



SIXTH LENT MIDWEEK SERVICE

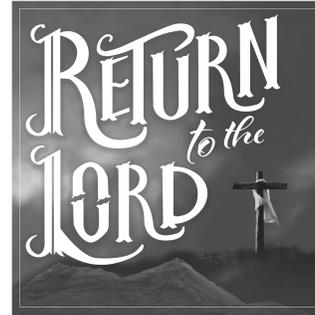
March 25, 2021

View the video file on our 'SJL Services' YouTube Channel
Search "sjlc napoleon ohio"

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Return to the Kingdom of God

In the conclusion of his First Letter to his co-worker Timothy, Paul encourages his young friend with a shared vision of what is to come as God fulfills all things. He writes of "the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, which He will display at the proper time— He who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords" (1 Timothy 6:14-15). As Jesus stood before Pilate, who seemed to have the full



authority of life and death over Him, our Savior knew who He was and what His kingdom was and is and will be. "My kingdom is not of this world," Jesus stated (John 18:36a). With the psalmist, we affirm, "The LORD will reign forever" (Psalm 146:10). The very best and most blessed time under His gracious kingship is yet to be!

ORGAN PRELUDE & RINGING OF THE TOWER BELL

438 "A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth"

- 1 A Lamb goes uncomplaining forth,
The guilt of sinners bearing
And, laden with the sins of earth,
None else the burden sharing;
Goes patient on, grows weak and faint,
To slaughter led without complaint,
That spotless life to offer,
He bears the stripes, the wounds, the lies,
The mockery, and yet replies,
"All this I gladly suffer."

- 2 This Lamb is Christ, the soul's great friend,
 The Lamb of God, our Savior,
 Whom God the Father chose to send
 To gain for us His favor.
 "Go forth, My Son," the Father said,
 "And free My children from their dread
 Of guilt and condemnation.
 The wrath and stripes are hard to bear,
 But by Your passion they will share
 The fruit of Your salvation."
- 3 "Yes, Father, yes, most willingly
 I'll bear what You command Me.
 My will conforms to Your decree,
 I'll do what You have asked Me."
 O wondrous Love, what have You done!
 The Father offers up His Son,
 Desiring our salvation.
 O Love, how strong You are to save!
 You lay the One into the grave
 Who built the earth's foundation.
- 4 Lord, when Your glory I shall see
 And taste Your kingdom's pleasure,
 Your blood my royal robe shall be,
 My joy beyond all measure!
 When I appear before Your throne,
 Your righteousness shall be my crown;
 With these I need not hide me.
 And there, in garments richly wrought,
 As Your own bride shall we be brought
 To stand in joy beside You.

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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 He does not deal with us according to our sins,
C **nor repay us according to our iniquities.**
P Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of Your name;
C **deliver us, and atone for our sins, for Your name's sake!**

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."

• **VERSES** “Lord, to You I Make Confession”

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”

Lord, on You I cast my burden—
Sink it in the deepest sea!
Let me know Your gracious pardon,
Cleansing 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 our Father, grant that, despite our failures and sins, we find redemption through our Savior Jesus Christ, and with hopeful hearts await the glory of His kingdom of eternal grace. With boldness and confidence, we ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

FIRST READING *Exodus 19:1-6*

¹On the third new moon after the people of Israel had gone out of the land of Egypt, on that day they came into the wilderness of Sinai.

²They set out from Rephidim and came into the wilderness of Sinai, and they encamped in the wilderness. There Israel encamped before the mountain, ³while Moses went up to God. The LORD called to him out of the mountain, saying, “Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the people of Israel: ⁴You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. ⁵Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; ⁶and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel.”

PSALM

Psalm 25:1-7

- P** To You, O LORD, I lift up my soul.
- C** O my God, in You I trust; let me not be put to shame;
let not my enemies exult over me.
- P** Indeed, none who wait for You shall be put to shame; they shall be
ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.
- C** Make me to know Your ways, O LORD; teach me Your paths.
- P** Lead me in Your truth and teach me, for You are the God of my
salvation; for You I wait all the day long.
- C** Remember Your mercy, O LORD, and Your steadfast love,
for they have been from of old.
- 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.

SECOND READING *1 Timothy 2:1-7*

¹First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, ²for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. ³This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁵For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, ⁶who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time. ⁷For this I was appointed a preacher and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

HOLY GOSPEL *John 18:28-38*

²⁸Then they led Jesus from the house of Caiaphas to the governor's headquarters. It was early morning. They themselves did not enter the governor's headquarters, so that they would not be defiled, but could eat the Passover. ²⁹So Pilate went outside to them and said, "What accusation do you bring against this man?" ³⁰They answered him, "If this man were not doing evil, we would not have delivered him over to you." ³¹Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law." The Jews said to him, "It is not lawful for us to put anyone to death." ³²This was to fulfill the word that Jesus had spoken to show by what kind of death he was going to die.

³³So Pilate entered his headquarters again and called Jesus and said to him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" ³⁴Jesus answered, "Do you say this of your own accord, or did others say it to you about me?" ³⁵Pilate answered, "Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered you over to me. What have you done?" ³⁶Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world." ³⁷Then Pilate said to him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice." ³⁸Pilate said to him, "What is truth?"

After he had said this, he went back outside to the Jews and told them, "I find no guilt in him.

654 “Your Kingdom, O God, Is My Glorious Treasure”

- 1 Your kingdom, O God, is my glorious treasure,
My pearl of incomp'able worth.
Its value exceeds ev'ry standard of measure,
Surpassing the wealth of the earth.
Lord, give me Your grace and the pow'r of the Spirit
To value this treasure aright
That, never allured by the world, I inherit
Your kingdom of glory and light.

- 2 Your kingdom, O God, is alive with the power
Your Word and Your Spirit bestow.
Like yeast, they affect the whole measure of flour,
Enabling Your kingdom to grow.
Empower me, Lord, as I live Your commission,
Though humble my service may be,
And bring ev'ry planting to perfect fruition,
A mustard seed grown to a tree.

- 3 Your kingdom, O God, is a field for the growing
Of seeds that Your mercy has sown;
But still in our midst is the enemy sowing
The weeds that imperil Your own.
Sustain me, O Lord, till Your day of returning
And harvest me homeward at last,
To shine in the homeland that quiets all yearning,
Where sorrow and danger are past.

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SERMON “Return to the Kingdom” *John 18:28-38*

THEME HYMN - “Break Your Hearts”

[tune: LSB 509]

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 Steward *MINUTE*

- **Offering Prayer**
(*Tonight's Offering: Worship Anew Broadcast*)

THE PRAYERS & LORD'S PRAYER

CLOSING COLLECT

- 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.

880 "Now Rest beneath Night's Shadow"

- 1 Now rest beneath night's shadow
The woodland, field, and meadow;
The world in slumber lies.
But you, my heart, awaking
And prayer and music making,
Let praise to your Creator rise.
- 2 The radiant sun has vanished,
Its golden rays are banished
From dark'ning skies of night;
But Christ, the Sun of gladness,
Dispelling all our sadness,
Shines down on us in warmest light.
- 3 Now all the heav'nly splendor
Breaks forth in starlight tender
From myriad worlds unknown;
And we, this marvel seeing,
Forget our selfish being
For joy of beauty not our own.

**4 Lord Jesus, since You love me,
Now spread Your wings above me
And shield me from alarm.
Though Satan would devour me,
Let angel guards sing o'er me:
This child of God shall meet no harm.**

**5 My loved ones, rest securely,
For God this night will surely
From peril guard your heads.
Sweet slumbers may He send you
And bid His hosts attend you
And through the night watch o'er your beds.**

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✠ Soli Deo Gloria ✠
To God Alone Be Glory

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