



Return from Exile

A LENTEN JOURNEY

Wednesday
February 28, 2018

Order of Vespers

- 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 118:22–29

- P**: The stone that the builders rejected
C: has become the cornerstone.
P: This is the Lord's doing;
C: it is marvelous in our eyes.
P: This is the day that the LORD has made;
C: let us rejoice and be glad in it.
P: Save us, we pray, O Lord!
C: O Lord, we pray, give us success!
P: Blessèd is he who comes in the name of the LORD!
C: We bless you from the house of the LORD.
P: The Lord is God, and He has made His light
C: to shine upon us.
P: Bind the festal sacrifice with cords,
C: up to the horns of the altar!
P: You are my God, and I will give thanks to You;
C: You are my God; I will extol You.
P: Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good;
C: for His steadfast love endures forever!
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.

HYMN OF THE DAY – We Are Exiles from the Garden

We are exiles from the garden,
Banished by our sinful choice,
Terrified to seek His pardon,
Hiding from our Father's voice.
Underneath the branches swaying,
Sweat and blood fall to the ground.
In the darkness, Christ is praying;
He comes forward to be bound.

Leaves will fail our vain concealing
Our true nakedness and shame.
We must rend our hearts, revealing
All our guilt and sinful blame.
Jesus takes our flesh and sentence
As His clothes are claimed below.
We fall down in true repentance;
His new robe He will bestow.

On the mount, the Lord is waiting
For the proper sacrifice.
What is worth His wrath abating?
Who could pay the dreadful price?
God the Son will be the scion.
God the Father will provide.
God the Spirit points to Zion;
There, with God, we will abide.

On this journey we are taking,
We fear not what lies in store.
Though our feeble wills are breaking,
We know Christ has gone before.
As we walk the way completed,
On His throne, the Savior waits.
Death and hell have been unseated.
We behold the open gates!

+ READINGS +

OLD TESTAMENT - *Genesis 22:1-8*

After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you." So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac. And he cut the wood for the burnt offering and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. On the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place from afar. Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; I and the boy will go over there and worship and come again to you." And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son. And he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So they went both of them together. And Isaac said to his father Abraham, "My father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." He said, "Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" Abraham said, "God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So they went both of them together.

P: O Lord, have mercy on us.

C: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE - *Hebrews 9:22, 11:17-19*

Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.

By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was in the act of offering up his only son, of whom it was said, "Through Isaac shall your offspring be named." He considered that God was able even to raise him from the dead, from which, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back.

P: O Lord, have mercy on us.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

HOLY GOSPEL - *John 3:16*

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

P: O Lord, have mercy on us.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSORY

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

C: **Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.**

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

C: **Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.**

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

C: Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.

SERMON

“Mountain to Mountain: Mount Moriah to Mount Zion”

+ MAGNIFICAT +

HYMN - My Soul Now Magnifies the Lord # 934

OFFERING

+ PRAYER +

KYRIE

C: Lord, have mercy;
Christ, have mercy;
Lord, have mercy.

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.

P: We confess, almighty God, that Your ways are mysterious, frightening, and merciful beyond measure; that You would cause Abraham to carry wood for the sacrifice of his only son; that You would cause Your only Son to carry the wood of the cross so that He might be sacrificed for us and for our salvation; that You would cause Your only Son to be bound to the cross, so that the sin and death that binds us might snap as a thread of flax when it touches fire; and that through His death, we might have life. For these mysterious blessings we thank You, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

COLLECT FOR PEACE

P: O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, 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 from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

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.**

HYMN - Lamb of God

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Acknowledgments

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