+ Holy Cross Lutheran Church +

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Pastor Mark Huston

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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



- **P** O Lord, open my lips,
- and my mouth will declare Your praise.
- **P** Make haste, O God, to deliver me;
- **C** make haste to help me, O Lord.
- 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

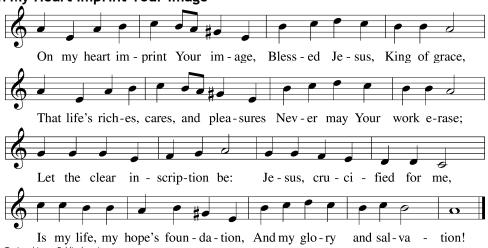
Psalm 118:19–29

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

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



Readings

First Reading

Isaiah 59:1–3, 12–13

A reading from Isaiah, the fifty-ninth chapter.

Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save, or his ear dull, that it cannot hear;

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.

³For your hands are defiled with blood and your fingers with iniquity;

your lips have spoken lies;
your tongue mutters wickedness.

12For our transgressions are multiplied before you,
and our sins testify against us;
for our transgressions are with us,
and we know our iniquities:

13transgressing, 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.

⁶Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, ⁷casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. ⁸Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. ⁹Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. ¹⁰And 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.

⁵⁴Then they seized him and led him away, bringing him into the high priest's house, and Peter was following at a distance. ⁵⁵And when they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat down among them. ⁵⁶Then a servant girl, seeing him as he sat in the light and looking closely at him, said, "This man also was with him." ⁵⁷But he denied it, saying, "Woman, I do not know him." ⁵⁸And a little later someone else saw him and said, "You also are one of them." But Peter said, "Man, I am not." ⁵⁹And after an interval of about an hour still another insisted, saying, "Certainly this man also was with him, for he too is a Galilean." ⁶⁰But Peter said, "Man, I do not know what you are talking about." And immediately, while he was still speaking, the rooster crowed. ⁶¹And 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." ⁶²And 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.

Sermon

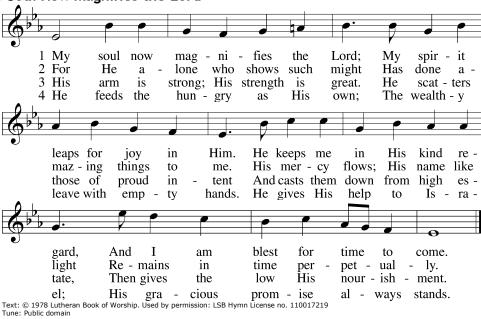
Canticle

Stand

Antiphon

- P Let my prayer rise before You as incense,
- and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

934 My Soul Now Magnifies the Lord



Prayer

Kyrie

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

Lord's Prayer

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

- 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.
- \mathbf{C} Amen.

Collect at Evening

- 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.
- \mathbf{C} Amen.

Collect for Peace

- 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.
- \mathbf{C} Amen.

Stand

Benedicamus

- P Let us bless the Lord.
- \mathbf{C} Thanks be to God.

Benediction

- The grace of our Lord + Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- \mathbf{C} Amen.

Break Your Hearts Break Your Hearts



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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

Acknowledgments

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