



Return from Exile

A LENTEN JOURNEY

Wednesday
March 7, 2018

Order of Vespers

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 66*

P: Shout for joy to God, all the earth; sing the glory of His name;

C: **give to Him glorious praise!**

P: Say to God, "How awesome are Your deeds!"

C: **So great is Your power**

P: that Your enemies come cringing to You.

C: **All the earth worships You and sings praises to You**

P: they sing praises to Your name.

C: **Come and see what God has done**

P: He is awesome in His deeds toward the children of man.

C: **He turned the sea into dry land**

P: they passed through the river on foot.

C: Bless our God, O peoples

P: let the sound of His praise be heard,

C: who has kept our soul among the living

P: and has not let our feet slip.

C: For You, O God, have tested us;

P: You have tried us as silver is tried.

C: You brought us into the net;

P: You laid a crushing burden on our backs

C: You let men ride over our heads;

P: we went through fire and through water;

C: yet You have brought us out to a place of abundance.

P: truly God has listened;

C: He is attentive to the voice of my prayer.

P: Blessèd be God, because He has not rejected my prayer

C: or removed His steadfast love from me!

C: Glory be to the Father and to the Son*

and to the Holy Spirit;

as it was in the be- ginning,

is now, and will be forever. Amen.

P: Shout for joy to God, all the earth; sing the glory of His name;

C: give to Him glorious praise!

Sit

OFFICE HYMN “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 - *Exodus 14:13–31*

And Moses said to the people, “Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the LORD, which He will work for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall never see again. The LORD will fight for you, and you have only to be silent.”

The LORD said to Moses, “Why do you cry to Me? Tell the people of Israel to go forward. Lift up your staff, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the people of Israel may go through the sea on dry ground. And I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they shall go in after them, and I will get glory over Pharaoh and all his host, his chariots, and his horsemen. And the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I have gotten glory over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his horsemen.”

Then the angel of God who was going before the host of Israel moved and went behind them, and the pillar of cloud moved from before them and stood behind them, coming between the host of Egypt and the host of Israel. And there was the cloud and the darkness. And it lit up the night without one coming near the other all night.

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided. And the people of Israel went into the midst of the sea on dry ground, the waters being a wall to them on their right hand and on their left. The Egyptians pursued and went in after them into the midst of the sea, all Pharaoh’s

horses, his chariots, and his horsemen. And in the morning watch the LORD in the pillar of fire and of cloud looked down on the Egyptian forces and threw the Egyptian forces into a panic, clogging their chariot wheels so that they drove heavily. And the Egyptians said, “Let us flee from before Israel, for the LORD fights for them against the Egyptians.”

Then the LORD said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand over the sea, that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots, and upon their horsemen.” So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the sea returned to its normal course when the morning appeared. And as the Egyptians fled into it, the LORD threw the Egyptians into the midst of the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the horsemen; of all the host of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea, not one of them remained. But the people of Israel walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters being a wall to them on their right hand and on their left.

Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the hand of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great power that the LORD used against the Egyptians, so the people feared the LORD, and they believed in the LORD and in His servant Moses.

P: O Lord, have mercy on us.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE - *Hebrews 3:12–4:3a*

Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called “today,” that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. For we have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end. As it is said,

“Today if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion.”

For who were those who heard and yet rebelled? Was it not all those who left Egypt led by Moses? And with whom was He provoked for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness? And to whom did He swear that they would not enter His rest, but to those who were disobedient? So we see that they were unable to enter because of unbelief.

Therefore, while the promise of entering His rest still stands, let us fear lest any of you should seem to have failed to reach it. For good news came to us just as to them, but the message they heard did not benefit them, because they were not united by faith with those who listened. For we who have believed enter that rest, as He has said,

“As I swore in My wrath,

“They shall not enter My rest,””

although His works were finished from the foundation of the world.

P: O Lord, have mercy on us.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

HOLY GOSPEL - *Mark 1:9-13*

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And when He came up out of the water, immediately He saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit descending on Him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are My beloved Son; with You I am well pleased."

The Spirit immediately drove Him out into the wilderness. And He was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. And He was with the wild animals, and the angels were ministering to Him.

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.**

Small Catechism - *Fourth Part of Baptism*

P: What does such baptizing with water indicate?

C: It indicates that the Old Adam in us should by daily contrition and repentance be drowned and die with all sins and evil desires, and that a new man should daily emerge and arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.

P: Where is this written?

C: St. Paul writes in Romans chapter six: “We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.” (*Rom. 6:4*)

SERMON “Out of Egypt: Through the Water”

+ CANTICLE - *MAGNIFICAT* +

Stand

HYMN “My Soul Now Magnifies the Lord”

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OFFERING

+ PRAYER +

Kneel/Stand

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.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

P: O God, our shelter and our fortress, give us courage
to resist the devil, to stand firm and see Your
salvation which You work for us this day in the
death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus delivered to
us through Word and Sacrament; through the same
Jesus Christ our Lord.
C: Amen.

LITANY

P: O Lord,
C: have mercy.
P: O Christ,
C: have mercy.
P: O Lord,
C: have mercy.
P: O Christ,

C: hear us.

P: God the Father in heaven,

C: have mercy.

P: God the Son, Redeemer of the world,

C: have mercy.

P: God the Holy Spirit,

C: have mercy.

P: Be gracious to us.

C: Spare us, good Lord.

P: When we pass through the waters,

C: help us, good Lord.

P: When we pass through rivers,

C: help us, good Lord.

P: When we walk through fire,

C: help us, good Lord.

P: To turn our hearts to You; to turn the hearts of our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers; and graciously to hear our prayers:

C: We implore You to hear us, good Lord.

P: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,

C: we implore You to hear us.

P: Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C: have mercy.

P: Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C: have mercy.

P: Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C: grant us Your peace.

P: O Christ,

C: hear us.

P: O Lord,

C: have mercy.

P: O Christ,

C: have mercy.

P: O Lord,

C: have mercy. Amen.

COLLECT

P: O Almighty God, our Redeemer, be with us when we pass through the waters and walk through fire, that we may be brought to the place of Your ultimate goodness and eternal gifts; for You are one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C: Amen.

P: Father and Lord of life, even as the parents of Moses refused to throw their baby boy into the drowning waters of the Nile River, and even as they refused to obey the false gods and authorities of their time, give courage to us and all people in our time to protect the lives of all babies, both those outside their mothers' wombs, and those on the inside; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: Lord God, our Deliverer, You have brought us through the waters of Baptism as on dry ground; grant that we, who have risen with Christ to walk in newness of life may bring glory to Your holy name; 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.

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.

HYMN “God’s Own Child, I Gladly Say It”

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Acknowledgments

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