

Life On the Edge of Faith

April 9, 2025

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

Opening Discourse: A City Dweller

Opening Hymn: "In the Cross of Christ I Glory" ELW 324

The Dialogue: Hosea 14:1-2

Return, O Israel, to the Lord your God.

Your sins have been your downfall!

Take words with you

And return to the Lord.

Say to him: Forgive all our sins and receive us graciously,

That we may offer the fruit of our lips.

The Old Testament Lesson: Deuteronomy 21:22-23

Psalm 130:1-4

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord; O Lord, hear my voice.

Let your ears be attentive to my cry for mercy.

If you, O Lord, kept a record of sins,

O Lord, who could stand?

But with you there is forgiveness.

Therefore, you are feared.

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 27:32-44

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 130:4-8

I wait for the Lord, my soul waits,
And in his word I put my hope.
My soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the
morning,
More than watchmen wait for the morning.
O Israel, put your hope in the Lord,
For with the Lord is unfailing love
And with him is full redemption.
He himself will redeem Israel from all their sins.

The Prayers of The People

Pastor: Let us pray to show the world the miracle of God's love. Dear God, we give you thanks that you have created us to be people who reach out to each other. Help us daily to recognize that joyful reality. Just as importantly, as your people, help us to show that joy to others. There are so many people who live lives isolated from you, from other people, and even from themselves. We give you thanks, Lord, that as we show to the world the joy of fellowship, we also show it the power of forgiveness. Looking to you for all our hope,

People: We pray to you, O Lord.

Pastor: Bring into clear focus our world's need for your love and give us the courage to share it. So often, we find it easier to cut ourselves off from those in need because we find their situations distressing and because we remember times in our own lives where we have had to struggle through our own difficult circumstances, and we do not remember anyone giving us a hand out. Remind us, Lord, that without you and your love, our situations would indeed be desperate, and that not only did your Son give us a hand. He gave up his whole body so that we might be rescued from that desperate situation. Looking forward to you for all our hope,

People: We pray to you, O Lord.

Pastor: As we near the observation of your son's sacrifice, fill us not only with the knowledge of our sin, but, more importantly, with the knowledge of your Son's forgiving grace. Looking to you for all our hope,

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