

✠ Holy Cross Lutheran Church ✠

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Midweek Vespers of Lent Four

March 17, 2021

Return from Denial

In one of the classic hymns associated with the season of Lent, Scottish-born writer James Montgomery, author of over four hundred hymns, penned this thoughtful prayer: “In the hour of trial, Jesus, plead for me Lest by base denial I depart from Thee” (*LW* 511:1). Although the language of the hymn reflects the era in which it was written almost two hundred years ago, the central concern is as valid today as it was when the stanza was written. The phrase “base denial” calls to mind the disciple Peter, who disowns his Lord while in the courtyard of the house of the high priest. At times in our lives, we may be tempted to deny our Lord and to act as though our faith is not central to who we are. It is then that we can draw strength from remembering the forgiveness won for us by our suffering Lord, who calls us even from “base denial” to return to Him.

889 Before the Ending of the Day

1 Be - fore the end - ing of the day, Cre - a - tor of the  
2 From all the ter - rors of the night, From e - vil dreams de -  
△ 3 O Fa - ther, this we ask be done Through Je - sus Christ, Thine  
world, we pray! Thy grace and peace to us al - low  
fend our sight; Drive far a - way our wick - ed foe  
on - ly Son, Who with the Ho - ly Ghost and Thee  
And be our guard and keep - er now.  
That stain of sin we may not know.  
Both lives and reigns e - ter - nal - ly. A - men.

Tune and text: Public domain

- P** O Lord, open my lips,
- C** and my mouth will declare Your praise.
- P** Make haste, O God, to deliver me;
- C** make haste to help me, O Lord.
- C** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.  
Praise to You, O Christ, Lamb of our salvation.

Psalmody

Psalm

*Psalm 118:19–29*

- P** <sup>19</sup>Open to me the gates of righteousness,  
that I may enter through them  
and give thanks to the LORD.
- C** <sup>20</sup>This is the gate of the LORD;  
the righteous shall enter through it.
- P** <sup>21</sup>I thank you that you have answered me  
and have become my salvation.

- C** <sup>22</sup>The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the cornerstone.
- P** <sup>23</sup>This is the LORD's doing;  
it is marvelous in our eyes.
- C** <sup>24</sup>This is the day that the LORD has made;  
let us rejoice and be glad in it.
- P** <sup>25</sup>Save us, we pray, O LORD!  
O LORD, we pray, give us success!
- C** <sup>26</sup>Blessèd is he who comes in the name of the LORD!  
We bless you from the house of the LORD.
- P** <sup>27</sup>The LORD is God,  
and he has made his light to shine upon us.  
Bind the festal sacrifice with cords,  
up to the horns of the altar!
- C** <sup>28</sup>You are my God, and I will give thanks to you;  
you are my God; I will extol you.
- P** <sup>29</sup>Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;  
for his steadfast love endures forever!
- C** 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.

Sit

#### 422 On My Heart Imprint Your Image



On my heart im - print Your im - age, Bless - ed Je - sus, King of grace,  
That life's rich-es, cares, and plea-sures Nev - er may Your work e-rase;  
Let the clear in - scrip-tion be: Je - sus, cru - ci - fied for me,  
Is my life, my hope's foun - da - tion, And my glo - ry and sal - va - tion!

Text and tune: Public domain

## Readings

### First Reading

- P** A reading from Isaiah, the fifty-ninth chapter.
- <sup>1</sup>Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save,  
or his ear dull, that it cannot hear;  
<sup>2</sup>but your iniquities have made a separation  
between you and your God,  
and your sins have hidden his face from you  
so that he does not hear.  
<sup>3</sup>For your hands are defiled with blood  
and your fingers with iniquity;

Isaiah 59:1–3, 12–13

your lips have spoken lies;  
your tongue mutters wickedness.  
<sup>12</sup>For our transgressions are multiplied before you,  
and our sins testify against us;  
for our transgressions are with us,  
and we know our iniquities:  
<sup>13</sup>transgressing, and denying the LORD,  
and turning back from following our God,  
speaking oppression and revolt,  
conceiving and uttering from the heart lying words.

**P** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Second Reading

*1 Peter 5:6–10*

**P** A reading from First Peter, the fifth chapter.

<sup>6</sup>Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, <sup>7</sup>casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. <sup>8</sup>Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. <sup>9</sup>Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. <sup>10</sup>And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.

**P** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Holy Gospel

*Luke 22:54–62*

**P** A reading from St. Luke, the twenty-second chapter.

<sup>54</sup>Then they seized him and led him away, bringing him into the high priest's house, and Peter was following at a distance. <sup>55</sup>And when they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat down among them. <sup>56</sup>Then a servant girl, seeing him as he sat in the light and looking closely at him, said, "This man also was with him." <sup>57</sup>But he denied it, saying, "Woman, I do not know him." <sup>58</sup>And a little later someone else saw him and said, "You also are one of them." But Peter said, "Man, I am not." <sup>59</sup>And after an interval of about an hour still another insisted, saying, "Certainly this man also was with him, for he too is a Galilean." <sup>60</sup>But Peter said, "Man, I do not know what you are talking about." And immediately, while he was still speaking, the rooster crowed. <sup>61</sup>And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the saying of the Lord, how he had said to him, "Before the rooster crows today, you will deny me three times." <sup>62</sup>And he went out and wept bitterly.

**P** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Lent Responsory

**P** Deliver me, O Lord, my God, for You are the God of my salvation.

**C** Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.

**P** In You, O Lord, do I put my trust, leave me not, O Lord, my God.

**C** Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.

**P** Deliver me, O Lord, my God, for You are the God of my salvation.

**C** Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.

## Sermon

## Canticle

*Stand*

## Antiphon

**P** Let my prayer rise before You as incense,

**C** and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

## 934 My Soul Now Magnifies the Lord



1 My soul now mag - ni - fies the Lord; My spir - it  
2 For He a - lone who shows such might Has done a -  
3 His arm is strong; His strength is great. He scat - ters  
4 He feeds the hun - gry as His own; The wealth - y



leaps for joy in Him. He keeps me in His kind re -  
maz - ing things to me. His mer - cy flows; His name like  
those of proud in - tent And casts them down from high es -  
leave with emp - ty hands. He gives His help to Is - ra -



gard, And I am blest for time to come.  
light Re - mains in time per - pet - ual - ly.  
tate, Then gives the low His nour - ish - ment.  
el; His gra - cious prom - ise al - ways stands.

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## Prayer

### Kyrie

- C** Lord, have mercy;  
Christ, have mercy;  
Lord, have mercy.

### Lord's Prayer

- C** Our Father who art in heaven,  
hallowed be Thy name,  
Thy kingdom come,  
Thy will be done on earth  
as it is in heaven;  
give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For Thine is the kingdom  
and the power and the glory  
forever and ever. Amen.

### Collects

- P** O Lord, hear my prayer.
- C** And let my cry come to You.

### Collect of the Day

- P** Lord God, Your Gospel Word supports us through both good times and bad. Forgive us for the times when our words deny You. Restore us, so that the words we speak bless both You and the people entrusted to our care; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

## Collect for Lent

**P** Faithful God, through the ancient prophets You call us to return to You with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. Let these Lenten days be a time when, remembering how You relentlessly return to us in mercy, we return also to You; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C** Amen.

## Collect at Evening

**P** Almighty God, You have made Your light to shine upon us throughout the day. Now that the day is over and night has come, help us to rest in knowing that Your steadfast love endures forever; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## Collect for Peace

**P** O God, You delight in showing mercy to sinners. Amidst the turmoil we create when we wander from You, restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish us in Your peace; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

*Stand*

## Benedicamus

**P** Let us bless the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Benediction

**P** The grace of our Lord ✠ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C** Amen.

## Break Your Hearts

*Break Your Hearts*



1 Break your hearts with mourn - ing And your pride in two,  
2 See your Sav - ior dy - ing, Hung up - on the tree.  
3 Gath - er all in num - ber From both far and near;



Ash and grief a - dorn - ing Your re - pen - tance true.  
It is vain de - ny - ing What is plain to see:  
E - ven those in slum - ber Wait for trum - pets clear.



With your tears and fast - ing, From your God dis - cern  
While His heart is break - ing, Still your God will earn  
When the Lord grants bless - ing, Bro - ken hearts will learn



His ways ev - er - last - ing: To your Lord re - turn.  
Free - dom in the mak - ing. To your Lord re - turn.  
Joy be - yond ex - press - ing; To your Lord re - turn.

## **Announcements**

**Midweek Lenten Vespers Services** are on Wednesdays at 7pm.

The **Ladies Bible Study** is studying Words of Life from the Cross on Wednesday morning at 10am.

**Church Council** next meeting is **Mar 21** at **9am**.

**Electronic Giving** is now available through the church website: [HolyCrossCanton.com](http://HolyCrossCanton.com)

## **Acknowledgments**

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