

# Zion Lutheran Church



March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021  
Evening Service

Lent – Week 4

## Return from Denial

In one of the classic hymns associated with the season of Lent, Scottish-born writer James Montgomery, author of over four hundred hymns, penned this thoughtful prayer: "In the hour of trial, Jesus, plead for me Lest by base denial I depart from Thee" (*LW* 511:1). Although the language of the hymn reflects the era in which it was written almost two hundred years ago, the central concern is as valid today as it was when the stanza was written. The phrase "base denial" calls to mind the disciple Peter, who disowns his Lord while in the courtyard of the house of the high priest. At times in our lives, we may be tempted to deny our Lord and to act as though our faith is not central to who we are. It is then that we can draw strength from remembering the forgiveness won for us by our suffering Lord, who calls us even from "base denial" to return to Him.

## Order of Vespers

### Opening Hymn: On My Heart Imprint Your Image #422



On my heart im - print Your im - age, Bless - ed Je - sus, King of grace,



That life's rich-es, cares, and plea-sures Nev - er may Your work e-rase;



Let the clear in - scrip-tion be: Je - sus, cru - ci - fied for me,



Is my life, my hope's foun-da-tion, And my glo-ry and sal-va - tion!

Text and tune: Public domain

**P**: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C**: Amen.

**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.

+ READINGS +

### **First Reading -- Isaiah 59:1–3, 12–13**

Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save,  
or His ear dull, that it cannot hear;  
but your iniquities have made a separation  
between you and your God,  
and your sins have hidden His face from you  
so that He does not hear.  
For your hands are defiled with blood  
and your fingers with iniquity;  
your lips have spoken lies;  
your tongue mutters wickedness.  
For our transgressions are multiplied before You,  
and our sins testify against us;  
for our transgressions are with us,  
and we know our iniquities:  
transgressing, and denying the LORD,  
and turning back from following our God,  
speaking oppression and revolt,  
conceiving and uttering from the heart lying words.

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

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

### **Second Reading -- 1 Peter 5:6–10**

Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time He may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on Him, because He cares for you. Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.

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

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

### Third Reading -- Luke 22:54–62

Then they seized Him and led Him away, bringing Him into the high priest's house, and Peter was following at a distance. And when they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat down among them. Then a servant girl, seeing him as he sat in the light and looking closely at him, said, "This man also was with Him." But he denied it, saying, "Woman, I do not know Him." And a little later someone else saw him and said, "You also are one of them." But Peter said, "Man, I am not." And after an interval of about an hour still another insisted, saying, "Certainly this man also was with Him, for he too is a Galilean." But Peter said, "Man, I do not know what you are talking about." And immediately, while he was still speaking, the rooster crowed. And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the saying of the Lord, how He had said to him, "Before the rooster crows today, you will deny Me three times." And he went out and wept bitterly.

**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 Hymn -- Break Your Hearts



1 Break your hearts with mourn - ing    And your pride in two,  
2 See your Sav - ior dy - ing,    Hung up - on the tree.  
3 Gath - er all in num - ber    From both far and near;



Ash and grief a - dorn - ing    Your re - pen - tance true.  
It is vain de - ny - ing    What is plain to see:  
E - ven those in slum - ber    Wait for trum - pets clear.



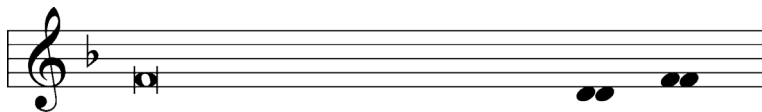
With your tears and fast - ing,    From your God dis - cern  
While His heart is break - ing,    Still your God will earn  
When the Lord grants bless - ing,    Bro - ken hearts will learn



His ways ev - er - last - ing:    To your Lord re - turn.  
Free - dom in the mak - ing.    To your Lord re - turn.  
Joy be - yond ex - press - ing;    To your Lord re - turn.

## Sermon

### + CANTICLE - *MAGNIFICAT* +

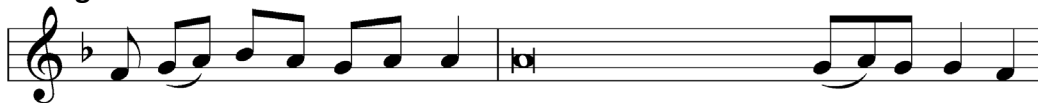


**L** Let my prayer rise before You as in - cense,



**C** and the lifting up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.

## Magnificat



**C** My soul mag-ni-fies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God, my Sav-ior;



**I** for He has re-gard - ed the lowliness of His hand-maid - en.



**II** For be-hold, from this day all generations will call me bless - ed.



**I** For the Mighty One has done great things to me, and holy is His name;



**II** and His mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to gen - er - a - tion.



**I** He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the



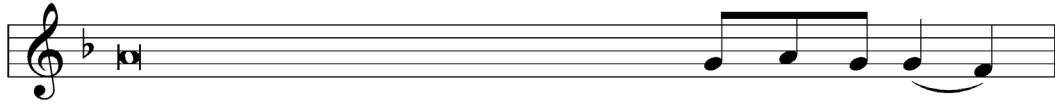
imagination of their hearts. **II** He has cast down the



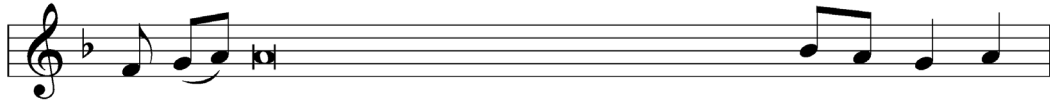
might-y from their thrones and has ex - alt - ed the low - ly.



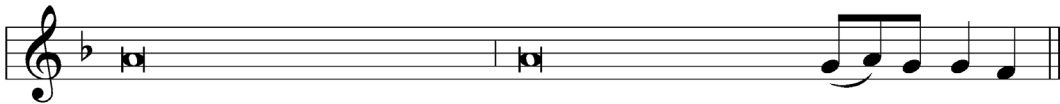
**I** He has filled the hun - gry with good things,



and the rich He has sent emp - ty a - way.



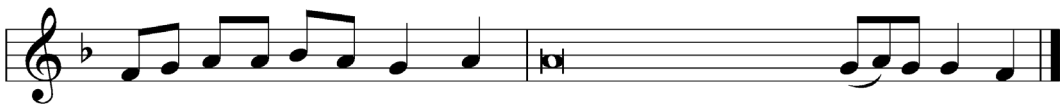
**II** He has helped His servant Israel in remembrance of His mer - cy



as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed for-ev - er.



**C** Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Spir - it;



as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men.

+ PRAYER +

### Kyrie

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



## Lord's Prayer

**G:** 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.**

**P:** In the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, at His command, and with His own words, we receive His testament:

## The Words of Our Lord

**P:** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My + body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My T blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

## Distribution

### Collects

**P:** O Lord, hear my prayer.

**G:** **And let my cry come to You.**

**P:** Lord God, Your Gospel Word supports us through both good times and bad. Forgive us for the times when our words deny You. Restore us, so that the words we speak bless both You and the people entrusted to our care; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

**P**: Let us bless the Lord.

**C**: Thanks be to God.

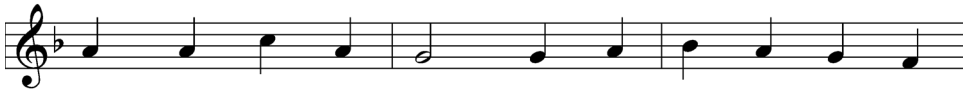
**P**: The grace of our Lord + Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C**: Amen.

**Closing Hymn: I Lie, O Lord, Within Your Care #885**



1 I lie, O Lord, with - in Your care, A -  
2 Lord, You a - lone keep con - stant watch; My  
3 When shad - ows fall, I will not dwell On  
4 It is e - nough that You are near; I



wake or when I'm sleep - ing. Who - ev - er trusts in  
rest - less heart You qui - et. When dark - ness fills the  
trou - bles that dis - tress me, Nor let some pain - ful  
need not now dis - cov - er What hid - den plans You



Your strong arms Is safe with - in Your keep - ing.  
night with fear, I will by faith de - fy it.  
mem - o - ry Em - bit - ter and op - press me.  
have for me, My fu - ture's path un - cov - er.

5 Tomorrow's road I cannot trace  
Nor know what ills will meet me.  
You only ask that I be still  
And trust You there will greet me.

7 Though troubles still may cloud the sky,  
I'll see beyond them shining  
A light to show some hidden way—  
A way of Your designing.

6 Each dawning day to which I wake  
Will show Your hand still guiding  
And ev'ry good my life requires  
Your grace again providing.

8 Since You have gently touched my eyes,  
I'll sleep through tears of sorrow.  
Though long the night, my God, my friend,  
Will be my guide tomorrow.

*Please leave your bulletin on the pew where you were seated to assist our custodian with sanitizing the pews following the service.*