

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

### **April 2, 2025**

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

### **The Opening Discourse: A Soldier**

### **The Opening Hymn:**

“Through the Night of Doubt and Sorrow” ELW 327

### **The Dialogue: Isaiah 40:13-15**

Who has held the dust of the earth in a basket,

**Or weighed the mountains on the scales and the hills in a balance?**

Who has understood the mind of the Lord,

**Or instructed him as his counselor?**

Whom did the Lord consult to enlighten him,

**And who taught him the right way?**

Who was it that taught him knowledge

**Or showed him the path of understanding?**

Surely the nations are like a drop in a bucket.

**They are regarded as dust on the scales.**

### **The Old Testament Lesson: Joshua 5:13-15**

### **Psalms 34:4-9 (Stanza 1)**

I sought the Lord, and he answered me.

**He delivered me from all my fears.**

Those who look at him are radiant.

**Their faces are never covered with shame.**

This poor man called, and the Lord heard him.

**He saved him out of all his troubles.**

The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him,

**And he delivers them.**

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

**Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him.**  
Fear the Lord, you his saints,  
**For those who fear him lack nothing.**

**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 treasures for yourselves 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 27:27-31

## **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 34:14-18 (Stanza 2)**

Turn from evil and do good;

**Seek peace and pursue it.**

The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous

**And his ears are attentive to their cry;**

The face of the Lord is against those who do evil,

**To cut off the memory of them from the earth.**

The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears them;

**He delivers them from all their troubles.**

The Lord is close to the brokenhearted

**And saves those who are crushed in spirit.**

## **The Prayers of The People**

**Pastor:** Let us pray for the peace and the end of hatred that only the assurance of our salvation can bring. During these tumultuous years, Lord, when sabers are being rattled all over the world, shows us the joy and freedom which come from trusting in you rather than in military might. Grant to us holy patience so that it is our life's work to bear witness to your work in the world and to make way for that work to be felt by people all over the globe.

Waiting on your will,

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

**Pastor:** We pray for all people, especially all the young people, who are far from home serving their country's military. We pray, for their sake, that their cause is just. But, Lord, if their cause is not just, give them what they need to work to change their government's policies. If that is not possible, we pray that you help them to find a way to free themselves from the grip of their cruel governments. Waiting for your will,

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

**Pastor:** We pray for our own nation's military forces. Keep its policies just and merciful and keep all its personnel safe. Waiting on your will,

**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.**

**The Closing Hymn:** "I Want Jesus to Walk with Me" ELW 325