

LENTEN VESPERS 4
ADVANCING ON THE PATH OF RIGHTEOUSNESS
April 6 & 7, 2022



† In the Name of Jesus †

Prayer before Worship: O God, You give 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. Help us, that we may not stumble at His Cross and Passion, but see in them the glory of the Only-begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. Grant that through them His strength may fill our weakness and His light our darkness; and help us not to rebel against Your will; through the Same Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

The Office of Vespers
Evangelical Lutheran Hymnary: p. 120

Hymn of Invocation: 297, *Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted*

C: Stricken, smitten, and afflicted, See Him dying on the tree!
'Tis the Christ by man rejected; Yes, my soul, 'tis He! 'tis He!
'Tis the long-expected Prophet, David's Son, yet David's Lord;
Proofs I see sufficient of it: 'Tis the true and faithful Word.

Tell me, ye who hear Him groaning, Was there ever grief like His?
Friends through fear His cause disowning, Foes insulting His distress;
Many hands were raised to wound Him, None would interpose to save;
But the deepest stroke that pierced Him Was the stroke that Justice gave.

Ye who think of sin but lightly Nor suppose the evil great
Here may view its nature rightly, Here its guilt may estimate.
Mark the Sacrifice appointed, See who bears the awful load;
'Tis the WORD, the LORD'S ANOINTED, Son of Man and Son of God.

Here we have a firm foundation; Here the refuge of the lost;
Christ's the Rock of our salvation, His the name of which we boast.
Lamb of God, for sinners wounded, Sacrifice to cancel guilt!
None shall ever be confounded Who on Him their hope have built.

Versicles: pp. 120 (*All Alleluias are omitted during Lent*)

P: O Lord, open my lips.

C: And my mouth shall show forth Your praise.

P: Make hast, O God, to deliver me.

C: Make hast to help me, O Lord.

The Gloria Patri is silent until Easter.

Psalm 57



Tone 3

Antiphon: Be exalted, O God, a'bove the heavens;/ Let Your glory be a'bove all the earth.

Psalm: Be merciful 'to me, O God,/ be mer'ciful to me!

**For my `soul trusts in You;/ And in the shadow of Your wings I will make my refuge,
Until these calamities have passed by.**

²I will cry out `to God Most High,/ To God who performs `all things for me.

**He shall send from heaven and save me; He reproaches the one who would `swallow me
up./ God shall send forth His mercy and His truth.**

⁴My soul is `among lions;/ I lie among the sons of men Who `are set on fire,
Whose teeth are `spears and arrows,/ And their `tongue a sharp sword.

⁵Be exalted, O God, a`bove the heavens;/ Let Your glory be a`bove all the earth.

They have prepared a `net for my steps;/ My `soul is bowed down;

They have dug a `pit before me;/ Into the midst of it they them` selves have fallen.

My heart is steadfast, O God, my `heart is steadfast;/ I will `sing and give praise.

⁸Awake, my glory! A`wake, lute and harp!/ I will a`waken the dawn.

I will praise You, O Lord, a`mong the peoples;/ I will sing to You a`mong the nations.

¹⁰For Your mercy reaches un`to the heavens,/ And Your truth `unto the clouds.

Be exalted, O God, a`bove the heavens;/ Let Your glory be a`bove all the earth.

Antiphon: Be exalted, O God, a`bove the heavens;/ Let Your glory be a`bove all the earth.

First Lesson: *Galatians 5:1, 4-6*

P: Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage. ... You have become estranged from Christ, you who *attempt to* be justified by law; you have fallen from grace. For we through the Spirit eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness by faith. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but faith working through love.

P: O Lord, have mercy upon us.

C: Thanks be to You, O Lord!

The History of the Passion & Death of Our Lord Jesus Christ: *St. Mark 15:21-47*

P: Then they compelled a certain man, Simon a Cyrenian, the father of Alexander and Rufus, as he was coming out of the country and passing by, to bear His cross. And they brought Him to the place Golgotha, which is translated, Place of a Skull. Then they gave Him wine mingled with myrrh to drink, but He did not take it. And when they crucified Him, they divided His garments, casting lots for them to determine what every man should take. Now it was the third hour, and they crucified Him. And the inscription of His accusation was written above: THE KING OF THE JEWS. With Him they also crucified two robbers, one on His right and the other on His left. So the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "And He was numbered with the transgressors." And those who passed by blasphemed Him, wagging their heads and saying, "Aha! You who destroy the temple and build it in three days, save Yourself, and come down from the cross!" Likewise the chief priests also, mocking among themselves with the scribes, said, "He saved others; Himself He cannot save. Let the Christ, the King of Israel, descend

now from the cross, that we may see and believe.” Even those who were crucified with Him reviled Him. Now when the sixth hour had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. And at the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, “Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?” which is translated, “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?” Some of those who stood by, when they heard that, said, “Look, He is calling for Elijah!” Then someone ran and filled a sponge full of sour wine, put it on a reed, and offered it to Him to drink, saying, “Let Him alone; let us see if Elijah will come to take Him down.” And Jesus cried out with a loud voice, and breathed His last. Then the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. So when the centurion, who stood opposite Him, saw that He cried out like this and breathed His last, he said, “Truly this Man was the Son of God!” There were also women looking on from afar, among whom were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James the Less and of Joses, and Salome, who also followed Him and ministered to Him when He was in Galilee, and many other women who came up with Him to Jerusalem. Now when evening had come, because it was the Preparation Day, that is, the day before the Sabbath, Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent council member, who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God, coming and taking courage, went in to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Pilate marveled that He was already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him if He had been dead for some time. So when he found out from the centurion, he granted the body to Joseph. Then he bought fine linen, took Him down, and wrapped Him in the linen. And he laid Him in a tomb which had been hewn out of the rock, and rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. And Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses observed where He was laid.

P: O Lord, have mercy upon us.

C: **Thanks be to You, O Lord!**

Hymn: 304, *Upon the Cross Extended*, sts. 1-6

C: **Upon the cross extended, See word, thy Lord suspended;
Thy Savior yields His breath.**

**The Prince of Life from heaven Himself hath freely given
To shame and blows and bitter death.**

**Come hither now and ponder, 'Twill fill thy soul with wonder,
Blood streams from ev'ry pore.
Through grief whose depth none knoweth,
From His great heart their floweth Sigh after sigh of anguish o'er.**

**Who is it i that hath bruised Thee? Who hath so sore abused Thee
And caused Thee all Thy woe?
While we must make confession Of sin and dire transgression,**

Thou deeds of evil dost not know.

I caused Thy grief and sighing By evils multiplying
As countless as the sands.

I caused the woes unnumbered With which Thy soul is cumbered,
Thy sorrows raised by wicked hands.

'Tis I who should be smitten, My doom should here be written:
Bound hand and foot in hell.

The fetters and the scourging, The floods around Thee surging,
'Tis I who have deserved them well.

The load Thou takest on Thee, That pressed so sorely on me,
It crushed me to the ground.

The cross for me enduring, The crown for me securing,
My healing in Thy wounds is found.

Sermon: *When All Is Believed, All Is Done*

Hymn: 304, *Upon the Cross Extended*, sts. 7-12

C: **A crown of thorns Thou wearest,** My shame and scorn Thou bearest,
That I might ransomed be.

My Bondsman, ever willing, My place with patience filling,
From sin and guilt hast made me free.

Thy cords of love, my Savior, Bind me to Thee forever,
I am no longer mine.

To Thee I gladly tender All that my life can render
And all I have to Thee resign.

The cross I'll place before me, Its saving pow'r be o'er me,
Wherever I may be;

Thine innocence revealing Thy love and mercy sealing,
The pledge of truth and constancy.

How God at our transgression To anger gives expression,
How loud His thunders roll,
How fearfully He smiteth, How sorely He requiteth, –
All this Thy suff'rings teach my soul.

**When evil men revile me, With wicked tongues defile me,
I'll curb my vengeful heart.
The unjust wrong I'll suffer, Unto my neighbor offer
Forgiveness for each bitter smart.**

**Thy groaning and Thy sighing, Thy bitter tears and dying,
With which Thou wast oppressed, –
They shall, when life is ending, Be guiding and attending
My way to Thine eternal rest.**

Evening Versicle & Magnificat: pp. 122-123

P: Let my prayers rise before You as incense:

C: And the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

C: My soul magnifies the Lord: and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.
For He has regarded: the low estate of His handmaiden:
For, behold, from henceforth: all generations shall call me blessed.
For He that is mighty has done to me great things: and holy is His name.
And His mercy is on those that fear Him: from generation to generation.
He has shown strength with His arm: He has scattered the proud in the imagination of
their hearts.

He has put down the mighty from their seats: and exalted those of low degree.
He has filled the hungry with good things: and the rich he has sent empty away.
He has helped His servant Israel in remembrance of His mercy: as He spoke to our
fathers, to Abraham, and to his seed forever.

The Gloria Patri is silent until Easter

Litany & Lord's Prayer: pp. 137-138

Kyrie eleison.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christe eleison.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Kyrie eleison.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

O Christ, hear us.

O Christ, hear us.

O God the Father in heaven,
Have mercy upon us.

O God the Son, Redeemer of the world,
Have mercy upon us.

O God the Holy Ghost, true Comforter,
Have mercy upon us.

Be gracious unto us.
Spare us, good Lord.

Be gracious unto us.
Help us, good Lord.

From all sin;
From all error;
From all evil;
Good Lord, deliver us.

From the temptations and assaults of the devil;
From sudden and evil death;
From disease and famine;
From war and bloodshed;
From sedition and rebellion;
From storms and natural disaster;
From all calamity by fire and water;
And from everlasting death:

Good Lord, deliver us.

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 Ghost, the Comforter:

Help us, good Lord.

In all time of our tribulation;
In all time of our prosperity;
In the hour of death;
And in the Day of Judgment;
Help us, good Lord.

We poor sinners do beseech You;
To hear us, O Lord God.

And to lead and govern Your holy Christian church in the right way;
To preserve all pastors and servants of Your Church in the true knowledge and understanding
of Your Word, and in holiness of life;
To put an end to all godless teaching 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;
To accompany Your Word with Your Spirit and grace;
To raise up those who fall, and to strengthen those who stand;
And to comfort and help the faint-hearted and distressed:

We beseech You to hear us, good Lord.

To give to all nations peace and concord;
To preserve our country from discord and contention;
To direct and defend our government, and all in authority;
And to bless and keep all who administer justice, and all our people:
We beseech You to hear us, good Lord.

To behold and sustain all who are in danger, necessity and tribulation;
To protect all who travel; To preserve all women in the perils of childbirth;
To strengthen and keep all sick persons and young children;
To set free all who are innocently imprisoned;
To defend and provide for all fatherless children and widows;
And to have mercy on all people:

We beseech You to hear us, good Lord.

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

We beseech You to hear us, good Lord.

O Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God;
We beseech You to hear us.

O Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world;
Have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world;
Have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world;
Grant us Your peace.

O Christ, hear us.
O Christ, hear us.

Kyrie eleison.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christe eleison.
Christ, have mercy upon us.

Kyrie eleison.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

Our Father...

Collects
For Lent

P: Merciful and everlasting God, who did not spare Your only Son, but delivered Him up for us all that He might bear our sins upon the cross, grant that our hearts may be so fixed with steadfast faith in Him that we may not fear the power of any adversaries; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

For Peace

P: O God, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works proceed, give Your servants that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments, and also that we, being defended by You from the fear of our enemies, may pass our time in rest and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

For the Evening

P: Abide with us, Lord, for it is toward evening and the day is far spent. Abide with us and with Your whole Church. Abide with us in the end of the day, in the end of our life, and in the end of the world. Abide with us with Your grace and goodness, with Your holy Word and Sacrament, with Your strength and blessing. Abide with us when the night of affliction and temptation comes upon us, the night of fear and despair when death shall come. Abide with us and with all the faithful through time and eternity; You who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Benedicamus & Benediction: p. 127

P: Let us bless the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

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.

Dismissal Hymn: 275, *We Bless Thee, Jesus Christ Our Lord*

C: We bless Thee, Jesus Christ, our Lord;

Forever be Thy name adored:

**For Thou, the sinless One, hast died,
That sinners might be justified.**

**O very Man, and very God,
Who hast redeemed us with Thy blood;
From death eternal set us free,
And make us one with God in Thee.**

**From sin and shame defend us still,
And work in us Thy steadfast will,
The cross with patience to sustain,
And bravely bear its utmost pain.**

**In Thee we trust, in Thee alone;
For Thou forsakest not Thine own;
To all the meek Thy strength is giv'n,
Who by Thy cross ascend to heav'n.**