

LENT 2021



*Return to Prayer*

Second Midweek Service

Thursday, February 25, 2021 ♦ 7:00 p.m.



**St. John Lutheran Church**

Freedom Twp. ♦ Napoleon, Ohio

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 hymn writer 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.

## ORGAN PRELUDE & RINGING OF THE TOWER BELL

### THEME HYMN “Break Your Hearts”

[tune: LSB 509, “Christ is Surely Coming”]

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.

Text: Lisa M. Clark. Copyright © 2020 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved.

### INVOCATION

- P** In the name of the Father and of the  $\text{✠}$  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** Continue steadfastly in prayer,  
**C** **being watchful in it with thanksgiving.**  
**P** The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything,  
**C** **but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.**

### 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]
  - 1 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.
  - 3 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]

4 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 our Father, who in mercy hears all who call on You, graciously open Your ears to our petitions, and lead us by Your Spirit, that without doubting we may persevere in prayer and believingly await Your promised aid; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C** Amen.

**FIRST READING** *Genesis 32:22-30*

**PSALM**

*Psalm 121*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**C** 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.

**SECOND READING** *Romans 8:22-28*

**HOLY GOSPEL** *Matthew 26:36-46*

**SERMON HYMN - LSB 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.

SERMON "Return to Prayer" *Matthew 26:36-46*

HYMN OF RESPONSE - LSB 772 "In Holy Conversation"

- 1 In holy conversation  
We speak to God in prayer,  
And at His invitation  
Our deepest thoughts we share.  
We come, His will obeying,  
As children bringing needs;  
And to support our praying,  
His Spirit intercedes.
- 2 These holy conversations  
Begin in childlike ways;  
We bring our supplications  
And words of thanks and praise.  
With care our Father listens  
To ev'ry thought expressed,  
Then answers our petitions  
In ways He knows are best.
- 3 As holy conversation,  
In silence or by word,  
In ev'ry situation  
Through Jesus, we are heard.  
So let us pray securely,  
Expressing hopes and fears  
With confidence that surely  
Our Father ever hears.

Text: © 2004 Gregory J. Wismar. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110004474

**ORGAN OFFERTORY and Steward***MINUTE*

- Offering Prayer

**THE LITANY**  
LSB pg. 288

**LORD'S PRAYER**

- ☩ 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.

### CLOSING HYMN - LSB 738 “Lord of All Hopefulness”

#### 738 Lord of All Hopefulness

- 1 Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,  
Whose trust, ever childlike, no cares could destroy:  
Be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,  
Your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.
  
- 2 Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,  
Whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe:  
Be there at our labors, and give us, we pray,  
Your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.
  
- 3 Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,  
Your hands swift to welcome, Your arms to embrace:  
Be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,  
Your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.
  
- 4 Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,  
Whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm:  
Be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,  
Your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

Text: © Oxford University Press. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110004474

+ SOLI DEO GLORIA +