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**Lenten Midweek 2**

**St. John’s Passion**

“O come, let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the founder and perfector of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.” *Gradual for Lent*

**AS WE GATHER**

From earliest days the Christian Church employed the weeks before Easter—what came to be called the season of Lent—as the time of the year to prepare candidates for the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, the catechumenate. Paul wrote, “We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life” (Romans 6:4). Our midweek Lenten services prepare us to consider our identity and connection with the Passion of Christ as the baptized children of God. Today, we see how John puts our attention on two events happening at the same time—the interrogation of Jesus before the high priest and the interrogation of Peter in the courtyard—and we see how these interrogations confront and comfort us.

**SERVICE OF PRAYER AND PREACHING** (*LSB*, pg. 260)

**Hymn** “Renew Me, O Eternal Light” (*LSB* 704)

**FIRST READING** Hebrews 2:1-9

**Hymn** “O Love, How Deep” (*LSB* 544)

**SECOND READING** John 18:12-27

**SERMON *“Two Interrogations”***

**Hymn** “If Thou But Trust in God to Guide Thee” (*LSB* 750)

**OFFERING**

**COLLECT OF THE DAY**

Pastor: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, You have given to all who believe exceedingly great and precious promises. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may without all doubt trust in Your Son, Jesus Christ, so that our faith in Your sight may never be found wanting; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

**Hymn** “All Christians Who Have Been Baptized” (*LSB* 596)