

Who Is Praying for You
First Baptist Church and The Lakefront Church - Venice, Florida
One Church - Two Locations
March 16, 2025

Luke 22:ff (CSB) *Tell the owner of the house, 'The Teacher asks you, "Where is the guest room where I can eat the Passover with my disciples?"'¹² Then he will show you a large, furnished room upstairs. Make the preparations there."¹³ So they went and found it just as he had told them, and they prepared the Passover.¹⁴ When the hour came, He reclined at the table, and the apostles with Him.¹⁵ Then He said to them, "I have fervently desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer."¹⁶ For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God."*

- Fervently desired = with desire, I have desired to eat this Passover.

Matthew 26:21-22 (CSB) *While they were eating, He said, "Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me."²² Deeply distressed, each one began to say to him, "Surely not I, Lord?"*

Luke 22:24 (CSB) *Then a dispute also arose among them about who should be considered the greatest.*

- "dispute" - φιλονεικία = *philoneikia* [fil-o-ni-kee'-ah] (love to argue)

John 13:4-5 (CSB) *So He got up from supper, laid aside His outer clothing, took a towel, and tied it around Himself.⁵ Next, He poured water into a basin and began to wash His disciples' feet and to dry them with the towel tied around Him.*

Matthew 26:31 (CSB) *Then Jesus said to them, "Tonight all of you will fall away because of me, for it is written: I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered."³² But after I have risen, I will go ahead of you to Galilee."³³ Peter told him, "Even if everyone falls away because of you, I will never fall away."*

Luke 22:31 (CSB) *"Simon, Simon, look out. Satan has asked to sift you like wheat."³² But I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And you, when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers."*

- Jesus now calls Peter by his earlier name, Simon.

- Jesus knew that Peter depended on his natural strength, not his strength in Christ.
- *"Satan has asked"*
- "sift" - intense shaking through a sieve.

³²But I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And you, when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers."

- Peter's faith did not fail. He returned. His faith was shaken, sifted!

Hebrews 7:25 (CSB) Therefore, He [Jesus] is able to save completely those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to intercede for them.

- Jesus saved Peter completely! Jesus prayed for Peter.
- Who is praying for you?
- If you are a Believer, you have come to God through Jesus; He is the ONLY way, and then Jesus is praying for you!
- You may get sifted! But Jesus is praying for you!
- If you are not a believer, Jesus is not praying for you.

*Luke 22:19-20 (CSB) And He took bread, gave thanks, broke it, gave it to them, and said, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."
²⁰In the same way He also took the cup after supper and said, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you."*

Wes and Debbie Benitz - Wes is a Deacon nominee.

The Annual Business Meeting will be held on Sunday, March 30, at 6:00 PM at the Miami Ave Campus. Among the items scheduled for this meeting are the 2025/26 Church Operating Budget, Elections for Deacon, Leadership Ministry Team, and Stewardship Team.