

## **Life On the Edge of Faith**

### **March 26, 2025**

The Offering plate will be in the back as you enter the sanctuary.

#### **The Opening Discourse: A Maid**

#### **The Opening Hymn “Restore In Us, O God” ELW 328**

#### **The Dialogue Jeremiah 14:7-9**

Although our sins testify against us, O Lord,

**Do something for the sake of your name.**

For our backsliding is great.

**We have sinned against you.**

O Hope of Israel, its Savior in times of distress,

**Why are you like a stranger in the land, like a traveler  
who stays only a night?**

Why are you like a man taken by surprise,

**Like a warrior powerless to save?**

You are among us, O Lord, and we bear your name.

**Do not forsake us!**

#### **The Old Testament Lesson: Deuteronomy 7:12-16**

#### **Psalm 119 (33-37) (Stanza 1)**

Teach me, O Lord, to follow your decrees.

**Then I will keep them to the end.**

Give me understanding,

**And I will keep your law and obey it with all my heart.**

Direct me in the path of your commands,

**For there I find delight.**

Turn my heart toward your statutes

**And not toward selfish gain.**

**The Gospel Verse:**        Matthew 6:19-21

**Pastor:** Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal.

**People:** **For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.**

**The Gospel:**        Matthew 26:69-75

### **Sermon**

**The Sermon Hymn:** “Existing on The Edge of Faith”  
(Tune: The Church of Christ n Ev’ry Age”)

ELW 729

Existing on the edge of faith,  
Christ’s promised peace alone we seek  
Grant us the strength to look to you,  
We fear our lives are frail and weak.

For those who trust your mercy, Lord,  
Great joy is found at every turn.  
Help us to bring this to each task,  
When thwarted, we for justice yearn.

Teach us the humble road to walk.  
Open our hearts to your embrace  
Then we can show the world your love,  
With acts of mercy, joy, and grace.

## **Psalm 119 (37-40) (Stanza 2)**

Turn my eyes away from worthless things.

**Preserve my life according to your word.**

Fulfill your promise to your servant,

**So that you may be feared.**

Take away the disgrace I dread,

**For your laws are good.**

How I long for your precepts!

**Preserve my life in your righteousness.**

## **The Prayers of The People**

**Pastor:** Let us pray to be representatives of God's grace in our lives. Lord God, you alone know the loneliness we suffer when we feel estranged from you. Keep us aware of how our words and actions lead us away from you and how they also may keep others from a more complete knowledge of your love. Seeking to be faithful to you,

**People: We pray to you, O Lord.**

**Pastor:** Straighten the path before us Lord, so that we can know your will. So often, we forget that you sent your Son to do just that. Help us to open our eyes to the knowledge he died to give us. Help us to remember that the roadblocks of sin, selfishness, and rage have been moved out of the way by his sacrifice for us. Seeking to be faithful to you,

**People: We pray to you, O Lord.**

**Pastor:** Give us the joy that can only come from placing our hope in the only future of which we can be assured. Keep us from placing our faith in things which give us only the illusion of control but promise only that they, like all other earthly defenders, will one day abandon us. Shelter us in your stronghold, Lord. Seeking to be faithful to you,

**People: We pray to you, O Lord.**

**Pastor:** Standing on the edge of faith, we beg you to hold us up, dear Lord, with your gift of peace and hear our prayers.

**People: Amen.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

**The Benediction:**            1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

**Pastor:** May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**People: He who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.**

**Closing Hymn:** "My Song is Love Unknown"      ELW 343  
   vs. 1-3, 6