MIDWEEK OF LENT 4

MARCH 17, 2021

RETURN FROM DENIAL

+ PREPARATION +

INVOCATION

- **P** In the name of the Father and of the

 → Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

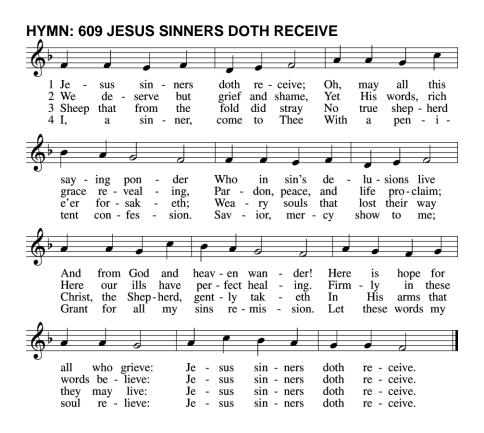
OPENING SENTENCES

Joel 2:13: Isaiah 55:6-7

- Return to the Lord, your God, for He is gracious and merciful,
- slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and repents of evil.
- **P** Seek the Lord while He may be found;
- **C** call upon Him while He is near.
- Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts;
- let him return to the Lord, that He may have compassion on him, and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Let us make our confession to our God, seeking His grace and forgiveness. Together we sing the hymn "Lord, to You I Make Confession."



The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all your sins.

SALUTATION

- **P** The Lord be with you.
- C And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, grant us love for You and firmness of faith that we may resist the temptation to deny You and compromise our confession of faith. Strengthen us on the journey of life that we may ever walk with You and joyfully acknowledge You as our Savior, in whom is all our hope. This we ask in Your precious and mighty name.

C Amen.

+ Word +

PSALM Psalm 118:19-29

- P Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the LORD.
- This is the gate of the LORD; the righteous shall enter through it.
- P I thank You that You have answered me and have become my salvation.
- The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.
- **P** This is the LORD's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.
- This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.
- Save us, we pray, O LORD! O LORD, we pray, give us success!
- Blessèd is He who comes in the name of the LORD! We bless You from the house of the LORD.
- 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!
- You are my God, and I will give thanks to You; You are my God; I will extol You.
 Oh 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 beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

HYMN: 420 CHRIST, THE LIFE OF ALL THE LIVING life of all liv - ing, Christ, the of 1 Christ, the the death tak - en on Thee Bonds and stripes, 2 Thou, ah! Thou, hast a 3 Thou hast smit - ing borne the on - ly That my wounds might 4 Heart - less scof - fers did sur-round Thee, Treat - ing Thee death, our foe, Who, Thy - self for once giv me - ing cru - el rod; Pain and scorn were heaped up - on Thee, be whole: Thou hast suf - fered, sad and lone - ly, pierc - ing shame-ful scorn And with they crowned Thee. thorns To the dark - est depths of woe: Through Thy suf - f'rings, sin - less Son God! Thus didst Thou O Thou of my give my wea - ry the curse of Rest to soul: Yea. Lord, hast borne, Thine All dis - grace Thou, That as Thou death, and mer - it I life in - her - it. ter - nal e soul de - liv - er From the bonds of sin for - ev - er. God en - dur - ing, Bless - ing un - to me se - cur - ing. And with heav'n - ly might - est own me glo - ry crown me. Thou-sand, thou-sand thanks shall be, Dear - est Je - sus, un - to Thee. Thou-sand, thou-sand thanks shall be, un - to Thee. Dear - est Je - sus. Thou-sand, thou-sand thanks shall be, Dear - est Je - sus, un - to Thee.

Dear - est

Je - sus,

un - to Thee.

Thou-sand, thou-sand thanks shall be,

P A reading from Isaiah, the fifty-ninth chapter.

¹ Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save,

or His ear dull, that it cannot hear;

² 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.

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

your lips have spoken lies;

your tongue mutters wickedness.

¹² For our transgressions are multiplied before You, and our sins testify against us;

for our transgressions are with us,

and we know our iniquities:

¹³ 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** This is the Word of the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.

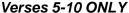
P A reading from First Peter, the fifth chapter.

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

- P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-second chapter.
- **C** Glory to You, O Lord.
 - ⁵⁴ Then they seized Him and led Him away, bringing Him into the high priest's house, and Peter was following at a distance. 55 And when they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat down among them. ⁵⁶ Then a servant girl, seeing him as he sat in the light and looking closely at him, said, "This man also was with Him." ⁵⁷ But he denied it, saying, "Woman, I do not know Him." 58 And a little later someone else saw him and said, "You also are one of them." But Peter said, "Man, I am not." 59 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." ⁶⁰ But Peter said, "Man, I do not know what you are talking about." And immediately, while he was still speaking, the rooster crowed. 61 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." ⁶² And he went out and wept bitterly.
- **P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- C Praise to You, O Christ.

SERMON HYMN: 439 O DEAREST JESUS, WHAT LAW HAST THOU BROKEN



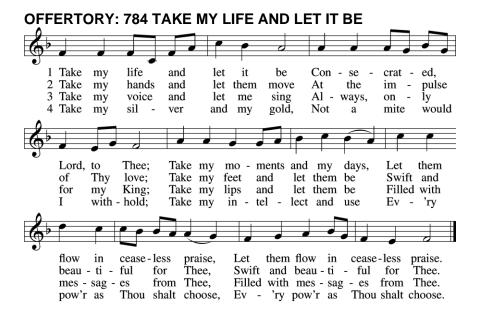


- The sinless Son of God must die in sadness; The sinful child of man may live in gladness; Man forfeited his life and is acquitted; God is committed.
- 6 There was no spot in me by sin untainted; Sick with sin's poison, all my heart had fainted; My heavy guilt to hell had well-nigh brought me, Such woe it wrought me.
- O wondrous love, whose depth no heart hath sounded, That brought Thee here, by foes and thieves surrounded! All worldly pleasures, heedless, I was trying While Thou wert dying.

- 8 O mighty King, no time can dim Thy glory! How shall I spread abroad Thy wondrous story? How shall I find some worthy gifts to proffer? What dare I offer?
- 9 For vainly doth our human wisdom ponder— Thy woes, Thy mercy, still transcend our wonder. Oh, how should I do aught that could delight Thee! Can I requite Thee?
- 10 Yet unrequited, Lord, I would not leave Thee; I will renounce whate'er doth vex or grieve Thee And quench with thoughts of Thee and prayers most lowly All fires unholy.

SERMON

OFFERING



PRAYERS

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.

CLOSING COLLECT

P Let us pray.

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.

BLESSING

- P The blessing of almighty God, the Father, the

 → Son, and the Holy Spirit be and remain with you always.
- C Amen.



Acknowledgments

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