

Lk.

22:54 Having arrested Him, they led Him and brought Him into the high priest's house. But Peter followed at a distance.

22:55 Now when they had kindled a fire in the midst of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat among them.

22:56 And a certain servant girl, seeing him as he sat by the fire, looked intently at him and said, "This man was also with Him."

22:57 But he denied Him, saying, "Woman, I do not know Him."

22:58 And after a little while another saw him and said, "You also are of them." But Peter said, "Man, I am not!"

22:59 Then after about an hour had passed, another confidently affirmed, saying, "Surely this fellow also was with Him, for he is a Galilean."

22:60 But Peter said, "Man, I do not know what you are saying!" Immediately, while he was still speaking, the rooster crowed.

22:61 And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how He had said to him, "Before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times."

22:62 So Peter went out and wept bitterly.

22:63 Now the men who held Jesus mocked Him and beat Him.

22:64 And having blindfolded Him, they struck Him on the face and asked Him, saying, "Prophecy! Who is the one who struck You?"

22:65 And many other things they blasphemously spoke against Him.

22:66 As soon as it was day, the elders of the people, both chief priests and scribes, came together and led Him into their council, saying,

22:67 "If You are the Christ, tell us." But He said to them, "If I tell you, you will by no means believe.

22:68 "And if I also ask you, you will by no means answer Me or let Me go.

22:69 "Hereafter the Son of Man will sit on the right hand of the power of God."

22:70 Then they all said, "Are You then the Son of God?" So He said to them, "You rightly say that I am."

22:71 And they said, "What further testimony do we need? For we have heard it ourselves from His own mouth."

March 22, 2026 Luke 22:54–71

Sermon Title: "The Lord Turned and Looked at Peter"

"But this is your hour, and the power of darkness" (v. 53).

Under the cover of night, the work of darkness advances. It is a covert operation.

Jesus was led away, and the disciples, except for Peter, scattered and fled.

“This very night you will all fall away because of me… For it is written: ‘I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered’” (Matthew 26:31)—Jesus’ words came true.

And then that moment came for Peter as well.

“This man was with Jesus too.” “You’re one of his followers.” “Surely this man was with Jesus as well.”

Peter, who never left Jesus’ side, who spent more time with Him than anyone else. Ever since he had left his fishing nets to follow Him, he had held a deep, heartfelt faith in Jesus’ teachings and miraculous works—so much so that he had even declared, “Lord, I am ready to go with You even to prison, even to death.”

“Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift you like wheat. But I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers.”

“The Lord turned and looked at Peter.” It was not a look of condemnation.

We are weak; even when we resolve ourselves, we falter. But we have the Lord’s gentle gaze upon us.

Introduction: Stay awake and pray so that you may not fall into temptation

Luke 22:42 “Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done.”

22:43 Then an angel from heaven appeared and strengthened him.

22:44 And being in agony, he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling to the ground.

22:45 When he had finished praying, he stood up and went to the disciples, and found them sleeping from grief,

22:46 and said to them, “Why are you sleeping? Rise and pray, lest you enter into temptation.”

Mark 14:33 He took Peter, James, and John with him, and as he began to be deeply distressed and troubled, he said to them,

14:34 “My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch.”

14:35 He went a little farther and fell on his face and prayed that, if possible, this hour might pass from him. And he said,

14:36 “Abba, Father, all things are possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will.”

14:37 Then he came and found them sleeping, so he said to Peter, “Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep watch for even an hour?”

14:38 Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation; the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

Good morning, everyone. The vernal equinox has passed, and it has become quite warm, feeling very much like spring. With the temperature fluctuations we’re experiencing these days, please take good care of yourselves.

Next week is finally Holy Week. And the week after that is Easter.

Matthew 26:26 While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take and eat; this is my body.”

26:27 He took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you.

26:28 For this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.”

At the Last Supper, Jesus instituted the Lord’s Supper, saying, “Drink from this cup, all of you. “This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.” Jesus shed His blood on the cross and offered His life for the salvation of many people, including us.

This happened immediately after the Last Supper.

“But now is your time, and the time of the dominion of darkness” (verse 53).

Under the cover of night, the work of darkness advances. It is a covert operation.

Jesus was led away, and all the disciples except Peter fled in all directions.

“This very night you will all fall away because of me… For it is written: ‘I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered’” (Matthew 26:31)—and Jesus’ words came true.

And then Peter’s time came as well.

Luke 22:53 “You did not lay a hand on me when I was with you daily in the temple. But this is your hour—and the power of darkness.”

22:54 Then they seized Jesus and led him away to the high priest’s residence. Peter followed at a distance.

22:55 They had lit a fire in the middle of the courtyard and were sitting around it, and Peter sat down among them.

22:56 Then a servant girl saw him sitting by the fire, looked closely at him, and said, “This man was with Jesus.”

22:57 Peter denied it, saying, “I don’t know the man.”

“This man was with Jesus.”

This brings to mind the opening words of 1 John.

1:1 Concerning what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands—namely, the Word of life—

“This man was with Jesus.” This is the title of the disciples. To be with the Lord, to spend time with Him, to go wherever He went, to share His daily life, and to be taught by Him. What an honor it must have been to be chosen by the Lord and called to be His disciples. And they heard Him boldly and authoritatively expound the Scriptures. And they saw His mighty works. In fact, it was after witnessing the miracle of the great catch on the Sea of Galilee that they left their fishing nets and followed the Lord.

Matthew 7:28 When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were deeply amazed at his teaching.

7:29 For he taught them as one who had authority, and not as the scribes.

Incidentally, the sermon that amazed the crowds was as follows.

7:7 Ask, and it will be given to you. Seek, and you will find. Knock, and the door will be opened to you.

7:8 For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.

7:9 Which of you, if your child asks for bread, will give a stone?

7:10 Or if the child asks for a fish, will give a snake?

7:11 If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask him!

7:12 So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them; for this is the Law and the Prophets.

7:13 Enter through the narrow gate. For the gate that leads to destruction is wide, and the

road is broad, and many enter through it.

7:14 But the gate that leads to life is narrow, and the road is hard, and few find it.

7:15 Beware of false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves.

7:16 You will recognize them by their fruits. Do people pick grapes from thorns, or figs from thistles?

7:17 In the same way, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit.

7:18 A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit.

7:19 Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

7:20 Thus, you will recognize them by their fruits.

7:21 Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven.

7:22 On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?'

7:23 Then I will declare to them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you who practice lawlessness!'

7:24 Therefore, anyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.

7:25 The rain came down, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock.

7:26 But anyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on the sand.

7:27 When the rain falls, the floods come, and the winds blow and beat against that house, it will fall—and its fall will be great.”

Matthew 16:23 Jesus turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.” Although Peter was rebuked by the Lord in this way, his zeal for the Lord was greater than anyone else's. Even when the other disciples scattered and fled, he alone followed Jesus, advancing all the way into the high priest's courtyard, which was enemy territory. This was exactly as he had said.

22:33 Simon said, “Lord, I am ready to go with you even to prison and to death.”

But events unfolded mercilessly. His zeal crumbled.

22:54 Then they seized Jesus and led him away to the high priest's residence. Peter followed at a distance.

22:55 They had lit a fire in the middle of the courtyard and were sitting around it, so Peter sat down among them.

22:56 Then a servant girl saw him sitting by the fire, looked at him, and said, "This man was with Jesus."

22:57 Peter denied it, saying, "I do not know the man."

Having to deny that he was with Jesus must have been the ultimate humiliation. In his desperate desire to save himself, he blurted out one lie after another, words that were completely contrary to his true feelings. Looking back, wasn't that more painful to him than death itself?

"Even if I die, I will not leave you. I will go with you to prison or even to death," Peter had said—yet now he claims he was never with Jesus and doesn't even know him. I believe Peter regretted this weakness of his for the rest of his life.

His anguished weeping over having committed the very same folly as those trapped in the darkness who refuse to acknowledge Jesus as the Son of God—or God Himself—is all too painful to bear, and his state of mind is beyond comprehension.

Was he speaking insincerely, or was that actually his true heart? Faced with danger, he ran for self-preservation and pretended not to know his mentor—an act that was far too calculating and ungrateful. An act of repaying his master's kindness with ingratitude. This is something that absolutely must not happen. While it might be understandable for someone with little connection to the Lord, this denial by a man regarded as the Lord's foremost disciple saddened Jesus and invited severe condemnation from His enemies.

22:58 A little later, another person looked at Peter and said, "You are one of them too." But Peter said, "No, that's not true."

22:59 About an hour later, another person insisted, "Surely this man was with Jesus too. He is a Galilean as well."

22:60 Peter said, "I don't know what you're talking about." Before he had finished speaking, a rooster crowed.

He has failed as a disciple. "How could that be? Why would the Lord say something to crush my spirit? Why would He say something to test my loyalty? Does He not believe in me? How many hours do You think are left until dawn, when the rooster crows at daybreak? That absolutely cannot be. It's impossible." Yet his spirit was crushed. It was crushed perfectly three

times over; his resolve was utterly shattered, and he failed. There is no way to make excuses. Before the words were even off his tongue, before he had finished speaking, the rooster crowed. The Lord was right.

22:61 The Lord turned and looked at Peter. Then Peter remembered the Lord's words: "Before the rooster crows today, you will deny me three times."

22:62 Then he went outside and wept bitterly.

When the rooster crowed, he recalled the Lord's words and, remembering what Jesus had said, came to his senses. Unable to bear Jesus' gaze, Peter deeply regretted his own actions, fled the scene, and went out into the courtyard of the high priest, where he wept bitterly. Perhaps he could not forgive himself. Did he not gnash his teeth in frustration at his own inadequacy, tormented by the thought that he wanted to vanish into thin air because of his irreparable failure?

Yet the Lord's gaze was warm. Had that gaze been stern, it might still have been a salvation for him. But the Lord's gaze was gentle and full of compassion. We can see this from the Lord's words.

22:31 "Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has asked to sift you like wheat.

22:32 But I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers."

Here again, it was shown that no one can boast of their own deeds, but that it is solely by the Lord's forgiving mercy.

22:63 Those who were guarding Jesus mocked him, struck him,

22:64 and blindfolded him, asking, "Prophesy! Who struck you?"

22:65 They also said many other things to mock him.

22:66 When morning came, the elders of the people, the chief priests, and the scribes gathered together, and they brought Jesus before the Sanhedrin and said,

22:67 "If you are the Christ, tell us." Jesus said, "If I tell you, you will not believe me.

22:68 Nor will you answer if I question you.

22:69 But from now on, the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the Almighty God."

22:70 They said, "So you are the Son of God?" Jesus replied, "You say so."

22:71 Then they said, "What further testimony do we need? We have heard it directly from

his own mouth.”

Here we see a crowd of people who do not truly believe in the Lord. They are spectators who mock him and take pleasure in watching him as a spectacle. Even when Jesus tells them who he is and speaks the truth, not a single one of them takes him seriously. Both the high priest and the scribes have their eyes closed. Even when the Lord says, “I am the Son of God,” they reject Him, saying such a thing could never be true.

Peter also denied the Lord, the disciples fled, and neither the chief priests nor the scribes believed in Him. It was truly a time under the dominion of darkness. And even today, that dominion continues.

Yet we have the Lord’s gaze upon us. We are those who are with the Lord, who believe in Him, and who follow His example. We are those who, when sifted along with the many who falter, are left to bear the brand of the disqualified. Yet we do not remain in failure. Through the Lord’s gaze and prayer, we are given the chance to rise again. And we live by helping one another with compassionate love. No longer regarding ourselves as disqualified, we will never speak of who is the greatest—nor can we—but we will press forward, believing that Jesus, who prayed for our forgiveness, helped us, and died on the cross as our substitute, is the greatest of all.

◇Prayer: **Heavenly Father, we thank You for today’s worship service. How great must have been the pain in Peter’s heart—even though he was a disciple of Jesus, he denied being with Him and even denied his relationship with Him. Yet he had respected Him so deeply that he had even said, “I am prepared to go to prison or even die with You.” Your words, “Stay awake and pray so that you will not fall into temptation,” resonate deeply in our hearts. Please lead all those who are suffering into God’s salvation and peace. Bless our families and the people in our community. Please use us. We pray in the name of the Lord Jesus. Amen.**