

✠ Holy Cross Lutheran Church ✠

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Midweek Vespers of Lent Five

March 24, 2021

Return to the Kingdom of God

In the conclusion of his First Letter to his co-worker Timothy, 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 seemed to have the full authority of life and death over Him, our Savior knew who He was and 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!

891 O Light Whose Splendor

1 O Light whose splendor thrills and gladdens
2 As twilight hovers near at sunset,
3 In all life's brilliant time-less moments,
With radiance brighter than the sun,
And lamps are lit, and children nod,
Let faithful voices sing Your praise,
Pure gleam of God's unending glory,
In evening hymns we lift our voices
O Son of God, our Life-bestower,
O Jesus, blest Anointed One;
To Father, Spirit, Son: one God.
Whose glory light-ens endless days.

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Stand

- 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 25:1–7

- P** ¹To you, O LORD,
I lift up my soul.
- C** ²**O my God, in you I trust;
let me not be put to shame;
let not my enemies exult over me.**
- P** ³Indeed, none who wait for you shall be put to shame;
they shall be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.
- C** ⁴**Make me to know your ways, O LORD;
teach me your paths.**
- P** ⁵Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation;
for you I wait all the day long.
- C** ⁶**Remember your mercy, O LORD, and your steadfast love,
for they have been from of old.**
- P** ⁷Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions;
according to your steadfast love remember me,
for the sake of your goodness, O LORD!
- 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

Readings

First Reading

Isaiah 53:1–3

- P** A reading from Isaiah, the fifty-third chapter.
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.**

Second Reading

1 Timothy 2:1–7

- P** A reading from First Timothy, the second chapter.
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.**

P A reading from St. 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.

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.

423 Jesus, Refuge of the Weary



1 Je - sus, ref - uge of the wea - ry, Blest Re - deem - er,
 2 Do we pass that cross un - heed - ing, Breath - ing no re -
 3 Je - sus, may our hearts be burn - ing With more fer - vent



whom we love, Foun - tain in life’s des - ert drea - ry, Sav - ior
 pen - tant vow, Though we see You wound - ed, bleed - ing, See Your
 love for You; May our eyes be ev - er turn - ing To be -



from the world a - bove: Of - ten have Your eyes, of - fend - ed,
 thorn - en - cir - cled brow? Yet Your sin - less death has brought us
 hold Your cross a - new Till in glo - ry, part - ed nev - er



Gazed up - on the sin - ner’s fall; Yet up - on the
 Life e - ter - nal, peace, and rest; On - ly what Your
 From the bless - ed Sav - ior’s side, Grav - en in our



cross ex - tend - ed, You have borne the pain of all.
 grace has taught us Calms the sin - ner’s deep dis - tress.
 hearts for - ev - er, Dwell the cross, the Cru - ci - fied.

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.

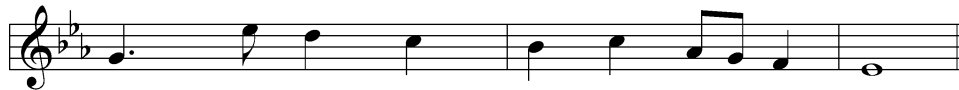
934 My Soul Now Magnifies the Lord



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** Almighty God, Your kingdom is not like the kingdoms of this world. Instead of force, You reign by grace; instead of corruption, You reign by the truth; instead of favoritism, You reign by serving all. Help us not to fall into the ways of the kingdoms of this world, but to welcome Your gracious reign in our lives; 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** As the darkness of nighttime comes, remember Your mercy, O Lord, and Your steadfast love, for they have been of old. Remember not our transgressions of the day. And raise us up in the morning ready to serve in Your kingdom; 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** Merciful God, as the kingdoms of this world rage and spite, through it all You remain constant in bringing calm to troubled hearts. Grant peace in our nation, peace in our community, and peace in our homes; 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.

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Announcements

Maundy Thursday/Good Friday Service will be at 6pm of **Apr 1st**.

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

Church Council next meeting is **Apr 11** at **9am**.

Electronic Giving is now available through the church website: HolyCrossCanton.com

Acknowledgments

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