



*Return from Exile*

A LENTEN JOURNEY

Wednesday  
March 21, 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 126

**P**: When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,

**C**: **we were like those who dream.**

**P**: Then our mouth was filled with laughter,

**C**: **and our tongue with shouts of joy;**

**P**: then they said among the nations,

**C**: **“The LORD has done great things for them.”**

**P**: The LORD has done great things

**C**: **for us; we are glad.**

**P**: Restore our fortunes, O LORD,

**C**: **like streams in the Negeb!**

**P**: Those who sow in tears

**C**: **shall reap with shouts of joy!**

**P**: He who goes out weeping,

**C**: **bearing the seed for sowing,**

**P**: shall come home with shouts of joy,

**C**: **bringing his sheaves with him.**

**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 *Joshua 3:1–6*

<sup>1</sup> Then Joshua rose early in the morning and they set out from Shittim. And they came to the Jordan, he and all the people of Israel, and lodged there before they passed over. <sup>2</sup> At the end of three days the officers went through the camp <sup>3</sup> and commanded the people, “As soon as you see the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God being carried by the Levitical priests, then you shall set out from your place and follow it. <sup>4</sup> Yet there shall be a distance between you and it, about 2,000 cubits in length. Do not come near it, in order that you may know the way you shall go, for you have not passed this way before.” <sup>5</sup> Then Joshua said to the people, “Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the LORD will do wonders among you.” <sup>6</sup> And Joshua said to the priests, “Take up the ark of the covenant and pass on before the people.” So they took up the ark of the covenant and went before the people.

**P**: O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C**: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE *Philippians 3:12–21*

<sup>12</sup> Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me His own. <sup>13</sup> Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, <sup>14</sup> I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. <sup>15</sup> Let those of

us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you. <sup>16</sup> Only let us hold true to what we have attained.

<sup>17</sup> Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us. <sup>18</sup> For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. <sup>19</sup> Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things. <sup>20</sup> But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>21</sup> who will transform our lowly body to be like His glorious body, by the power that enables Him even to subject all things to Himself.

**P**: O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C**: **Thanks be to God.**

#### HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 3:13; 4:1–2*

<sup>3:13</sup> Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him.

<sup>4:1</sup> Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. <sup>2</sup> And after fasting forty days and forty nights, He was hungry.

**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 “The Wilderness to the Promised Land”

+ CANTICLE: *MAGNIFICAT*+

*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

- L** O Lord, hear my prayer.  
**C** And let my cry come to You.

## COLLECT OF THE DAY

- P** Father, in the cross You assign to each of Your Son's followers, we pass through fire and through water. Give us grace to be faithful even to the point of death, that in the end we may enjoy with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C** Amen.
- P** Father, in Your Son, You have called us to be strangers and pilgrims on this earth. Give us grace to see Your Son with the eyes of faith as He is revealed to us in the Holy Scriptures, that we may follow Him faithfully all our days until we reach the place of our true and blessed citizenship; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C** Amen.

**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

**L** 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 “I Walk in Danger All the Way”

#716

#### Acknowledgments

Vespers from *Lutheran Service Book* © 2006 Concordia Publishing House.

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.