

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

- P** Return to the Lord, your God, for He is gracious and merciful,
- C** **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.**
- P** Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts;
- C** **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

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

HYMN: 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.

P 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.

C **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.

C **The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.**

P This is the LORD's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

C **This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

P Save us, we pray, O LORD! O LORD, we pray, give us success!

C **Blessèd is He who comes in the name of the LORD! We bless You from the house of the LORD.**

P 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!

C **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



1 Christ, the life of all the liv - ing, Christ, the death of
 2 Thou, ah! Thou, hast tak - en on Thee Bonds and stripes, a
 3 Thou hast borne the smit - ing on - ly That my wounds might
 4 Heart - less scof - fers did sur-round Thee, Treat - ing Thee with



death, our foe, Who, Thy - self for me once giv - ing
 cru - el rod; Pain and scorn were heaped up - on Thee,
 all be whole; Thou hast suf - fered, sad and lone - ly,
 shame - ful scorn And with pierc - ing thorns they crowned Thee.



To the dark - est depths of woe: Through Thy suf - f'rings,
 O Thou sin - less Son of God! Thus didst Thou my
 Rest to give my wea - ry soul; Yea, the curse of
 All dis - grace Thou, Lord, hast borne, That as Thine Thou



death, and mer - it I e - ter - nal life in - her - it.
 soul de - liv - er From the bonds of sin for - ev - er.
 God en - dur - ing, Bless - ing un - to me se - cur - ing.
 might - est own me And with heav'n - ly 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, Dear - est Je - sus, un - to Thee.
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 Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks shall be, Dear - est Je - sus, un - to Thee.

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

Verses 5-10 ONLY



1 O dear - est Je - sus, what law hast Thou bro - ken
 2 They crown Thy head with thorns, they smite, they scourge Thee;
 3 Whence come these sor - rows, whence this mor - tal an - guish?
 4 What pun - ish - ment so strange is suf - fered yon - der!



That such sharp sen - tence should on Thee be spo - ken?
 With cru - el mock - ings to the cross they urge Thee;
 It is my sins for which Thou, Lord, must lan - guish;
 The Shep - herd dies for sheep that loved to wan - der;



Of what great crime hast Thou to make con -
 They give Thee gall to drink, they still de -
 Yea, all the wrath, the woe, Thou dost in -
 The Mas - ter pays the debt His ser - vants



fes - sion, What dark trans - gres - sion?
 cry Thee; They cru - ci - fy Thee.
 her - it, This I do mer - it.
 owe Him, Who would not know Him.

5 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.

7 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

OFFERTORY: 784 TAKE MY LIFE AND LET IT BE



1 Take my life and let it be Con - se - crat - ed,
2 Take my hands and let them move At the im - pulse
3 Take my voice and let me sing Al - ways, on - ly
4 Take my sil - ver and my gold, Not a mite would



Lord, to Thee; Take my mo - ments and my days, Let them
of Thy love; Take my feet and let them be Swift and
for my King; Take my lips and let them be Filled with
I with - hold; Take my in - tel - lect and use Ev - 'ry



flow in cease-less praise, Let them flow in cease-less praise.
beau - ti - ful for Thee, Swift and beau - ti - ful for Thee.
mes - sag - es from Thee, Filled with mes - sag - es from Thee.
pow'r as Thou shalt choose, Ev - 'ry pow'r as Thou shalt choose.

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.

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.

BLESSING

P The blessing of almighty God, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit be and remain with you always.

C Amen.

HYMN: 878 ABIDE WITH ME



1 A - bide with me, fast falls the e - ven - tide.
 2 I need Thy pres - ence ev - 'ry pass - ing hour;
 3 Come not in ter - rors, as the King of kings,
 4 Swift to its close ebbs out life's lit - tle day;



The dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bide.
 What but Thy grace can foil the tempt - er's pow'r?
 But kind and good, with heal - ing in Thy wings;
 Earth's joys grow dim, its glo - ries pass a - way;



When oth - er help - ers fail and com - forts flee,
 Who like Thy - self my guide and stay can be?
 Tears for all woes, a heart for ev - 'ry plea.
 Change and de - cay in all a - round I see;



Help of the help - less, O a - bide with me.
 Through cloud and sun - shine, O a - bide with me.
 Come, Friend of sin - ners, thus a - bide with me.
 O Thou who chang - est not, a - bide with me.

Acknowledgments

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