

MIDWEEK OF LENT 1
FEBRAURY 24, 2021
10:00AM & 6:00PM

RETURN TO PRAYER

The season of Lent is a time for self-examination and repentance, and it is a time for prayer. "Prayer is the soul's sincere desire . . . the Christian's vital breath," penned hymnwriter James Montgomery (*TLH* 454:1, 5). But sometimes that holy conversation is interrupted or sidelined from a place of priority in our lives. Even our Lord's closest disciples did not serve Him faithfully as watchers and prayers with Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane. In this holy season, we return to prayer, treasuring the opportunity to pray without ceasing and leading prayerful lives that reflect the mercy of our heavenly Father, who hears our supplications and responds to them in love.

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 121

(Pastor speaks odd verses; **congregation speaks the even verses**)

¹ I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come?

² **My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.**

³ He will not let your foot be moved; He who keeps you will not slumber.

⁴ **Behold, He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.**

⁵ The LORD is your keeper; the LORD is your shade on your right hand.

⁶ **The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.**

⁷ The LORD will keep you from all evil; He will keep your life.

⁸ **The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore. 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.**

Sit

OFFICE HYMN #722 "Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me"

Lord, take my hand and lead me Upon life's way:
Direct, protect, and feed me From day to day.
Without Your grace and favor I go astray;
so take my hand , O Savior, And lead the way.

Lord, when the tempest rages, I need not fear,
For You, the Rock of Ages, Are always near.
Close by Your side abiding, I fear no foe,
For when Your hand is guiding, In peace I go.

Lord, when the shadows lengthen And night has come,
I know that You will strengthen My steps toward home.
Then nothing can impede me, O blessed Friend;
So take my hand and lead me Unto the end.

+ READINGS +

FIRST READING *Genesis 32:22–30*

P A reading from Genesis, the thirty-second chapter.

²² The same night he arose and took his two wives, his two female servants, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. ²³ He took them and sent them across the stream, and everything else that he had. ²⁴ And Jacob was left alone. And a man wrestled with him until the breaking of the day. ²⁵ When the man saw that He did not prevail against Jacob, He touched his hip socket, and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as He wrestled with him.

²⁶ Then He said, "Let Me go, for the day has broken." But Jacob said, "I will not let You go unless You bless me." ²⁷ And He said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." ²⁸ Then He said, "Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with men, and have prevailed." ²⁹ Then Jacob asked Him, "Please tell me Your name." But He said, "Why is it that

you ask My name?" And there He blessed him.³⁰ So Jacob called the name of the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life has been delivered."

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN #769 "Eternal Spirit of the Living Christ"

Eternal Spirit of the living Christ,
I know not how to ask or what to say;
I only know my need, as deep as life,
And only you can teach me how to pray.

Come, pray in me the prayer I need this day;
Help me to see your purpose and your will—
Where I have failed, what I have done amiss;
Held in forgiving love, let me be still.

Come with the strength I lack, bring vision clear Of human need;
O give me eyes to see Fulfillment of my life in love outpoured,
My life in you, O Christ; your love in me.

SECOND READING Romans 8:22–28

P A reading from Romans, the eighth chapter.

²² For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now.²³ And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.²⁴ For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees?²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

²⁶ Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.²⁷ And He who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

²⁸ We know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

SERIES HYMN "Break Your Hearts"

Break your hearts with mourning And your pride in two,
Ash and grief adorning Your repentance true.
With your tears and fasting, From your God discern
His ways everlasting: To your Lord return.

See your Savior dying, Hung upon the tree.
It is vain denying What is plain to see:
While His heart is breaking, Still your God will earn
Freedom in the making. To your Lord return.

Gather all in number From both far and near;
Even those in slumber Wait for trumpets clear.
When the Lord grants blessing, Broken hearts will learn
Joy beyond expressing; To your Lord return.

HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 26:36–46

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

³⁶ Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane, and He said to His disciples, "Sit here, while I go over there and pray."³⁷ And taking with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, He began to be sorrowful and troubled.³⁸ Then He said to them, "My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with Me."³⁹ And going a little farther He fell on His face and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will."⁴⁰ And He came to the disciples and found them sleeping. And He said to Peter, "So, could you not watch with Me one hour?⁴¹ Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."⁴² Again, for the second time, He went away and prayed, "My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, Your will be done."⁴³ And again He came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy.⁴⁴ So, leaving them again, He went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words again.

⁴⁵ Then He came to the disciples and said to them, “Sleep and take your rest later on. See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. ⁴⁶ Rise, let us be going; see, My betrayer is at hand.”

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

LENT RESPONSORY *LSB*, p. 231

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.**

HYMN #436 “Go to Dark Gethsemane”

Go to dark Gethsemane, All who feel the tempter’s pow’r;
Your Redeemer’s conflict see, Watch with Him one bitter hour;
Turn not from His griefs away; Learn from Jesus Christ to pray.

Follow to the judgment hall, View the Lord of life arraigned;
Oh, the wormwood and the gall! Oh, the pangs His soul sustained!
Shun not suff’ring, shame, or loss; Learn from Him to bear the cross.

Calv’ry’s mournful mountain climb; There, adoring at His feet,
Mark that miracle of time, God’s own sacrifice complete.
“It is finished!” hear Him cry; Learn from Jesus Christ to die.

Early hasten to the tomb Where they laid His breathless clay;
All is solitude and gloom. Who has taken Him away?
Christ is ris’n! He meets our eyes. Savior, teach us so to rise.

SERMON

“Returning to Prayer in Spirit and Truth” Matthew 26:36-46

+ CANTICLE +

Stand

ANTIPHON *LSB*, p. 231

P Let my prayer rise before you as incense,

C **and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.**

MAGNIFICAT *LSB*, p. 231

All **My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God, my Savior;**

for He has regarded the lowliness of His handmaiden.

P For behold, from this day all generations will call me blessed. For the Mighty One has done great things to me, and holy is His name; and His mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to generation.

C **He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.**

P He has cast down the mighty from their thrones and has exalted the lowly.

C **He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich He has sent empty away.**

P He has helped His servant Israel in remembrance of His mercy as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed forever.

All **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.**

+ PRAYER +

KYRIE (*Sung*) *LSB*, p. 233

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

THE LORD’S PRAYER *LSB*, p. 233

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:
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 God our Father, you promise to hear our prayers, whether spoken or even too deep for words. During these Lenten days, breathe the breath of your Spirit into our mouths, that we learn to pray without ceasing; 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 IN THE WORLD

P Heavenly Father, God of all concord, it is your gracious will that your children on earth live together in harmony and peace. Defeat the plans of all those who would stir up violence and strife, destroy the weapons of those who delight in war and bloodshed, and according to your will, end all conflicts in the world. Teach us to examine our hearts that we may recognize our own inclination toward envy, malice, hatred, and enmity. Help us, by your Word and Spirit, to live our lives seeking to love our neighbor and be at peace with all people; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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 MIDDAY (10:00)

P Gracious Jesus, our Lord and our God, at this hour you bore our sins in your own body on the tree so that we, being dead to sin, might live unto righteousness. Have mercy upon us now and at the hour of our death, and grant to us, your servants, with all others who devoutly remember your blessed passion, a holy and peaceful life in this world and through your grace eternal glory in the life to come; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

COLLECT AT EVENING (6:00)

P Ever-present God, stay with us, for darkness has come and the day is now past. Forgive, we pray, both our neglect in doing good this day and the wrongs we have done. Awaken us in the morning, bathed in the light of our Baptism, so that we will be ready to love and serve you and our neighbor; 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 God our strength, the peace you provide through the cross of Christ flows like a river through the chaos of our lives. Lead us to drink deeply from the still waters of your peace, and thereby dispel our anxieties and fears, so that we may serve you with humility and grace; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

BENEDICAMUS *LSB*, p. 234

P Let us bless the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION *LSB*, p. 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.

C Amen.

HYMN #770 “What a Friend We Have in Jesus”

What a friend we have in Jesus, All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry Ev’rything to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit; Oh, what needless pain we bear
All because we do not carry Ev’rything to God in prayer!

Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful Who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our ev’ry weakness Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Are we weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer.
In His arms He’ll take and shield thee; Thou wilt find a solace
there.

Worship Leader

Pastor Harold Bender

Director of Parish Music

Michelle Prince

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