

LENTEN VESPERS 4
PREPARING FOR EASTER:
“THIS IS THE WORD OF THE LORD”



† In the Name of Jesus †

Prayer before Worship: 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 Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

The Office of Vespers
Evangelical Lutheran Hymnary: p. 120

Hymn of Invocation: 272, *O Sinner, Come, Thy Sin to Mourn*

C: O sinner, come thy sin to mourn So vast and vile that it has borne
Christ to this vale of anguish;
Son of a Virgin, sweet and mild In poverty the Holy Child,
Thy Substitute, did languish;
Behold, with faith, God's only Son! Come nigh and see what Love has done
To save thee from damnation;
The Father cast on Him thy guilt, For thee His precious blood was spilt,
To bless thee with salvation.

O meditate, how painfully The lamb of God, on Calvary
Has died for thy transgressions;
How dreary was that awful night Of agony, how great the fight
Of His most wondrous Passion!
O Son of God, eternal Word, Divine Redeemer, dearest Lord,
We marvel at Thy suffering;
For Thy disgrace, and pain, and shame, We'll ever magnify Thy name,
And praise Thy glorious off'ring.

Versicles: pp. 120 (*Alleluias are omitted in 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.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning,
is now and ever shall be: forevermore. Amen.

Psalm 6

Tone 3



Antiphon: Christ was wounded for `our transgressions:/ He was bruised for our `iniquities.

Psalm: O LORD, do not rebuke me `in Your anger,/ Nor chasten me in Your `hot displeasure.

²Have mercy on me, O LORD, `for I am weak;/ O LORD, heal me, for my `bones are

troubled.

³My soul also is `greatly troubled;/ But You, O `LORD—how *long*?

⁴**Return, O LORD, `deliver me!// Oh, save me for `Your mercies' sake!**

⁵For in death there is no re`membrance of You;/ In the grave who `will give You thanks?

⁶**I am weary `with my groaning;/ All night I make my bed swim; I drench my `couch with my tears.**

⁷My eye wastes away `because of grief;/ It grows old because of all `my enemies.

⁸**Depart from me, all you workers of `iniquity;/ For the LORD has heard the voice `of my weeping.**

⁹The LORD has heard my `supplication;/ The LORD will `receive my prayer.

¹⁰**Let all my enemies be ashamed and `greatly troubled;/ Let them turn back and be a`shamed suddenly.**

Gloria Patri: **Glory be to the Father `and to the Son:/ And to `the Holy Ghost.**

As it was in the be`ginning, is now:/ And ever shall be, forever`more. Amen.

Antiphon: Christ was wounded for `our transgressions:/ He was bruised for our `iniquities.

First Lection: *Jonah 3:1-10*

Now the Word of the LORD came to Jonah the second time, saying, “Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and preach to it the message that I tell you.” So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, a three-day journey in extent. And Jonah began to enter the city on the first day’s walk. Then he cried out and said, “Yet forty days and Nineveh shall be overthrown!” So the people of Nineveh believed God, proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest to the least of them. Then the word came to the king of Nineveh; and he arose from his throne and laid aside his robe, covered himself with sackcloth and sat in ashes. And he caused it to be proclaimed and published throughout Nineveh by the decree of the king and his nobles, saying, “Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste anything; do not let them eat, or drink water. But let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and cry mightily to God; yes, let every one turn from his evil way and from the violence that is in his hands. Who can tell if God will turn and relent, and turn away from His fierce anger, so that we may not perish? Then God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God relented from the disaster that He had said He would bring upon them, and He did not do it.

P: O Lord, have mercy upon us.

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

Second Lection: *The Passion History of Our Lord Jesus Christ – St. Luke 23:13-43*

Then Pilate, when he had called together the chief priests, the rulers, and the people, said to them, "You have brought this Man to me, as one who misleads the people. And indeed, having

examined Him in your presence, I have found no fault in this Man concerning those things of which you accuse Him; "no, neither did Herod, for I sent you back to him; and indeed nothing deserving of death has been done by Him. "I will therefore chastise Him and release Him" (for it was necessary for him to release one to them at the feast). And they all cried out at once, saying, "Away with this Man, and release to us Barabbas" -- who had been thrown into prison for a certain rebellion made in the city, and for murder. Pilate, therefore, wishing to release Jesus, again called out to them. But they shouted, saying, "Crucify Him, crucify Him!" Then he said to them the third time, "Why, what evil has He done? I have found no reason for death in Him. I will therefore chastise Him and let Him go." But they were insistent, demanding with loud voices that He be crucified. And the voices of these men and of the chief priests prevailed. So Pilate gave sentence that it should be as they requested. And he released to them the one they requested, who for rebellion and murder had been thrown into prison; but he delivered Jesus to their will. Now as they led [Jesus] away, they laid hold of a certain man, Simon a Cyrenian, who was coming from the country, and on him they laid the cross that he might bear it after Jesus. And a great multitude of the people followed Him, and women who also mourned and lamented Him. But Jesus, turning to them, said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for Me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. "For indeed the days are coming in which they will say, 'Blessed are the barren, wombs that never bore, and breasts which never nursed!' "Then they will begin 'to say to the mountains, "Fall on us!" and to the hills, "Cover us!" ' "For if they do these things in the green wood, what will be done in the dry?" There were also two others, criminals, led with Him to be put to death. And when they had come to the place called Calvary, there they crucified Him, and the criminals, one on the right hand and the other on the left. Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do." And they divided His garments and cast lots. And the people stood looking on. But even the rulers with them sneered, saying, "He saved others; let Him save Himself if He is the Christ, the chosen of God." The soldiers also mocked Him, coming and offering Him sour wine, and saying, "If You are the King of the Jews, save Yourself." And an inscription also was written over Him in letters of Greek, Latin, and Hebrew: THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS. Then one of the criminals who were hanged blasphemed Him, saying, "If You are the Christ, save Yourself and us." But the other, answering, rebuked him, saying, "Do you not even fear God, seeing you are under the same condemnation? "And we indeed justly, for we receive the due reward of our deeds; but this Man has done nothing wrong." Then he said to Jesus, "Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom." And Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise."

P: O Lord, have mercy upon us.

C: Thanks be to You, O Lord!

Hymn: 292, *O Dearest Jesus, sts. 1-5*

**C: O dearest Jesus, what law hast Thou broken
That such sharp sentence should on Thee be spoken?
Of what great crime hast Thou to make confession –
What dark transgression?**

**They crown Thy head with thorns, they smite, they scourge Thee;
With cruel mockings to the cross they urge Thee;
They give Thee gall to drink, they still decry Thee;
They crucify Thee.**

**Whence come these sorrows, whence this mortal anguish?
It is my sins for which Thou, Lord, must languish;
Yea, all the wrath, the woe, Thou dost inherit,
This I do merit.**

**What punishment so strange is suffered yonder!
The Shepherd does for sheep that loved to wander;
The Master pays the debt His servants owe Him,
Who would not know Him.**

**The sinless Son of God must die in sadness;
The sinful child of man may live in gladness;
Man forfeited his life and is acquitted –
God is committed.**

Sermon: *This Is the Word of the Lord*

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.**

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.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be: forevermore. Amen.

Kyrie & Lord's Prayer: pp. 124-125

C: Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Our Father...

Collects (spoken)

P: Merciful and everlasting God, You 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 true God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

P: Almighty and everlasting God, You hate nothing that You have made and You forgive the sins of all those who are penitent; create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of You, the

God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ Your Son, our Lord.
C: Amen.

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.

C: 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: *305, Not All the Blood of Beasts*

**C: Not all the blood of beasts On ancient altars slain
Could give the guilty conscience peace Or wash away the stain.**

**But Christ, the heav'nly Lamb, Takes all our sins away;
A sacrifice of nobler name And richer blood than they.**

**My faith would lay its hand On that dear head of Thine
While like a penitent I stand And there confess my sin.**

**My soul looks back to see The burden Thou didst bear,
When hanging on the cursed tree, And knows its guilt was there.**

**Believing, we rejoice To see the curse remove;
We bless the Lamb with cheerful voice And sing His bleeding love.**