



St. John Lutheran Church

Freedom Twp. • Napoleon, Ohio

THIRD MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICE

March 4, 2021

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Return From Betrayal

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.

ORGAN PRELUDE & RINGING OF THE TOWER BELL

436 Go to Dark Gethsemane

- 1 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.

- 2 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.

- 3 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.

- 4 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

Joel 2:13; Colossians 4:2; Philippians 4:5-6

- 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 stanza 1 of the hymn “Lord, to You I Make Confession.”

- **VERSE** “Lord, to You I Make Confession” *[tune: LSB 511: stz 1-2]*

Lord, to You I make confession:
I have sinned and gone astray,
I have multiplied transgression,
Chosen for myself my way.
Led by You to see my errors,
To Your mercy, Lord, I flee.

For Your Son has suffered for me,
Giv'n Himself to rescue me,
Died to save me and restore me,
Reconciled and set me free.
Jesus' cross alone can vanquish;
Every sin was conquered there.

- P** The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all your sins.
C Amen.

- **VERSE** “Lord, to You I Make Confession” *[tune: LSB 511: stz 3]*

Lord, on You I cast my burden—
Sink it in the deepest sea!
Let me know Your gracious pardon,
Cleanse me from iniquity.
Let Your Spirit leave me never;
Make Yours forevermore.

SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

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

¹²And 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.

¹Moreover, Ahithophel said to Absalom, "Let me choose twelve thousand men, and I will arise and pursue David tonight. ²I 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, ³and 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." ⁴And the advice seemed right in the eyes of Absalom and all the elders of Israel.

PSALM

Psalm 41

P Blessed is the one who considers the poor! In the day of trouble the LORD delivers him;

C **the LORD protects him and keeps him alive; he is called blessed in the land; 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.**

Blessèd be the LORD, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting! Amen and Amen.

SECOND READING *Acts 3:14-19*

¹⁴But you denied the Holy and Righteous One, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, ¹⁵and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. ¹⁶And 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.

¹⁷“And now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. ¹⁸But what God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets, that his Christ would suffer, he thus fulfilled. ¹⁹Repent therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out.

HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 26:36-46*

³⁶Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, “Sit here, while I go over there and pray.” ³⁷And taking with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, he began to be sorrowful and troubled. ³⁸Then he said to them, “My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with me.” ³⁹And 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.” ⁴⁰And he came to the disciples and found them sleeping. And he said to Peter, “So, could you not watch with me one hour? ⁴¹Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.” ⁴²Again, for the second time, he went away and prayed, “My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done.” ⁴³And again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. ⁴⁴So, leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words again. ⁴⁵Then 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. ⁴⁶Rise, let us be going; see, my betrayer is at hand.”

430 My Song Is Love Unknown

- 1 My song is love unknown,
My Savior's love to me,
Love to the loveless shown
That they might lovely be.
Oh, who am I That for my sake
My Lord should take Frail flesh and die?
- 2 He came from His blest throne
Salvation to bestow;
But men made strange, and none
The longed-for Christ would know.
But, oh, my friend, My friend indeed,
Who at my need His life did spend!
- 3 Sometimes they strew His way
And His sweet praises sing;
Resounding all the day
Hosannas to their King.
Then “Crucify!” Is all their breath,
And for His death They thirst and cry.

- 4 Why, what hath my Lord done?
 What makes this rage and spite?
 He made the lame to run,
 He gave the blind their sight.
 Sweet injuries! Yet they at these
 Themselves displease And 'gainst Him rise.
- 5 They rise and needs will have
 My dear Lord made away;
 A murderer they save,
 The Prince of Life they slay.
 Yet cheerful He To suff'ring goes
 That He His foes From thence might free.
- 6 In life no house, no home
 My Lord on earth might have;
 In death no friendly tomb
 But what a stranger gave.
 What may I say? Heav'n was His home
 But mine the tomb Wherein He lay.
- 7 Here might I stay and sing,
 No story so divine!
 Never was love, dear King,
 Never was grief like Thine.
 This is my friend, In whose sweet praise
 I all my days Could gladly spend!

SERMON “Return from Betrayal” *John 18:1-11*

THEME HYMN “Break Your Hearts”

[tune: LSB 509, “Christ is

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.

ORGAN OFFERTORY and StewardMINUTE

- Offering Prayer (*Tonight's Offering: Filling Home of Mercy, Napoleon*)

THE PRAYERS

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

433 Glory Be to Jesus

- 1 Glory be to Jesus,
Who in bitter pains
Poured for me the lifeblood
From His sacred veins!
- 2 Grace and life eternal
In that blood I find;
Blest be His compassion,
Infinitely kind!
- 3 Blest through endless ages
Be the precious stream
Which from endless torment
Did the world redeem!
- 4 Abel's blood for vengeance
Pleaded to the skies;
But the blood of Jesus
For our pardon cries.
- 5 Oft as earth exulting
Wafts its praise on high,
Angel hosts rejoicing
Make their glad reply.
- 6 Lift we, then, our voices,
Swell the mighty flood;
Louder still and louder
Praise the precious blood!

✠ Soli Deo Gloria ✠
To God Alone Be Glory

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A, Quarter 2.
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