

MIDWEEK OF LENT 2  
MARCH 3, 2021  
10:00AM & 6:00PM

RETURN FROM BETRAYAL

AS WE GATHER

In the Transfiguration hymn “Swiftly Pass the Clouds of Glory,” hymnwriter Thomas Troeger portrays the days of the Lord’s Passion as that time when Jesus’ disciples are to be “following the Savior Through the valley to the cross and . . . testing faith’s resilience Through betrayal, pain, and loss” (*LSB* 416:2). The weekly reading of the Gospel account of Holy Week reveals how the disciples do and do not meet the challenges of following their Lord. The witness of Scripture also shows how in every situation Jesus remains faithful to His own even in the face of betrayal, pain, and loss. The season of Lent gives us the opportunity to reflect on our discipleship and to test the resiliency of our faith as well.

+ PREPARATION +

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.

INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES

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 Jesus Christ gave Himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness

C **and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession who are zealous for good works.**

P The saying is trustworthy for: If we have died with Him, we will also live with Him;

C **if we are faithless, He remains faithful—for He cannot deny Himself.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P Let us make our confession to our God, seeking His grace and forgiveness. Together we sing stanzas 1 and 2 of the hymn “I Lay My Sins on Jesus.”

HYMN#606 “I Lay My Sins on Jesus”

I lay my sins on Jesus, The spotless Lamb of God;  
He bears them all and frees us From accursed load.  
I bring my guilt to Jesus To wash my crimson stains  
Clean in His blood most precious Till not a spot remains.

I lay my wants on Jesus; All fullness dwells in Him;  
He heals all my diseases; My soul He does redeem.  
I lay my griefs on Jesus, My burdens and my cares;  
He from them all releases; He all my sorrows shares.

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. O God, who gives strength to the weak and light to those who are in darkness, grant us to know your Son, Jesus Christ, that through Him we may know you. By your Spirit, direct our lives so that we never betray our Lord or turn away from following Him throughout our lives. This we ask through Jesus Christ, our blessed Savior.

C **Amen.**

FIRST READING

*Samuel 15:12; 17:1-4*

P A reading from Second Samuel, the fifteenth and seventeenth chapters.

<sup>12</sup> And while Absalom was offering the sacrifices, he sent for Ahithophel the Gilonite, David’s counselor, from his city Giloh. And the conspiracy grew strong, and the people with Absalom kept increasing. <sup>1</sup> Moreover, Ahithophel said to Absalom, “Let me choose twelve thousand men, and I will arise and pursue David tonight. <sup>2</sup> I will come upon him while he is weary and discouraged and throw him into a panic, and all the people who are with him will flee. I will strike down only the king, <sup>3</sup> and I will bring all the people back to you as a bride comes home to her husband. You seek the life of only one man, and all the people will be at peace.” <sup>4</sup> And the advice seemed right in the eyes of Absalom and all the elders of Israel.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING

*Acts 3:14-19*

P A reading from Acts, the third chapter.

<sup>14</sup> “But you denied the Holy and Righteous One, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, <sup>15</sup> and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. <sup>16</sup> And His name—by faith in His name—has made this man strong whom you see and know, and the faith that is through Jesus has given the man this perfect health in the presence of you all. <sup>17</sup> “And now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. <sup>18</sup> But what God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets, that His Christ would suffer, He thus fulfilled. <sup>19</sup> Repent therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN #544

“O Love, How Deep”

Stanzas 1,3,5,6

O love, how deep, how broad, how high,  
Beyond all thought and fantasy,  
That God, the Son of God, should take  
Our mortal form for mortals’ sake!

For us baptized, for us He bore  
His holy fast and hungered sore;  
For us temptation sharp He knew;  
For us the tempter over threw.

For us by wickedness betrayed,  
For us, in crown of thorns arrayed,  
He bore the shameful cross and death;  
For us He gave His dying breath.

For us He rose from death again;  
For us He went on high to reign;  
For us He sent His Spirit here  
To guide, to strengthen, and to cheer.

HOLY GOSPEL

*John 18:1-11*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the eighteenth chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> When Jesus had spoken these words, He went out with His disciples across the Kidron Valley, where there was a garden, which He and His disciples entered. <sup>2</sup> Now Judas, who betrayed Him, also knew the place, for Jesus often met there with His disciples. <sup>3</sup> So Judas, having procured a band of soldiers and some officers from the chief priests and the Pharisees, went there with lanterns and torches and weapons. <sup>4</sup> Then Jesus, knowing all that would happen to Him, came forward and said to them, “Whom do you seek?” <sup>5</sup> They answered Him, “Jesus of Nazareth.” Jesus said to them, “I am He.” Judas, who betrayed Him, was standing with them. <sup>6</sup> When Jesus said to them, “I am He,” they drew back and fell to the ground. <sup>7</sup> So He asked them again, “Whom do you seek?” And they said, “Jesus of Nazareth.” <sup>8</sup> Jesus answered, “I told you that I am He. So, if you seek Me, let these men go.”

<sup>9</sup> This was to fulfill the word that He had spoken: “Of those whom You gave Me I have lost not one.” <sup>10</sup> Then Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest’s servant and cut off his right ear. (The servant’s name was Malchus.) <sup>11</sup> So Jesus said to Peter, “Put your sword into its sheath; shall I not drink the cup that the Father has given Me?”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON HYMN #437 “Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed”

Alas! And did my Savior bleed, And did my sov’ reign die?  
Would He devote that sacred head For such a worm as I?

Was it for crimes that I had done He groaned upon the tree?  
Amazing pity, grace unknown, And love beyond degree!

Well might the sun in darkness hide And shut his glories in  
When God, the mighty maker, died For His own creatures’ sin.

Thus might I hide my blushing face While His dear cross appears,  
Dissolve my heart in thankfulness, And melt mine eyes to tears.

But drops of grief can ne’er repay The debt of love I owe;  
Here, Lord, I give myself away: ‘Tis all that I can do.

SERMON

OFFERING *The offering plates will be placed in the narthex & by the elevator to collect your gifts as you leave today.*

THE LITANY

L God the Father in heaven,

C **have mercy.**

L God the Son, Redeemer of the world,

C **have mercy.**

L God the Holy Spirit,

C **have mercy.**

L Be gracious to us.

C **Spare us, good Lord.**

L Be gracious to us.

C **Help us, good Lord.**

L From all sin, from all error, from all evil; From the crafts and assaults of the devil; from sudden and evil death; From pestilence and famine; from war and bloodshed; from sedition and from rebellion; From lightning and tempest; from all calamity by fire and water; and from everlasting death:

C **Good Lord, deliver us.**

L By the mystery of your holy incarnation; by your holy nativity; By your Baptism, fasting, and temptation; by your agony and bloody sweat; by your cross and passion; by your precious death and burial; By your glorious resurrection and ascension; and by the coming of the Holy Spirit, the Comforter:

C **Help us, good Lord.**

L In all time of our tribulation; in all time of our prosperity; in the hour of death; and in the Day of Judgment:

C **Help us, good Lord.**

L We poor sinners ask you

C **to hear us, O Lord.**

L To put an end to all schisms and causes of offense; to bring into the way of truth all who have erred and are deceived; To beat down Satan under our feet; to send faithful laborers into your harvest; and to accompany your Word with your grace and Spirit:

C **We ask you to hear us, good Lord.**

L To raise those who fall and to strengthen those who stand; and to comfort and help the weak hearted and the distressed:

C **We ask you to hear us, good Lord.**

L To give to all peoples concord and peace; to preserve our land from discord and strife; to give our country your protection in every time of need; To direct and defend our president and all in authority; to bless and protect our magistrates and all our people; To watch over and help all who are in danger, necessity, and tribulation; to protect and guide all who travel; To grant all women with child, and all mothers with infant children, increasing happiness in their blessings; to defend all orphans and widows and provide for them; To strengthen and keep all sick persons and young children; to free those in bondage; and to have mercy on us all:

C **We ask you to hear us, good Lord.**

L To forgive our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers and to turn their hearts; to give and preserve for our use the kindly fruits of the earth; and graciously to hear our prayers:

C **We ask you to hear us, good Lord.**

L Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,

C **we ask you to hear us.**

L Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C **have mercy.**

L Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C **have mercy.**

L Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C **grant us your peace. Amen.**

#### THE 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.**

#### HYMN #857 "Lord, Help Us Walk Your Servant Way" Stanzas 1-3

Lord, help us walk Your servant way  
Wherever love may lead  
And, bending low, forgetting self,  
Each serve the other's need.

You came to earth, O Christ, as Lord,  
But pow'r You laid aside.  
You lived Your years in servant-hood;  
In lowliness You died.

No golden scepter but a towel  
You place within the hands  
Of those who seek to follow You  
and live by Your commands.

#### 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 #721

"Lead Me, Guide Me"

**Refrain: Lead me, guide me, along the way;  
For if You lead me, I cannot stray.  
Lord, let me walk each day with Thee.  
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.**

I am weak and I need Thy strength and pow'r  
To help me over my weakest hour.  
Help me through the darkness Thy face to see.  
Lead me, O Lord, lead me. *Refrain*

Help me tread in the paths of righteousness,  
Be my aid when Satan and sin oppress.  
I am putting all my trust in Thee.  
Lead me, O Lord, lead me. *Refrain*

I am lost if You take Your hand from me,  
I am blind without Thy light to see.  
Lord, always let me Thy servant be.  
Lead me, O Lord, lead me. *Refrain*

Worship Leader  
Director of Parish Music

Pastor Noah Kegley  
Michelle Prince

**Acknowledgments**

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