

LENT



the darkness of doubt

Mid-Week Lent 4
March 6, 2024
“The Darkness of Doubt”

WELCOME

HYMN

If Thou but Trust in God to Guide Thee
(stanzas 1, 2, 5, 7)

750

INVOCATION AND CALL TO WORSHIP

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: One day, Jesus was walking on water towards His disciples. Peter got out of the boat and walked toward Jesus. But when he saw the wind and the waves, he was afraid and started to sink.

C: Jesus reached out His hand and caught Peter saying, “You of little faith, why did you doubt?” (Matthew 14:31)

P: It was after the resurrection that some of the disciples saw Jesus. They worshipped Him,

C: but some doubted. (Matthew 28:17)

P: Also after the resurrection, Jesus stood among the disciples and said, “Peace be with you.” Thinking they saw a ghost, Jesus said to them,

C: “Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds?” (Luke 24:38)

P: Lord, may we be like the man who said to Jesus one day,

C: “I believe, help me overcome my unbelief.” (Matthew 11:28)

WORDS OF CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS – Psalm 51

(all sing) Have mercy on me, O God, Through Your unfailing love.

Purify me and I will be whiter than snow

Create in me a clean heart, O God. Restore to me the joy of your salvation.

**Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love;
according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions.
Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.**

**For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.
Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight;
so you are right in your verdict and justified when you judge.**

(all sing) Have mercy on me, O God, Through Your unfailing love.

Purify me and I will be whiter than snow

Create in me a clean heart, O God. Restore to me the joy of your salvation.

**Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.
Yet you desired faithfulness even in the womb;
you taught me wisdom in that secret place.**

**Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.
Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice.
Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity.**

*(all sing) Have mercy on me, O God, Through Your unfailing love.
Purify me and I will be whiter than snow
Create in me a clean heart, O God. Restore to me the joy of your salvation.*

**Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.
Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.**

**Then I will teach transgressors your ways, so that sinners will turn back to you.
Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God, you who are God my Savior,
and my tongue will sing of your righteousness.**

**Open my lips, Lord, and my mouth will declare your praise.
You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it;
you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.**

**My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart you, God, will not despise.**

*(all sing) Have mercy on me, O God, Through Your unfailing love.
Purify me and I will be whiter than snow
Create in me a clean heart, O God. Restore to me the joy of your salvation.*

**May it please you to prosper Zion, to build up the walls of Jerusalem.
Then you will delight in the sacrifices of the righteous,
in burnt offerings offered whole; then bulls will be offered on your altar.**

P: Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, does not desire the death of sinners, but rather that they may turn from their wickedness and live. Therefore, with true repentance, and the promise that God's Word never fails and His promises are new every morning, be assured this day that your sins are forgiven, and God remembers them no more, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

FIRST READING		Psalm 78:1-19
SONG 11:00a 7:00p	I Need Thee Every Hour And Can It Be	Congregation Flute Choir
GOSPEL READING		John 21:15-19

HYMN Be Still My Soul **752**
(stanzas 1, 2, 4)

SERMON "The Darkness of Doubt" **Pastor Meyer**
ESM Shepherd of the School

APOSTLES' CREED

OFFERING

SONG 7:00p Jesus in The Garden **Flute Choir**

POETRY READING The Darkness of Doubt **Carrie Gould**

PRAYERS

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BENEDICTION

- P: May God the Father, who does not despise the broken spirit, give to you a contrite heart.
- C: **Lord have mercy.**
- P: May Christ, who bore your sin in His body on the tree, heal you by His wounds.
- C: **Amen.**
- P: May the Holy Spirit, who leads you into all truth, speak to you words of pardon and peace.
- C: **Amen.**
- P: And may the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. May the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.
- C: **Amen.**

HYMN Jesus Lead Thou On **718**

SILENT PRAYER

Lord, I believe. Help me in my times of doubt in life. Amen.