



THE FIRST WEEK OF LENT: RETURN TO PRAYER

February 24, 2021

Midweek Service:
Return to Prayer
Matthew 26:36-46

The season of Lent is a time for self-examination, repentance, and prayer. “Prayer is the soul’s sincere desire . . . the Christian’s vital breath,” penned hymnwriter James Montgomery (*The Lutheran Hymnal* 454:1, 5). Sometimes that holy conversation is interrupted or sidelined from a place of priority in our lives. Even our Lord’s closest disciples did not serve Him faithfully as watchers and prayers with Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane.

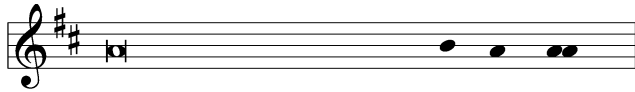
In this holy season, we return to prayer, treasuring the opportunity to pray without ceasing and leading prayerful lives that reflect the mercy of our heavenly Father, who hears our supplications and responds to them in love.

✠ VESPERS ✠

Stand

OPENING VERSICLES

O Lord, o - pen my lips,
and my mouth will de - clare Your praise.



L Make haste, O God, to de - liv - er me;



C make haste to help me, O Lord.

Psalm 70:1



C Glo-ry be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spir - it;



as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for-ev-er. A - men.



Praise to You, O Christ, Lamb of our sal - va - tion.

PSALMODY

PSALM

Psalm 121:1–8; antiphon: vv. 7, 8

The pastor and congregation chant responsively. The antiphon is chanted by the pastor before and after the psalm.



(Antiphon) The LORD will keep you from all | evil;*
He will | keep your life.
The LORD will keep your going out and your | coming in*
from this time forth and for- | evermore.

- 1 I lift up my eyes | to the hills.*
From where does my | help come?
 - 2 My help comes | from the LORD,*
who made | heaven and earth.
 - 3 **He will not let your | foot be moved;***
He who keeps you will not | slumber.
 - 4 **Behold, He who keeps | Israel*
will neither slum- | ber nor sleep.**
 - 5 The LORD is your | keeper;*
the LORD is your shade on your | right hand.
 - 6 The sun shall not strike | you by day,*
nor the | moon by night.
 - 7 **The LORD will keep you from all | evil;***
He will | keep your life.
 - 8 **The LORD will keep your going out and your | coming in*
from this time forth and for- | evermore.**
- Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

The antiphon is repeated.



1 O Christ, You walked the road Our wan-d'ring feet must go.
 2 No bread of earth a-lone Can fill our hun-g'ring hearts.
 3 No blind-ing sign we ask, No won-der from a-bove.
 4 When lures of eas-y gain With prom-ise bright-ly shine,
 5 O Christ, You walked the road Our wan-d'ring feet must go.



You faced with us temp-ta-tion's pow'r And fought our an-cient foe.
 Lord, help us seek Your liv-ing Word, The food Your grace im-parts.
 Lord, help us place our trust a-lone In Your un-swer-ving love.
 Lord, help us seek Your king-dom first; Our wills with Yours a-lign.
 Stay with us through temp-ta-tion's hour To fight our an-cient foe.

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READINGS

OLD TESTAMENT

Genesis 32:22–30

P A reading from Genesis, chapter 32.

²²The same night [Jacob] arose and took his two wives, his two female servants, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. ²³He took them and sent them across the stream, and everything else that he had. ²⁴And Jacob was left alone. And a Man wrestled with him until the breaking of the day. ²⁵When the Man saw that He did not prevail against Jacob, He touched his hip socket, and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as He wrestled with him. ²⁶Then He said, "Let me go, for the day has broken."

But Jacob said, "I will not let You go unless You bless me."

²⁷And He said to him, "What is your name?"

And he said, "Jacob."

²⁸Then He said, "Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with men, and have prevailed."

²⁹Then Jacob asked Him, "Please tell me Your name."

But He said, "Why is it that you ask My name?" And there He blessed him.

³⁰So Jacob called the name of the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life has been delivered."

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

Romans 8:22–28

P A reading from Romans, chapter eight.

²²For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. ²³And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

²⁶Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷And He who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

²⁸And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 26:36-46

P A reading from the Gospel of Saint Matthew, chapter 26.

³⁶Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane, and He said to His disciples, “Sit here, while I go over there and pray.” ³⁷And taking with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, He began to be sorrowful and troubled. ³⁸Then He said to them, “My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with Me.”

³⁹And going a little farther He fell on His face and prayed, saying, “My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will.”

⁴⁰And He came to the disciples and found them sleeping. And He said to Peter, “So, could you not watch with Me one hour? ⁴¹Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

⁴²Again, for the second time, He went away and prayed, “My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, **You will be done.**” ⁴³And again He came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy.

⁴⁴So, leaving them again, He went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words again. ⁴⁵Then He came to the disciples and said to them, “Sleep and take your rest later on. See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. ⁴⁶Rise, let us be going; see, My betrayer is at hand.”

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORY FOR LENT

Psalm 51:14; Psalm 59:1; Psalm 141:8



L 1 Deliver me, O Lord, my God, for You are
the God of my sal - va - tion.
2 In You, O Lord, do I put my trust, leave me not, O Lord, my God.
3 Deliver me, O Lord, my God, for You are
the God of my sal - va - tion.



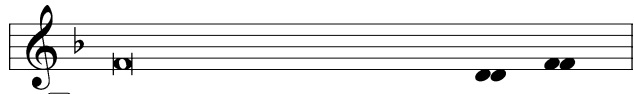
C Rescue me from my en - e - mies, protect me
from those who rise a - gainst me.

SERMON

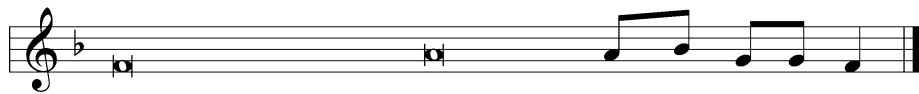
Rev. Beyer, Saint Paul's Lutheran Church (Holtville, CA)

CANTICLE

Stand



L Let my prayer rise before You as in - cense,



C and the lifting up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.

Psalm 141:2

MAGNIFICAT



C My soul mag-ni-fies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God, my Sav-ior;



I for He has re-gard - ed the lowliness of His hand-maid - en.



II For be-hold, from this day all generations will call me bless - ed.



I For the Mighty One has done great things to me, and holy is His name;



II and His mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to gen - er - a - tion.



I He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the



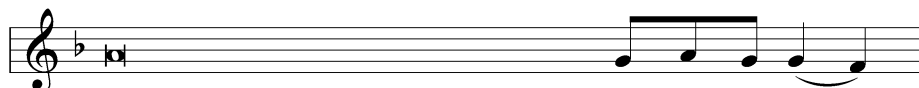
imagination of their hearts. **II** He has cast down the



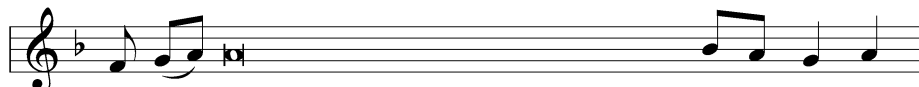
might-y from their thrones and has ex - alt - ed the low - ly.



I He has filled the hun - gry with good things,



and the rich He has sent emp - ty a - way.



II He has helped His servant Israel in remembrance of His mer - cy



as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed for-ev - er.



C Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Spir-it;



as it was in the be-gin - ning, is now, and will be for-ev - er. A-men.

PRAYER

Kneel or Remain Standing

KYRIE

Mark 10:47



C Lord, have mer-cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer-cy.

LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13



Our Fa - ther who art in heav - en, hal-low - ed be Thy name,



Thy king - dom come, Thy will be done on earth as



it is in heav - en; give us this day our dai - ly



bread; and for-give us our tres-pass - es as we for-give



those who tres - pass a - gainst us; and lead us not in -



to temp - ta - tion, but de - liv - er us from e - vil.



For Thine is the king - dom and the pow'r and the glo -



ry for - ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

COLLECTS



P The Lord be with you.



C And with your spir - it.

2 Timothy 4:22

COLLECT OF THE WEEK

P Let us pray.

O Lord God, You led Your ancient people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide the people of Your Church that following our Savior we may walk through the wilderness of this world toward the glory of the world to come; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



COLLECT OF THANKSGIVING FOR OUR LORD'S PASSION

P Almighty and everlasting God, You willed that Your Son should bear for us the pains of the cross and so remove from us the power of the adversary. Help us so to remember and give thanks for our Lord's passion that we may receive forgiveness of sin and redemption from everlasting death; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.



COLLECT FOR PEACE

P O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



BENEDICAMUS

Psalm 103:1



L Let us bless the Lord.



C Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

2 Corinthians 13:14



P The grace of our Lord † Je - sus Christ and the love of God



and the communion of the Holy Spir - it be with you all.



† SOLI DEO GLORIA †
(TO GOD ALONE BE THE GLORY)