

Welcome to Resurrection Lutheran

Feb 24, 2021

Midweek in Lent - 1



In Christ the Cornerstone...Living His Word, Sharing His Love

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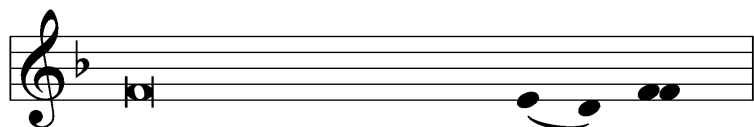
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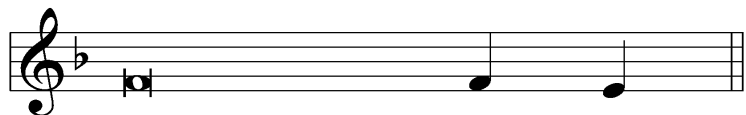
Midweek in Lent - 1 “Return to Prayer”

This sermon focuses our attention on Peter, James, and John in the Garden of Gethsemane and explores the topic of prayer. God commands us to pray, but we seldom do a very good job of it. Through the apostle Paul, we are exhorted to “pray without ceasing” (1 Thessalonians 5:17), and yet none of us manages actually to do so. Peter, James, and John accompany Jesus to the garden, where He prays. His command to them is actually a little softer; it is not that they are to pray, but only that they “watch with Me” (Matthew 26:38), while He does the praying. They are unable to do even that, and they doze off. This time the command is that they “watch and pray.” And so it goes. Our prayer life ebbs and flows; we have seasons of abundant prayer and seasons of drought. Throughout all of it, though, Jesus prays consistently. Indeed, “the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words” (Romans 8:26). When God calls us to pray, He provides the means to do so and even fulfills what we ourselves are unable to do. So also Jesus takes our sins upon Himself and dies on the cross, satisfying the wrath of God and fulfilling what we ourselves are unable to do.

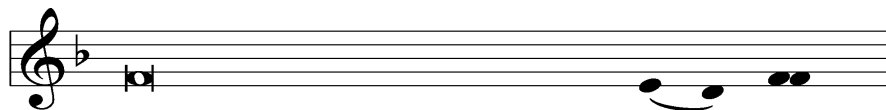
Versicles (Lent)



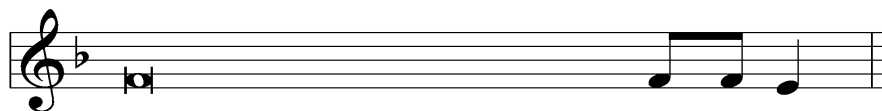
L Now is the time of God's fa - vor;



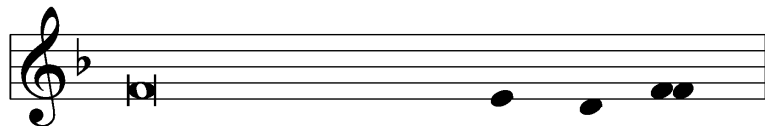
C now is the day of sal - va - tion.



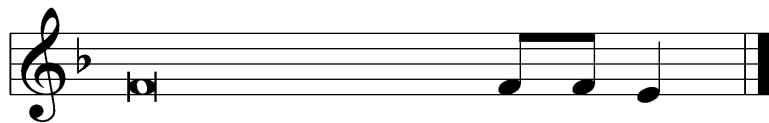
L Turn us again, O God of our sal - va - tion,



C that the light of Your face may shine on us.



L May Your justice shine like the sun;



C and may the poor be lift - ed up.



L Joy - ous light of glo - ry:



C of the im - mor - tal Fa - ther; heav - en - ly, ho - ly,



bless - ed Je - sus Christ. We have come to the



set - ting of the sun, and we look to the eve - ning light.



We sing to God, the Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Spir-it:



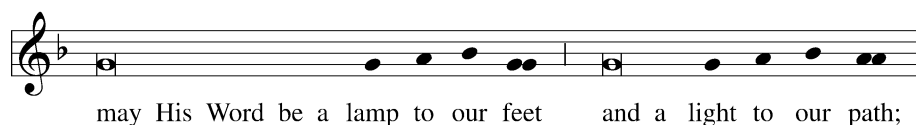
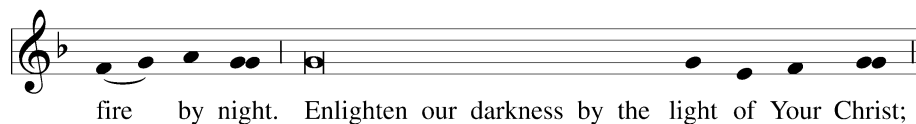
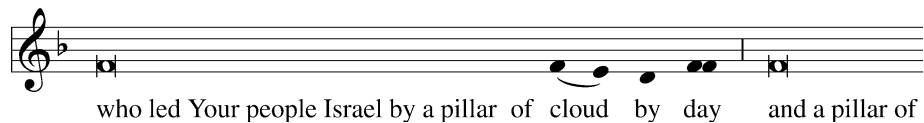
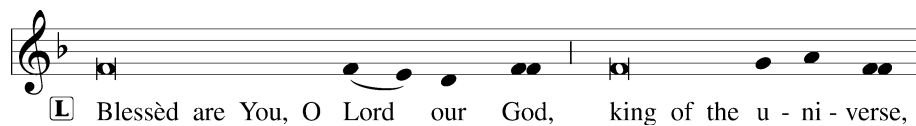
You are wor - thy of be - ing praised with pure voic - es for -



ev - er. O Son of God, O Giv - er of life:



the u - ni - verse pro - claims Your glo - ry.





C Let my prayer rise be - fore You as in - cense,



the lift - ing up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.



I O Lord, I call to You; come to me quick - ly; hear my voice



when I cry to You. **C** Let my prayer rise be - fore You as in - cense,



the lift - ing up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.



II Set a watch be - fore my mouth, O Lord, and guard the door of my lips.



I Let not my heart in - cline to an - y e - vil thing;



let me not be oc - cu - pied in wick - ed - ness with e - vil - do - ers.



II But my eyes are turned to You, O God; in You I take ref - uge.



Strip me not of my life. **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.

C Let my prayer rise be - fore You as in - cense,

the lift - ing up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.

Psalm Prayer

- P** Let us pray. Let the incense of our repentant prayer ascend before You, O Lord, and let Your loving-kindness descend on us that, with purified minds, we may sing Your praises with the Church on earth and the whole heavenly host and may glorify You forever.
- C** Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT Reading

Jacob Wrestles with God

²²The same night [Jacob] arose and took his two wives, his two female servants, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. ²³He took them and sent them across the stream, and everything else that he had. ²⁴And Jacob was left alone. And a man wrestled with him until the breaking of the day. ²⁵When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he touched his hip socket, and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. ²⁶Then he said, "Let me go, for the day has broken." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go unless you bless me." ²⁷And he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." ²⁸Then he said, "Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with men, and have prevailed." ²⁹Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. ³⁰So Jacob called the name of the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life has been delivered."

- P** O Lord, have mercy on us.
- C** Thanks be to God.



²²For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. ²³And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

²⁶Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. ²⁸And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.



P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL Reading

Matthew 26:36–46

Jesus Prays in Gethsemane



³⁶Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, “Sit here, while I go over there and pray.” ³⁷And taking with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, he began to be sorrowful and troubled. ³⁸Then he said to them, “My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with me.” ³⁹And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, “My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will.” ⁴⁰And he came to the disciples and found them sleeping. And he said to Peter, “So, could you not watch with me one hour? ⁴¹Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.” ⁴²Again, for the second time, he went away and prayed, “My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done.” ⁴³And again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. ⁴⁴So, leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words again. ⁴⁵Then he came to the disciples and said to them, “Sleep and take your rest later on. See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. ⁴⁶Rise, let us be going; see, my betrayer is at hand.”

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Final Reading Response

LSB 247

P In many and various ways, God spoke to His people of old by the prophets.

C But now in these last days, He has spoken to us by His Son.

436 Go to Dark Gethsemane



1 Go to dark Geth - sem - a - ne, All who feel the
 2 Fol - low to the judg - ment hall, View the Lord of
 3 Cal - v'ry's mourn - ful moun - tain climb; There, a - dor - ing
 4 Ear - ly has - ten to the tomb Where they laid His

tempt - er's pow'r; Your Re - deem - er's con - flict see,
 life ar - rained; Oh, the worm - wood and the gall!
 at His feet, Mark that mir - a - cle of time,
 breath - less clay; All is sol - i - tude and gloom.

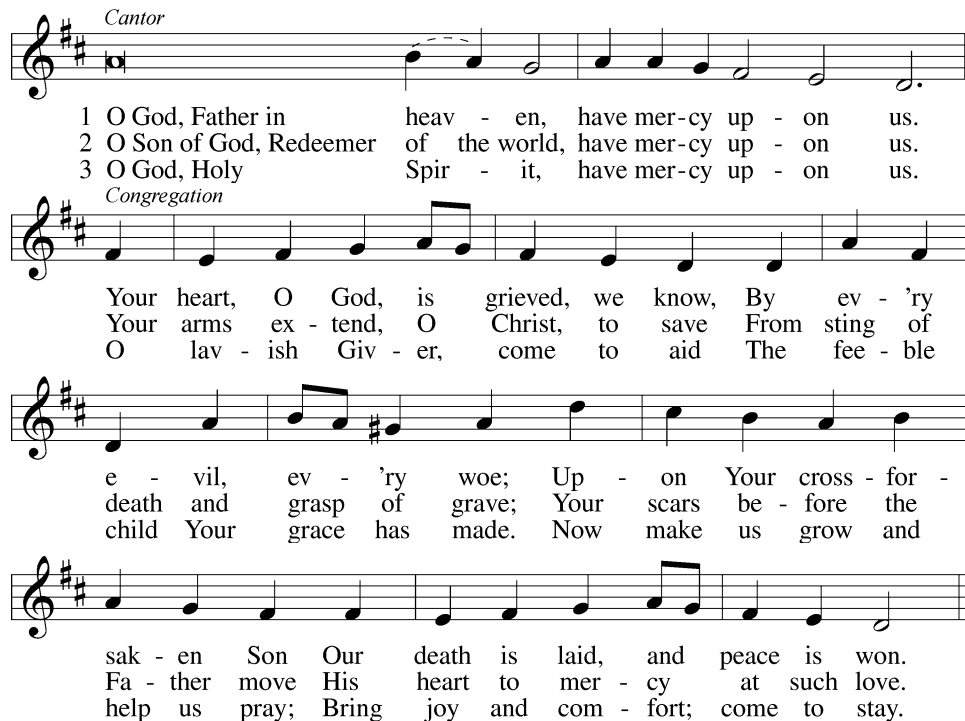
Watch with Him one bit - ter hour; Turn not from His
 Oh, the pangs His soul sus - tained! Shun not suf - f'ring,
 God's own sac - ri - fice com - plete. "It is fin - ished!"
 Who has tak - en Him a - way? Christ is ris'n! He

griefs a - way; Learn from Je - sus Christ to pray.
 shame, or loss; Learn from Him to bear the cross.
 hear Him cry; Learn from Je - sus Christ to die.
 meets our eyes. Sav - ior, teach us so to rise.

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Sermon - "Return to Prayer"

Canticle/945 Your Heart, O God, Is Grieved



Cantor

1 O God, Father in heav - en, have mer - cy up - on us.
 2 O Son of God, Redeemer of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.
 3 O God, Holy Spir - it, have mer - cy up - on us.

Congregation

Your heart, O God, is grieved, we know, By ev - 'ry
 Your arms ex - tend, O Christ, to save From sting of
 O lav - ish Giv - er, come to aid The fee - ble

e - vil, ev - 'ry woe; Up - on Your cross - for -
 death and grasp of grave; Your scars be - fore the
 child Your grace has made. Now make us grow and

sak - en Son Our death is laid, and peace is won.
 Fa - ther move His heart to mer - cy at such love.
 help us pray; Bring joy and com - fort; come to stay.

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Offering / 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

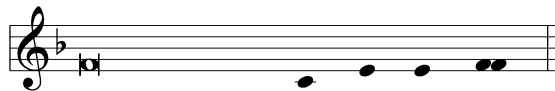
His ways ev - er - last - ing: To your Lord re - turn.
 Free - dom in the mak - ing. To your Lord re - turn.
 Joy be - yond ex - press - ing; To your Lord re - turn.

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Prayer/Litany

LSB 249

The congregation's response may begin just as the leader's petition ends so that the word "Lord" is sung simultaneously by both leader and congregation.



L In peace let us pray to the Lord:



C Lord, have mer - cy.

P For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For [names of synodical and district presidents], for all pastors in Christ, for all servants of the Church, and for all the people, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For [*name of president or monarch*], for all public servants, for the government and those who protect us, that they may be upheld and strengthened in every good deed, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For those who work to bring peace, justice, health, and protection in this and every place, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For those who bring offerings, those who do good works in this congregation, those who toil, those who sing, and all the people here present who await from the Lord great and abundant mercy, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

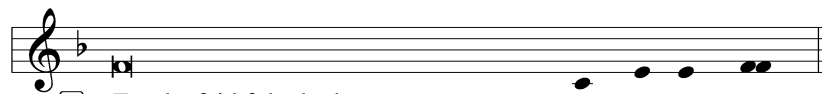
P For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and need, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For . . . [*additional bids for prayer may be inserted here*] . . . let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

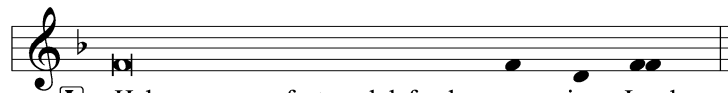
The prayers then continue:



L For the faithful who have gone
before us and are with Christ, let us give thanks to the Lord:

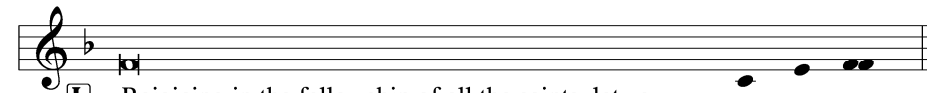


C Thanks be to God.



L Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.

Silence for individual prayer may follow.



L Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us
commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ, our Lord:



C To You, O Lord.

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 A - men.

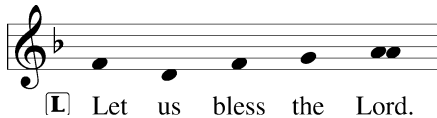
Lord's Prayer

LSB 251

- P** Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:
- 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.

Benedicamus/Benediction

LSB 252



L Let us bless the Lord.



C Thanks be to God.

- P** The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.



C A - men.

887 Now the Light Has Gone Away

sts. 1-5



- 1 Now the light has gone a - way; Fa - ther, lis - ten while I pray,
2 Je - sus, Sav - ior, wash a - way All that has been wrong to - day;
3 Let my near and dear ones be Al - ways near and dear to Thee;
4 Now my eve - ning praise I give; Thou didst die that I might live.
5 Thou, my best and kind - est Friend, Thou wilt love me to the end.



Ask - ing Thee to watch and keep And to send me qui - et sleep.
Help me ev - 'ry day to be Good and gen - tle, more like Thee.
O bring me and all I love To Thy hap - py home a - bove.
All my bless - ings come from Thee; Oh, how good Thou art to me!
Let me love Thee more and more, Al - ways bet - ter than be - fore.

Acknowledgments



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~ Return to the Lord ~

In the Book of Joel, the prophet paints a vivid picture of the coming judgment of God, the Day of the Lord. The imagery is bold and terrifying: hordes of locusts swarming over the land and decimating everything. Joel's prophecy has teeth even today as wars rage, natural disasters threaten and destroy, and our culture seems to be unraveling. But right in the middle of this frightening portent, we find a tender invitation from the Lord:

"Return to the Lord your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and He relents over disaster" (Joel 2:13). God's invitation and promise finds its fullness in Jesus Christ, who personifies and accomplishes all that God declares.

During this season of Lent, we will consider the theme "Return to the Lord" and examine how the call to return played out in practical ways for the people who walked alongside Christ as He demonstrated and carried out God's grace and mercy on our behalf, taking God's wrath upon Himself, setting the stage for God to "turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind Him" (Joel 2:14).

	WED FEB 17 7 pm	ASH WEDNESDAY "A Call to Return"	
	WED Feb 24 7 pm	LENT 1 "Return to Prayer" Peter, James, & John/Gethsemane	
	WED MAR 3 7 pm	LENT 2 "Return from Betrayal" Judas	
	WED MAR 10 7 pm	LENT 3 "Return from False Witness" Caiaphas and the Council	
	WED MAR 17 7 pm	LENT 4 "Return from Denial" Peter	
	WED MAR 24 7 pm	LENT 5 "Return to the Kingdom of God" Pontius Pilate	
	THUR APR 1 7 pm	MAUNDY THUR "Return to the Table" Jesus' invitation (First Communion)	
	FRI APR 2 7 pm	GOOD FRIDAY "Return to the Cross" 7 Last Words	
	SUN APR 4 7 am	EASTER SUNRISE "Return to the Church" What was accomplished	
	SUN APR 4 930 am	EASTER FESTIVAL "Return and See" Christ is risen	