



Lenten Vespers III
March 3, 2021

Call to Worship

Prelude

Welcome

907 God Himself Is Present

- 1 God Himself is present:
Let us now adore Him
And with awe appear before Him.
God is in His temple;
All within keep silence;
Humbly kneel in deepest rev'rence.
He alone
On His throne
Is our God and Savior;
Praise His name forever!

- 2 God Himself is present:
Hear the harps resounding;
See the hosts the throne surrounding.
“Holy, holy, holy!”
Hear the hymn ascending,
Songs of saints and angels blending.
Bow Your ear
To us here:
Hear, O Christ, the praises
That Your Church now raises.
- 3 Fount of ev’ry blessing,
Purify my spirit,
Trusting only in Your merit.
Like the holy angels,
Worshiping before You,
May I ceaselessly adore You.
Let Your will
Ever still
Rule Your Church terrestrial
As the hosts celestial.

Text: Public domain

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.**

P Return to the LORD, your God, *Joel 2:13b*
C **for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and
abounding in steadfast love.**

(silence for reflection)

Collect of the Day

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy, be gracious to all who have gone astray from Your ways and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of Your Word; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

Reading

Isaiah 44:21–28

²¹Remember these things, O Jacob, and Israel, for you are my servant; I formed you; you are my servant; O Israel, you will not be forgotten by me. ²²I have blotted out your transgressions like a cloud and your sins like mist; return to me, for I have redeemed you. ²³Sing, O heavens, for the LORD has done it; shout, O depths of the earth; break forth into singing, O mountains, O forest, and every tree in it! For the LORD has redeemed Jacob, and will be glorified in Israel. ²⁴Thus says the LORD, your Redeemer, who formed you from the womb: “I am the LORD, who made all things, who alone stretched out the heavens, who spread out the earth by myself, ²⁵who frustrates the signs of liars and makes fools of diviners, who turns wise men back and makes their knowledge foolish, ²⁶who confirms the word of his servant and fulfills the counsel of his

messengers, who says of Jerusalem, 'She shall be inhabited,' and of the cities of Judah, 'They shall be built, and I will raise up their ruins'; ²⁷who says to the deep, 'Be dry; I will dry up your rivers'; ²⁸who says of Cyrus, 'He is my shepherd, and he shall fulfill all my purpose'; saying of Jerusalem, 'She shall be built,' and of the temple, 'Your foundation shall be laid.'"

Reading

Psalm 85

¹LORD, you were favorable to your land;
you restored the fortunes of Jacob.

²You forgave the iniquity of your people;
you covered all their sin.

³You withdrew all your wrath;
you turned from your hot anger.

⁴Restore us again, O God of our salvation,
and put away your indignation toward us!

⁵Will you be angry with us forever?
Will you prolong your anger to all generations?

⁶Will you not revive us again,
that your people may rejoice in you?

⁷Show us your steadfast love, O LORD,
and grant us your salvation.

⁸Let me hear what God the LORD will speak,
**for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints;
but let them not turn back to folly.**

⁹Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him,
that glory may dwell in our land.

¹⁰Steadfast love and faithfulness meet;
righteousness and peace kiss each other.

¹¹Faithfulness springs up from the ground,
and righteousness looks down from the sky.

¹²Yes, the LORD will give what is good,
and our land will yield its increase.

¹³Righteousness will go before him
and make his footsteps a way.

Reading

John 8:21–36

²¹[Jesus said,] “I am going away, and you will seek me, and you will die in your sin. Where I am going, you cannot come.” ²²So the Jews said, “Will he kill himself, since he says, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come’?” ²³He said to them, “You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world. ²⁴I told you that you would die in your sins, for unless you believe that I am he you will die in your sins.” ²⁵So they said to him, “Who are you?” Jesus said to them, “Just what I have been telling you from the beginning. ²⁶I have much to say about you and much to judge, but he who sent me is true, and I declare to the world what I have heard from him.” ²⁷They did not understand that he had been speaking to them about the Father. ²⁸So Jesus said to them, “When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he, and that I do nothing on my own authority, but speak just as the Father taught me. ²⁹And he who sent me is with me. He has not left me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to him.” ³⁰As he was saying these things, many believed in him.

³¹So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³²and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

³³They answered him, “We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, ‘You will become free’?”

³⁴Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. ³⁶So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

Responsory *(spoken)*

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.

560 Drawn to the Cross, Which Thou Hast Blessed

1 Drawn to the cross, which Thou hast blessed
With healing gifts for souls distressed,
To find in Thee my life, my rest,
Christ crucified, I come.

- 2 Thou knowest all my griefs and fears,
Thy grace abused, my misspent years;
Yet now to Thee with contrite tears,
Christ crucified, I come.
- 3 Wash me and take away each stain;
Let nothing of my sin remain.
For cleansing, though it be through pain,
Christ crucified, I come.
- 4 And then for work to do for Thee,
Which shall so sweet a service be
That angels well might envy me,
Christ crucified, I come. Text: Public domain

Sermon

“Return to Your Redeemer”

Kyrie

P Lord, have mercy;

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

Prayer of the Church

Lord’s Prayer

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. **Amen.**

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.**

539 Christ Is the World's Redeemer

(alternate tune: #443 "Hosanna, Loud Hosanna")

- 1 Christ is the world's Redeemer,
The lover of the pure,
The font of heav'nly wisdom,
Our trust and hope secure,
The armor of His soldiers,
The Lord of earth and sky,
Our health while we are living,
Our life when we shall die.

- 2 Christ has our host surrounded
With clouds of martyrs bright,
Who wave their palms in triumph
And fire us for the fight.
Then Christ the cross ascended
To save a world undone
And, suff'ring for the sinful,
Our full redemption won.

3 Down through the realm of darkness
He strode in victory,
And at the hour appointed
He rose triumphantly.
And now, to heav'n ascended,
He sits upon the throne
Whence He had ne'er departed,
His Father's and His own.

4 Glory to God the Father,
The unbegotten One,
All honor be to Jesus,
His sole-begotten Son,
And to the Holy Spirit—
The perfect Trinity.
Let all the worlds give answer:
Amen! So let it be.

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Welcome to worship with

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH (MISSOURI SYNOD)

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Our Preschool: Eaglesnestpreschool.com Preschool E-mail
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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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Elders: Todd Zeigler & Jim Schroeder

Acknowledgments

Vespers from Lutheran Service Book

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