



We read in 1 Peter 3:15, *"...but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you..."*

The Lenten season is the season of Hope realized. It's hard to imagine a place and people in this world more in need of hope than Ukraine. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Ukraine (ELCU) is one of our LCMS Mission partners and a 2022-23 recipient of Mission 1-1-1 funds. In a sermon preached by Rev. Serge Maschewski, ELCU Bishop, he conveyed the following, a universal message for this season:

*"Our crucified Lord is no stranger to our pain, our need, our despair, our fear, our weakness. Our crucified God overcame death and overcame hopelessness. He did this all for us. He walked this road to become the One who can save, the One who can help. In any situation. At any time."*

We pray that this is the message of truth that fuels all of our missions and churches, especially during this season of Lent.

*"Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."* Hebrews 11:1