayer. For those worshipping here in person, please fill out the connect card that you received and leave it in the offering plate. For those who are worshipping with us online, we would invite you to share that you are watching via Facebook or YouTube by making a comment.

You may contact Françoise our church Office Administrator at fdutil@stmarks.ws or email Pastor Mericle directly, pastorjim@stmarkshh.com. If you have questions, about the service or St. Mark's, please do not hesitate to ask one of the ushers.

Stations of Peter Liturgy



SERVING TODAY

PASTOR: the Rev. James Mericle

WORSHIP PIANIST/CHILDREN'S CHOIR DIRECTOR: Graham Jackson

READERS: Gwen Andrizzi, Kim Winn

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+ indicates to stand as you are able. If it is difficult for you to stand, please feel free to stay seated or sit back down at any time.

going from stunned to defensive and then to belligerent, navigating the full spectrum of the fight, flight, or freeze responses to perceived threat. By the time the cock crows as Jesus predicted (see if you can make out the bird's faint silhouette in the lower right-hand corner), Peter probably no longer recognizes himself. He must feel deflated and ashamed. At the end of his descent he is different, so I depict him differently from his three prior denials. He has much less fire in his countenance and can't even open his eyes to face what he's done.

The flames recall the fire where Peter warmed himself, but they also represent purification and illumination. Peter is forced to see himself as he truly is—as Jesus had already shown him. Who will he choose to be after this? When we are confronted with who we truly are, who will we choose to be after that confrontation? As we look at Peter's journey, it's my prayer that we will consider and meditate on our own."

—Rev. T. Denise Anderson



STATION 6: *Jesus is Crucified*

HYMN OF MOURNING

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

ELW 351

READER 1

John 19:1-30

READER 3 (Peter):

When you know the world is grieving and you are partly responsible, what words of solace can you offer?

When you could have done something— anything— and you did nothing, what then can you do?

The earth is shaken, and so am I.

But do I deserve to grieve?

Friends, when we think of violence, we think of calculated, deliberate, or impassioned action. In this station, we are confronted with the violence of inaction. Peter has now seen the lengths that power would go to silence Jesus. When asked if he was one of Jesus' disciples, Peter freezes. He must suspect that, if his association to Jesus were made known, he might be met with the same violence.

Please join me in prayer:

Merciful God, we confess that, too often, we've been inactive bystanders in the face of someone else's victimization. Forgive us for choosing self-preservation over justice. Amen.

HYMN

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing
Stanza 2

ELW 807

2 Here I raise my Ebenezer:
"Hither by thy help I've come";
and I hope, by thy good pleasure,
safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wand'ring from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger,
interposed his precious blood.



STATION 5: Peter denies Christ again and again

READER 1

John 18:19-27

READER 3 (Peter): Jesus was right. My Lord, what have I done?

READER 2: I invite you to now gaze upon the complete artwork titled *The Descent* by Rev. T. Denise Anderson, which is printed in your bulletin. This is a piece created entirely out of fabric. Anderson shares these words about the artwork as a whole:

“From [the top], Peter descends into more fear—the kind that does not help us to be our best selves. I depict him

**All gather in silence. The assembly stands
when the minister stands.**

GATHERING

Our worship service today is a different take on the Stations of the Cross. Together, we will journey through Jesus' final moments through the eyes of his disciple, Peter. In Peter, we see a little of all of us—he is devout and resolute, zealous and rash, and even fearful and flawed. If any of us can locate ourselves in the crucifixion story, it is likely we can see ourselves in Peter.

This is a service of confession, lament, and repentance. Through Peter's experience, we will consider our own. We will look closely at the events of Good Friday to help us honestly assess who we are. As Jesus tells Peter the truth about himself, we will consider the truth about ourselves.

James Baldwin once said, “Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced.”² Let us journey together through this difficult day, trusting in God's power and willingness to bind our wandering hearts to God's own self.

GATHERING HYMN

Ah, Holy Jesus
Stanzas 1, 2, & 4

ELW 349

INVOCATION

Holy God, as we journey through this familiar story, help us to understand it anew. Show us, O God, where we find ourselves in the narrative, and move us toward a more just and compassionate future. **Amen.**

OPENING HYMN

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing
Stanza 1

ELW 807

1 Come, thou Fount of ev'ry blessing,
tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.
While the hope of endless glory
fills my heart with joy and love,
teach me ever to adore thee;
may I still thy goodness prove.

STATION 1: Peter resists then receives the foot washing

READER 1

John 13:1-20

READER 2: We have heard the words of scripture. Let us now use our holy imaginations to read between the words and consider how Peter might have felt in these moments. Hear now a dramatic reading inspired by John 13:1-20.

READER 3 (PETER): This feels . . . strange. What does Jesus mean by all this? What does he mean by saying that not all of us are clean? He washed our feet, which was . . . strange. But I trust my teacher. I've given up everything to follow him. Is that not love? His words seem . . . strange. What does he know? What is he not saying?



STATION 2: *Jesus foretells Peter's denials*

READER 1

John 13:31-38



STATION 3: *Peter draws his sword*

READER 1

Read John 18:1-11

READER 2: Violence in all its forms is a public health issue.⁴ *March for Our Lives*, a movement started by youth impacted by a shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, notes that gun violence is the leading cause of death for children in the United States. The Centers for Disease Control estimates that 41% of women and 26% of men have experienced some form of intimate partner violence in their lifetimes. According to the American Public Health Association, violence “disproportionately impacts people of color and other oppressed groups such as the LGBTQIA population and those living below the poverty line. Communities living without adequate resources and those facing unfair treatment are more susceptible to all health issues. Exposure to violence is the greatest predictor of future violence.”

Please join me in our unison prayer of confession:

Holy One, we are convicted of our addiction to violence. We lament the proliferation and use of firearms. We bemoan the staggering statistics of intimate partner violence. Yet, we confess our own complicity in the pain of our neighbors. Whether we have missed used

a gun, uttered harmful words about each other, or simply refused to acknowledge another’s pain, we have betrayed the peace you left with us. We have built war economies that make conflict profitable. We have created societies that justify the violence of food and housing insecurity, racism, discrimination, and marginalization. God of grace, have mercy upon us, and save us from weak resignation to these evils. Amen.

HYMN

**God of Grace and God of Glory
Stanza 1 & 3**

ELW 705

**1 God of grace and God of glory,
on your people pour your pow'r;
crown your ancient church's story;
bring its bud to glorious flow'r.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
for the facing of this hour,
for the facing of this hour.**

**3 Cure your children's warring madness;
bend our pride to your control;
shame our wanton, selfish gladness,
rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
lest we miss your kingdom's goal,
lest we miss your kingdom's goal.**



STATION 4: *Jesus is arrested and Peter denies Christ*

READER 1

John 18:12-18

READER 2: I invite you to turn your attention to the image printed in your bulletins which shows a portion of an artwork created by Rev. T. Denise Anderson, inspired by Peter denying Christ. Of this piece, the artist writes:

“Here, I try to capture Peter’s initial paralysis when he’s first asked if he’s one of Jesus’ disciples. When Jesus was arrested, Peter had only begun to see the full extent of the empire’s cruelty. ‘Would they do to me what they’ve done to him?’ he must have asked himself. Maybe he could be so zealous for Jesus in the past because it was all an abstraction. Now, things have gotten frighteningly real.”

—Rev. T. Denise Anderson