

VINDICATION

In Psalm 41:7–8, David lamented, “All who hate me whisper together about me; they imagine the worst for me. They say, ‘A deadly thing is poured out on him; he will not rise again from where he lies.’” These words pointed forward to our Lord Jesus Christ, who rose again in defiance of His enemies. Do you have enemies who whisper and scheme against you? Have you been brought low—perhaps so low that you despair of ever rising again? Jesus was vindicated in His resurrection, and you shall be too. You can have certainty in your resurrection and vindication because Jesus Christ is risen.

OPENING HYMN: 560

OPENING SENTENCES

- 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.

PSALM

Psalm 41

- P** Blessed is the one who considers the poor!
- C** **In the day of trouble the LORD delivers him;**
- P** the LORD protects him and keeps him alive; he is called blessed in the land;
- C** **You do not give him up to the will of his enemies.**
- P** The LORD sustains him on his sickbed; in his illness
You restore him to full health.

- C** As for me, I said, “O LORD, be gracious to me; heal me, for I have sinned against You!”
- P** My enemies say of me in malice, “When will he die and his name perish?”
- C** And when one comes to see me, he utters empty words, while his heart gathers iniquity; when he goes out, he tells it abroad.
- P** All who hate me whisper together about me; they imagine the worst for me.
- C** They say, “A deadly thing is poured out on him; he will not rise again from where he lies.”
- P** Even my close friend in whom I trusted, who ate my bread, has lifted his heel against me.
- C** But You, O LORD, be gracious to me, and raise me up, that I may repay them!
- P** By this I know that You delight in me: my enemy will not shout in triumph over me.
- C** But You have upheld me because of my integrity, and set me in Your presence forever.

**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.**

READING: JEREMIAH 9:12–16

Jeremiah 9:12–16

- P** A reading from Jeremiah, the ninth chapter.
- ¹²Who is the man so wise that he can understand this? To whom has the mouth of the LORD spoken, that he may declare it? Why is the land ruined and laid waste like a wilderness, so that no one passes through? ¹³And the LORD says: “Because they have forsaken my law that

I set before them, and have not obeyed my voice or walked in accord with it, ¹⁴but have stubbornly followed their own hearts and have gone after the Baals, as their fathers taught them. ¹⁵Therefore thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Behold, I will feed this people with bitter food, and give them poisonous water to drink. ¹⁶I will scatter them among the nations whom neither they nor their fathers have known, and I will send the sword after them, until I have consumed them.”

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

READING: 2 TIMOTHY 3:1–9

2 Timothy 3:1–9

P A reading from Second Timothy, the third chapter.

¹But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. ²For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, ³heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, ⁴treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, ⁵having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people. ⁶For among them are those who creep into households and capture weak women, burdened with sins and led astray by various passions, ⁷always learning and never able to arrive at a knowledge of the truth. ⁸Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so these men also oppose the truth, men corrupted in mind and disqualified regarding the faith. ⁹But they will not get very far, for their folly will be plain to all, as was that of those two men.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

READING: MATTHEW 26:1–5

Matthew 26:1–5

P A reading from St. Matthew, the twenty-sixth chapter.

¹When Jesus had finished all these sayings, he said to his disciples, ²“You know that after two days the Passover is coming, and the Son of Man will be delivered up to be crucified.”

³Then the chief priests and the elders of the people gathered in the palace of the high priest, whose name was Caiaphas, ⁴and plotted together in order to arrest Jesus by stealth and kill him. ⁵But they said, “Not during the feast, lest there be an uproar among the people.”

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 HYMN: 428

SERMON

Psalms 41:7–8

OFFERING

ANTIPHON

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

KYRIE

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

PRAYERS

PRAYER HYMN: 431

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.

P O God, who gives strength to the weak and light to those who are in darkness, grant us to grow in grace and in the knowledge of Your Son, Jesus Christ, that through Him we may know You more completely. Assure us that all things are made to work for our good through our Savior, Jesus Christ, so that we may with hopeful hearts await the glory of His kingdom of eternal grace. With boldness and confidence, we ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

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.

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.

CLOSING HYMN: 878

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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