



Return from Exile

A LENTEN JOURNEY

Wednesday
March 4, 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 +

P: To You, O LORD,

C: **I lift up my soul.**

P: O my God, in You I trust;

C: **let me not be put to shame;**

P: Make me to know Your ways, O Lord;

C: **teach me Your paths.**

P: Lead me in Your truth and teach me,

C: **for You are the God of my salvation;**

P: Remember Your mercy, O Lord,

C: **and Your steadfast love,**

P: Remember not the sins of my youth

C: **or my transgressions;**

P: according to Your steadfast love remember me,

C: for the sake of Your goodness, O LORD!

P: My eyes are ever toward the LORD,

C: for He will pluck my feet out of the net.

P: Turn to me and be gracious to me,

C: for I am lonely and afflicted.

P: The troubles of my heart are enlarged;

C: bring me out of my distresses.

P: Consider my affliction and my trouble,

C: and forgive all my sins.

P: Consider how many are my foes,

C: and with what violent hatred they hate me.

P: Oh, guard my soul, and deliver me!

C: Let me not be put to shame,

P: Redeem Israel, O God,

C: out of all his troubles.

**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.**

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 *Genesis 2:15; 3:22–24*

^{2:15} The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.

^{3:22} Then the LORD God said, “Behold, the man has become like one of us in knowing good and evil. Now, lest he reach out his hand and take also of the tree of life and eat, and live forever—” ²³ therefore the LORD God sent him out from the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken. ²⁴ He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.

P: O Lord, have mercy on us.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE *1 Peter 2:21–25*

²¹ For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in His steps. ²² He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in His mouth. ²³ When He was reviled, He did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but continued entrusting Himself to Him who judges justly. ²⁴ He Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By His wounds you have been healed. ²⁵ For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

P: O Lord, have mercy on us.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

HOLY GOSPEL *John 3:14–15*

¹⁴ And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up,
¹⁵ that whoever believes in Him may have eternal life.

P: O Lord, have mercy on us.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSORY

LENT

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 “Tree to Tree: The Tree of Life to the Cross”

+ CANTICLE +

Stand

HYMN - "My Soul Now Magnifies the Lord" # 934

Sit

OFFERING

+ PRAYER +

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: We praise You, our Father in heaven, that Your Son, Jesus Christ, accomplished the salvation of mankind by the tree of the cross that, where death arose, there life also might rise again and that the serpent who overcame by the tree of the garden might likewise by the tree of the cross be overcome. Keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, that we may lay aside every weight and sin which clings so closely; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

ADDITIONAL COLLECTS OF INTERCESSION AND THANKSGIVING

COLLECT

P: Gracious Creator, when You look for us, we hide because all of creation is infected with the parasite of sin. Have mercy on us. We thank You that You have covered us with Christ in Baptism instead of flimsy leaves. Therefore, give us hope to share in the better leaves of the tree of life which are for the healing of the nations, that we may always live before You as You created us without sin; 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 - “The Tree of Life”

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Acknowledgments

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