

✠ Holy Cross Lutheran Church ✠

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Third Midweek of Lent

March 23, 2022

Vespers LSB p.229

As We Gather

A guilty, heavy conscience can wreak havoc on a person and on a soul. As King David was inspired to write in a psalm, hearkening back to his time of sinful indiscretions bottled up inside, he says, “When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long” (Psalm 32:3). It is what a guilty, unclean conscience can do. One can only imagine the state of most of Joseph’s brothers, who for nearly twenty years kept to themselves the treatment of their brother and the secrets and lies kept from their father, Jacob. Through this Genesis account and throughout Scripture, we are reminded again what can cleanse a conscience and give peace to a soul. Through repentance, confession, forgiveness, and the grace of God, we are affirmed through Christ’s sacrifice on the cross, and a clean conscience and new life is had.

609 Jesus Sinners Doth Receive



1 Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive; Oh, may all this
2 We de - serve but grief and shame, Yet His words, rich
3 Sheep that from the fold did stray No true shep - herd
4 I, a sin - ner, come to Thee With a pen - i -



say - ing pon - der Who in sin's de - lu - sions live
grace re - veal - ing, Par - don, peace, and life pro - claim;
e'er for - sak - eth; Wea - ry souls that lost their way
tent con - fes - sion. Sav - ior, mer - cy show to me;



And from God and heav - en wan - der! Here is hope for
Here our ills have per - fect heal - ing. Firm - ly in these
Christ, the Shep - herd, gent - ly tak - eth In His arms that
Grant for all my sins re - mis - sion. Let these words my



all who grieve: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.
words be - lieve: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.
they may live: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.
soul re - lieve: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.

5 Oh, how blest it is to know:
Were as scarlet my
transgression,
It shall be as white as snow
By Thy blood and bitter
passion;
For these words I now believe:
Jesus sinners doth receive.

6 Now my conscience is at peace;
From the Law I stand
acquitted.
Christ hath purchased my release
And my ev'ry sin remitted.
Naught remains my soul to
grieve:
Jesus sinners doth receive.

7 Jesus sinners doth receive;
Also I have been forgiven;
And when I this earth must
leave,
I shall find an open heaven.
Dying, still to Him I cleave:
Jesus sinners doth receive.

Text: tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.; Erdmann Neumeister, 1671-1756
Tune: Neu-verfertigtes Darmstädtisches Gesang-Buch, 1699, Darmstadt
Text and tune: Public domain



L O Lord, o - pen my lips,
C 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.
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 32

- P** ¹Blessèd is the one whose transgression is for- | given,*
whose sin is | covered.
- C** ²Blessèd is the man against whom the LORD counts no in- | iquity,*
and in whose spirit there is | no deceit.
- P** ³For when I kept silent, my bones wast- | ed away*
through my groaning | all day long.
- C** ⁴For day and night your hand was heavy up- | on me;*
my strength was dried up as by the heat of | summer.
- P** ⁵I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my in- | iquity;*
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," and you forgave the iniquity | of my sin.
- C** ⁶Therefore let everyone who is godly offer prayer to you at a time when you | may be found;*
surely in the rush of great waters, they shall not | reach him.
- P** ⁷You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from | trouble;*
you surround me with shouts of de- | liverance.
- C** ⁸I will instruct you and teach you in the way | you should go;*
I will counsel you with my eye up- | on you.
- P** ⁹Be not like a horse or a mule, without under- | standing,*
which must be curbed with bit and bridle, or it will not stay | near you.
- C** ¹⁰Many are the sorrows of the | wicked,*
but steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts | in the LORD.
- P** ¹¹Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, O | righteous,*
and shout for joy, all you up- | right in heart!

610 Lord Jesus, Think on Me



1 Lord Je - sus, think on me And purge a - way my sin;
2 Lord Je - sus, think on me, By anx - ious thoughts op - pressed;
3 Lord Je - sus, think on me A - mid the bat - tle's strife;
4 Lord Je - sus, think on me Nor let me go a - stray;
5 Lord Je - sus, think on me That, when this life is past,



From world - ly pas - sions set me free And make me pure with - in.
Let me Your lov - ing ser - vant be And taste Your prom - ised rest.
In all my pain and mis - er - y, O be my health and life!
Through dark - ness and per - plex - i - ty Point out Your cho - sen way.
I may the e - ter - nal bright - ness see And share Your joy at last.

Text: Synesius of Cyrene, c. 365–c. 414; tr. Allen W. Chatfield, 1808–96, alt.
Tune: William Daman, c. 1540–1591
Text and tune: Public domain

Readings

Reading

Genesis 42:6–24

P A reading from Genesis, chapter 42.

⁶Now Joseph was governor over the land. He was the one who sold to all the people of the land. And Joseph's brothers came and bowed themselves before him with their faces to the ground. ⁷Joseph saw his brothers and recognized them, but he treated them like strangers and spoke roughly to them. "Where do you come from?" he said. They said, "From the land of Canaan, to buy food." ⁸And Joseph recognized his brothers, but they did not recognize him. ⁹And Joseph remembered the dreams that he had dreamed of them. And he said to them, "You are spies; you have come to see the nakedness of the land." ¹⁰They said to him, "No, my lord, your servants have come to buy food. ¹¹We are all sons of one man. We are honest men. Your servants have never been spies."

¹²He said to them, "No, it is the nakedness of the land that you have come to see." ¹³And they said, "We, your servants, are twelve brothers, the sons of one man in the land of Canaan, and behold, the youngest is this day with our father, and one is no more." ¹⁴But Joseph said to them, "It is as I said to you. You are spies. ¹⁵By this you shall be tested: by the life of Pharaoh, you shall not go from this place unless your youngest brother comes here. ¹⁶Send one of you, and let him bring your brother, while you remain confined, that your words may be tested, whether there is truth in you. Or else, by the life of Pharaoh, surely you are spies." ¹⁷And he put them all together in custody for three days.

¹⁸On the third day Joseph said to them, "Do this and you will live, for I fear God: ¹⁹if you are honest men, let one of your brothers remain confined where you are in custody, and let the rest go and carry grain for the famine of your households, ²⁰and bring your youngest brother to me. So your words will be verified, and you shall not die." And they did so. ²¹Then they said to one another, "In truth we are guilty concerning our brother, in that we saw the distress of his soul, when he begged us and we did not listen. That is why this distress has come upon us." ²²And Reuben answered them, "Did I not tell you not to sin against the boy? But you did not listen. So now there comes a reckoning for his blood." ²³They did not know that Joseph understood them, for there was an interpreter between them. ²⁴Then he turned away from them and wept. And he returned to them and spoke to them. And he took Simeon from them and bound him before their eyes.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Reading

1 John 1

P A reading from 1 John, chapter 1.

¹That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— ²the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us— ³that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. ⁴And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

⁵This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. ⁶If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.

⁷But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his

Son cleanses us from all sin. ⁸If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Reading

Matthew 11:27-30

P A reading from Matthew, chapter 11.

²⁷All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. ²⁸Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Responsory (Lent)

LSB 231



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

Chased by a Dirty Conscience

Canticle

Stand



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

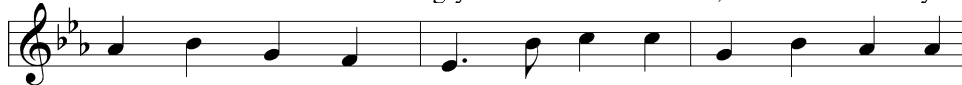


C and the lifting up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.

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.

Sit

Offering

Stand

Prayer

Kyrie

LSB 233



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

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.

5

Collects



L O Lord, hear my prayer.



C And let my cry come to You.

Collect of the Day

P Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; 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

C I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

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

LSB 234

P Let us bless the Lord.



Benediction

LSB 234

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



431 Not All the Blood of Beasts



6
—
1 Not all the blood of beasts On Jew - ish al - tars slain
2 But Christ, the heav'n - ly Lamb, Takes all our sins a - way;
3 My faith would lay its hand On that dear head of Thine,
4 My soul looks back to see The bur - den Thou didst bear;
5 Be - liev - ing, we re - joice To see the curse re - move;



Could give the guilt - y con - science peace Or wash a - way the stain.
A sac - ri - fice of no - bler name And rich - er blood than they.
While as a pen - i - tent I stand, And there con - fess my sin.
When hang - ing on the curs - ed tree; I know my guilt was there.
We bless the Lamb with cheer - ful voice And sing His bleed - ing love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.
Tune: William Daman, c. 1540–1591
Text and tune: Public domain

Announcements

Adult Sunday School is studying Genesis at 9am on Sunday mornings.

The **Ladies Bible Study** meets Wednesdays at 10am. They are studying the Book of Numbers.

Church Council next meeting is **April 10** at 8am.

Lent Services will be **March 30, and April 6**. A light meal will be served at **6:30pm** with **Lenten Vespers** at **7pm**. Look for the dinner sign-up sheets in the library.

Our combined **Maundy Thursday/Good Friday** service will be on **April 14** at **6pm**.

Acknowledgments

Vespers from Lutheran Service Book

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