

Grace Lutheran Church

8th and Holt – PO Box 1530, El Centro, CA 92244-1530



THE FIFTH WEEK OF LENT: THE KINGDOM OF GOD

March 24, 2021

RETURN
to the
LORD

Midweek Service:
*The Kingdom
of God*
(Pilate examines Jesus)

March 24 @ 7:00pm

In the conclusion of his first letter to his co-worker Timothy, Saint Paul encourages his young friend with a shared vision of what is to come as God fulfills all things. He writes of “the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, which He will display at the proper time—He who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords” (1 Timothy 6:14–15).

As Jesus stood before Pilate, who seemingly has full authority of life and death over Him, our Savior knew what His kingdom was and is and will be. “My kingdom is not of this world,” Jesus stated (John 18:36a). With the psalmist, we affirm, “The LORD will reign forever” (Psalm 146:10).

The very best and most blessed time under His gracious kingship is yet to be!

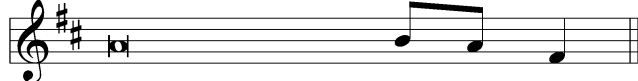
✠ VESPERS ✠

Stand

OPENING VERSICLES

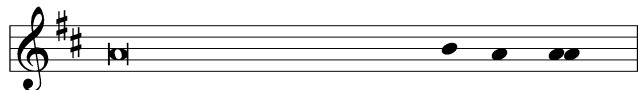


L O Lord, o - pen my lips,



C and my mouth will de - clare Your praise.

Psalm 51:15



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 25:1–7; antiphon: v. 6

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



(Antiphon) Remember Your mercy, O LORD, and Your | steadfast love,*
for they have been | from of old.

¹ To You, | O LORD,*
I lift | up my soul.

² O my God, in You I trust; let me not be | put to shame;*
let not my enemies exult | over me.

³ Indeed, none who wait for You shall be | put to shame;*
they shall be ashamed who are wantonly | treacherous.

⁴ Make me to know Your ways, | O LORD;*
teach me | Your paths.

⁵ Lead me in Your truth and teach me, for You are the God of my sal- | vation;*
for You I wait all the | day long.

**6 Remember Your mercy, O LORD, and Your | steadfast love,*
for they have been | from of old.**

7 Remember not the sins of my youth or my trans- | gressions;*
according to You steadfast love remember me, for the sake of Your goodness, | O LORD!

**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.

Sit

OFFICE HYMN: In the Cross of Christ I Glory

LSB 427



1 In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, Tow'r - ing
2 When the woes of life o'er - take me, Hopes de -
3 When the sun of bliss is beam - ing Light and
4 Bane and bless - ing, pain and plea - sure By the



o'er the wrecks of time. All the light of sa - cred
ceive, and fears an - noy, Nev - er shall the cross for -
love up - on my way, From the cross the ra - diance
cross are sanc - ti - fied; Peace is there that knows no



sto - ry Gath - ers round its head sub - lime.
sake me; Lo, it glows with peace and joy.
stream - ing Adds more lus - ter to the day.
mea - sure, Joys that through all time a - bide.

Text and tune: Public Domain

READINGS

OLD TESTAMENT

Isaiah 53:1-3

P A reading from Isaiah, chapter 53.

¹Who has believed what they heard from us? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?
²For He grew up before Him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; He had no form or
majesty that we should look at Him, and no beauty that we should desire Him. ³He was despised and
rejected by men; a Man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces
He was despised, and we esteemed Him not.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

1 Timothy 2:1-7

P A reading from First Timothy, chapter two.

¹First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people,
²for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and
dignified in every way. ³This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴who desires
all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁵For there is one God, and there is
one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, ⁶who gave Himself as a ransom for all,
which is the testimony given at the proper time. ⁷For this I was appointed a preacher and an apostle
(I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL

John 18:28–38

P A reading from the Gospel of Saint John, the eighteenth chapter.

²⁸Then they led Jesus from the house of Caiaphas to the governor’s headquarters. It was early morning. They themselves did not enter the governor’s headquarters, so that they would not be defiled, but could eat the Passover. ²⁹So Pilate went outside to them and said, “What accusation do you bring against this Man?”

³⁰They answered him, “If this Man were not doing evil, we would not have delivered Him over to you.”

³¹Pilate said to them, “Take Him yourselves and judge Him by your own law.” The Jews said to him, “It is not lawful for us to put anyone to death.” ³²This was to fulfill the word that Jesus had spoken to show by what kind of death He was going to die.

³³So Pilate entered his headquarters again and called Jesus and said to Him, “Are you the King of the Jews?”

³⁴Jesus answered, “Do you say this of your own accord, or did others say it to you about Me?”

³⁵Pilate answered, “Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered you over to Me. What have You done?” ³⁶Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world.”

³⁷Then Pilate said to Him, “So You are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to My voice.” ³⁸Pilate said to Him, “What is truth?”

After he had said this, he went back outside to the Jews and told them, “I find no guilt in Him.”

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.



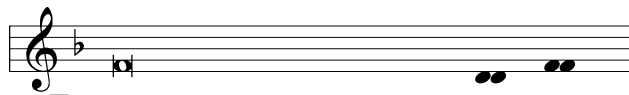
C Rescue me from my en - e - mies, protect me
from those who rise a - gainst me.

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



☐ 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



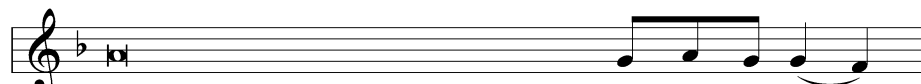
imagination of their hearts. **II** He has cast down the



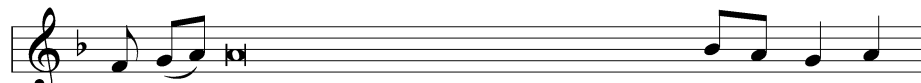
might-y from their thrones and has ex - alt - ed the low - ly.



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.



☐ 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

2 Timothy 4:22



P The Lord be with you.



C And with your spir - it.

COLLECT OF THE WEEK

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, by Your great goodness mercifully look upon Your people that we may be governed and preserved evermore in body and soul; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

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.



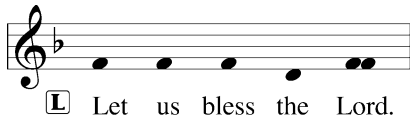
COLLECT FOR PEACE

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



BENEDICTION

2 Corinthians 13:14

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