

February 24, 2021
St. Matthew Lutheran Church

Pastor Kirk Peters

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

Psalm 121:1–8

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

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

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

C ⁴Behold, he who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

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

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

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

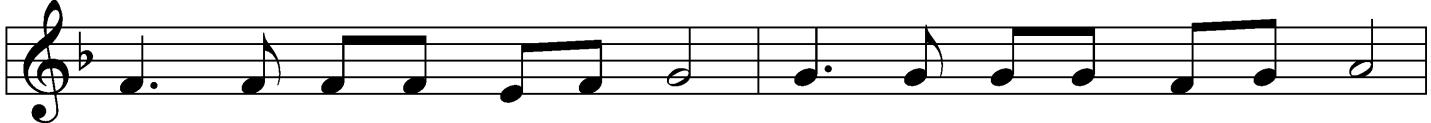
C ⁸The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore.

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

887 Now the Light Has Gone Away

sts. 1–5



1 Now the light has gone a-way; Fa-ther, lis-ten while I pray,
 2 Je-sus, Sav-ior, wash a-way All that has been wrong to-day;
 3 Let my near and dear ones be Al-ways near and dear to Thee;
 4 Now my eve-ning praise I give; Thou didst die that I might live.
 5 Thou, my best and kind-est Friend, Thou wilt love me to the end.



Ask-ing Thee to watch and keep And to send me qui-et sleep.
 Help me ev-'ry day to be Good and gen-tle, more like Thee.
 O bring me and all I love To Thy hap-py home a-bove.
 All my bless-ings come from Thee; Oh, how good Thou art to me!
 Let me love Thee more and more, Al-ways bet-ter than be-fore.

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Readings

First Reading

Genesis 32:22–30

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

²²The same night [Jacob] arose and took his two wives, his two female servants, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. ²³He took them and sent them across the stream, and everything else that he had. ²⁴And Jacob was left alone. And a man wrestled with him until the breaking of the day. ²⁵When 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. ²⁶Then he said, “Let me go, for the day has broken.” But Jacob said, “I will not let you go unless you bless me.” ²⁷And he said to him, “What is your name?” And he said, “Jacob.” ²⁸Then he said, “Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with men, and have prevailed.” ²⁹Then 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.

430 My Song Is Love Unknown

1 My song is love un - known, My Sav - ior's love to
2 He came from His blest throne Sal - va - tion to be -
3 Some - times they strew His way And His sweet prais - es
4 Why, what hath my Lord done? What makes this rage and

me, Love to the love - less shown That they might love - ly
stow; But men made strange, and none The longed - for Christ would
sing; Re - sound - ing all the day Ho - san - nas to their
spite? He made the lame to run, He gave the blind their

be. Oh, who am I That for my sake
know. But, oh, my friend, My friend in - deed,
King. Then "Cru - ci - fy!" Is all their breath,
sight. Sweet in - ju - ries! Yet they at these

My Lord should take Frail flesh and die?
Who at my need His life did spend!
And for His death They thirst and cry.
Them - selves dis - please 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!

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Second Reading

Romans 8:22–28

P A reading from Romans, the eighth chapter.

²²For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. ²³And 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. ²⁴For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

²⁶Likewise 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. ²⁷And 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. ²⁸And 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.

Break Your Hearts

Break Your Hearts



1 Break your hearts with mourn - ing And your pride in two,
2 See your Sav - ior dy - ing, Hung up - on the tree.
3 Gath - er all in num - ber From both far and near;



Ash and grief a - don - ing Your re - pen - tance true.
It is vain de - ny - ing What is plain to see:
E - ven those in slum - ber Wait for trum - pets clear.



With your tears and fast - ing, From your God dis - cern
While His heart is break - ing, Still your God will earn
When the Lord grants bless - ing, Bro - ken hearts will learn



His ways ev - er - last - ing; To your Lord re - turn.
Free - dom in the mak - ing. To your Lord re - turn.
Joy be - yond ex - press - ing; To your Lord re - turn.

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Holy Gospel

Matthew 26:36–46

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

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.”

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Responsory (Lent)

LSB 231

L Deliver me, O Lord, my God, for You are the God of my salvation.

A musical staff in G major (two sharps) and common time. It consists of two measures. The first measure has a single note on the fourth line followed by a short rest. The second measure has three notes on the fourth line, followed by a short rest. The staff ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

C Rescue me from my en - e - mies, protect me
from those who rise a - gainst me.

L In You, O Lord, do I put my trust, leave me not, O Lord,
my God.

A musical staff in G major (two sharps) and common time. It consists of two measures. The first measure has a single note on the fourth line followed by a short rest. The second measure has three notes on the fourth line, followed by a short rest. The staff ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

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C Rescue me from my en - e - mies, protect me
from those who rise a - gainst me.

Sermon

Canticle

Stand

Antiphon (Common)

LSB 231

L Let my prayer rise before You as incense,

C and the lifting up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.

Magnificat

LSB 231

C My soul mag-ni-fies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God, my Sav-iор;

I for He has re-gard - ed the lowliness of His hand-maid - en.

II For be-hold, from this day all generations will call me bless - ed.

I For the Mighty One has done great things to me, and holy is His name;

II and His mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to gen - er - a - tion.

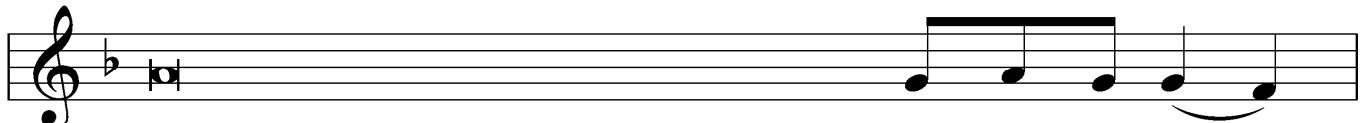
I He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the

imagination of their hearts. II He has cast down the

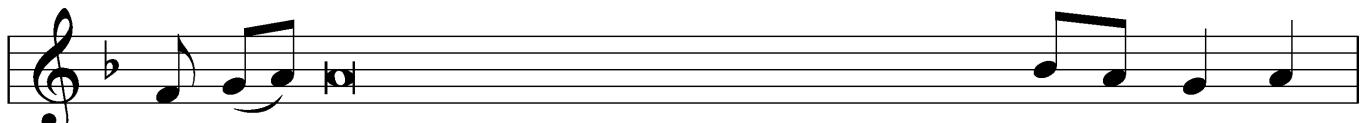
mighty from their thrones and has ex - alt - ed the low - ly.



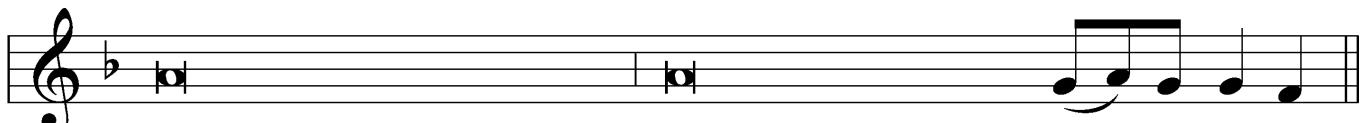
I He has filled the hun - gry with good things,



and the rich He has sent emp - ty a - way.



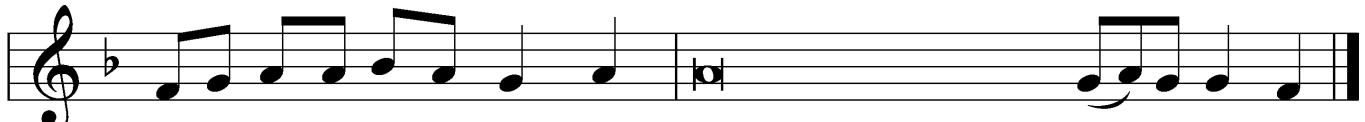
II He has helped His servant Israel in remembrance of His mer - cy



as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed for-ev-er.



C Glo - ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Spir - it;



as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for - ev - er. A-men.

Sit

Offering

~~ drop your offering in the box in the narthex, mail it, use the link on the church website or the GivePlus app.

Prayer

Kneel/Stand

Kyrie

LSB 233



C Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

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.

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.

Additional Collects of Intercession and Thanksgiving

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.

Collect at Evening

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.

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.

Stand

Benedicamus

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

Benediction

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.

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