



## **Lenten Vespers II**

**February 24, 2021**

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH (LCMS)

EFFINGHAM, IL.

### **A CALL TO RETURN**

**Welcome.** Through the words of the prophet Joel, God called to His people and commanded that they turn from their sinful ways and return to Him for His grace and blessings. The images the prophet uses are vivid and disturbing. The situation of God's people is desperate and needs immediate attention. This is a time for listening and responding to the call to return to faithfulness to the God who has ever been faithful to His people. "Return to the Lord, your God" is more than a verse sung as part of the liturgy. It is a heartfelt directive for our lives as together we follow the pathway of Lent.

### **Call to Worship**

### **Prelude**

### **Welcome**

## 423 Jesus, Refuge of the Weary

- 1 Jesus, refuge of the weary,  
Blest Redeemer, whom we love,  
Fountain in life's desert dreary,  
Savior from the world above:  
Often have Your eyes, offended,  
Gazed upon the sinner's fall;  
Yet upon the cross extended,  
You have borne the pain of all.
  
- 2 Do we pass that cross unheeding,  
Breathing no repentant vow,  
Though we see You wounded, bleeding,  
See Your thorn-encircled brow?  
Yet Your sinless death has brought us  
Life eternal, peace, and rest;  
Only what Your grace has taught us  
Calms the sinner's deep distress.
  
- 3 Jesus, may our hearts be burning  
With more fervent love for You;  
May our eyes be ever turning  
To behold Your cross anew  
Till in glory, parted never  
From the blessed Savior's side,  
Graven in our hearts forever,  
Dwell the cross, the Crucified.

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### Opening Versicles

- 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.**

*Joel 2:13b*

P Return to the LORD, your God,

C **for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.**

*(silence for reflection)*

### **Collect of the Day**

P O Lord God, You led Your ancient people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide the people of Your Church that following our Savior we may walk through the wilderness of this world toward the glory of the world to come; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

### **Reading**

*Jeremiah 15:19–21*

<sup>19</sup>Thus says the LORD: “If you return, I will restore you, and you shall stand before me. If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless, you shall be as my mouth. They shall turn to you, but you shall not turn to them. <sup>20</sup>And I will make you to this people a fortified wall of bronze; they will fight against you, but they shall not prevail over you, for I am with you to save you and deliver you, declares the LORD. <sup>21</sup>I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked, and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.”

## Psalm

*Psalm 23*

<sup>1</sup>The LORD is my shepherd;

**I shall not want.**

<sup>2</sup>He makes me lie down in green pastures.

**He leads me beside still waters.**

<sup>3</sup>He restores my soul.

**He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.**

<sup>4</sup>Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I will fear no evil, for you are with me;

**your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

<sup>5</sup>You prepare a table before me in the presence of my  
enemies;

**you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.**

<sup>6</sup>Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my  
life,

**and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

## Reading

*John 15:18–27*

[Jesus said,] <sup>18</sup>“If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. <sup>19</sup>If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. <sup>20</sup>Remember the word that I said to you: ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours. <sup>21</sup>But all these things they will do to you on account of my name, because they do not know him who sent me. <sup>22</sup>If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have been guilty of sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin. <sup>23</sup>Whoever hates me hates my Father also.

<sup>24</sup>If I had not done among them the works that no one else did, they would not be guilty of sin, but now they have seen and hated both me and my Father. <sup>25</sup>But the word that is written in their Law must be fulfilled: 'They hated me without a cause.'

<sup>26</sup>"But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me. <sup>27</sup>And you also will bear witness, because you have been with me from the beginning.

**Responsory** (*spoken*)

*LSB 230*

P Teach me Your way, O Lord, that I may walk in Your truth.

**C Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.**

P Unite my heart to fear Your name that I may walk in Your truth.

**C Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.**

P Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

**C Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.**

**655 Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word**

1 Lord, keep us steadfast in Your Word;  
Curb those who by deceit or sword  
Would wrest the kingdom from Your Son  
And bring to naught all He has done.

- 2 Lord Jesus Christ, Your pow’r make known,  
For You are Lord of lords alone;  
Defend Your holy Church that we  
May sing Your praise eternally.
- 3 O Comforter of priceless worth,  
Send peace and unity on earth;  
Support us in our final strife  
And lead us out of death to life.

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## Sermon

*“Return to The Lord, Who Restores You”*

## Kyrie

LSB 233

P Lord, have mercy;

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

## Prayer of the Church

### 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.**

## 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

*LSB 234*

P Let us bless the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

## Benediction

*LSB 234*

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.**

## 424 O Christ You Walked the Road

- 1 O Christ, You walked the road  
Our wand'ring feet must go.  
You faced with us temptation's pow'r  
And fought our ancient foe.
- 2 No bread of earth alone  
Can fill our hung'ring hearts.  
Lord, help us seek Your living Word,  
The food Your grace imparts.

- 3 No blinding sign we ask,  
No wonder from above.  
Lord, help us place our trust alone  
In Your unswerving love.
- 4 When lures of easy gain  
With promise brightly shine,  
Lord, help us seek Your kingdom first;  
Our wills with Yours align.
- 5 O Christ, You walked the road  
Our wand'ring feet must go.  
Stay with us through temptation's hour  
To fight our ancient foe

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*Welcome to worship with*

**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH (MISSOURI SYNOD)**

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Services: 4:00 & 5:30 pm Saturday 8:00 & 10:30am Sunday

Christian Education Sun. 9:15 am Sundays

*"A Fellowship of Hope, Teaching, Serving, and Proclaiming"*

Mike Burdick, Sr. Pastor Gary Fortkamp, Visitation Pastor Sandy Esker, Preschool Director

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Organists: Linda White & Jamie Lotz

Elders: Jim Schroeder & Keith Knight

## **Acknowledgments**

Vespers from Lutheran Service Book

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