

March 6, 2024 - Midweek Lent 3

Soon and Never

As We Gather

King David's enemies said of him, "When will he die and his name perish?" (Psalm 41:5) Do you have enemies who wish the same fate on you? Regardless of your best efforts to "lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way" (1 Timothy 2:2), you are pursued unceasingly by three dread adversaries: the world, the devil, and your own sinful flesh. When will you die? When will your name perish? Christ silences your foes and your fears and will strengthen and keep you firm in His Word and faith unto the end.

Opening Sentences

- 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.

Psalm

Psalm 41

- P** Blessed is the one who considers the poor!
- C** **In the day of trouble the LORD delivers him;**
- P** the LORD protects him and keeps him alive; he is called blessed in the land;
- C** **You do not give him up to the will of his enemies.**
- P** The LORD sustains him on his sickbed; in his illness You restore him to full health.
- C** **As for me, I said, "O LORD, be gracious to me; heal me, for I have sinned against You!"**
- P** My enemies say of me in malice, "When will he die and his name perish?"
- C** **And when one comes to see me, he utters empty words, while his heart gathers iniquity; when he goes out, he tells it abroad.**
- P** All who hate me whisper together about me; they imagine the worst for me.

C They say, “A deadly thing is poured out on him; he will not rise again from where he lies.”

P Even my close friend in whom I trusted, who ate my bread, has lifted his heel against me.

C **But You, O LORD, be gracious to me, and raise me up, that I may repay them!**

P By this I know that You delight in me: my enemy will not shout in triumph over me.

C **But You have upheld me because of my integrity, and set me in Your presence forever.**

Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting! Amen and Amen.

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.

Opening Hymn

Reading

Deuteronomy 7:22–26

P A reading from Deuteronomy, the seventh chapter.

²²The LORD your God will clear away these nations before you little by little. You may not make an end of them at once, lest the wild beasts grow too numerous for you. ²³But the LORD your God will give them over to you and throw them into great confusion, until they are destroyed. ²⁴And he will give their kings into your hand, and you shall make their name perish from under heaven. No one shall be able to stand against you until you have destroyed them. ²⁵The carved images of their gods you shall burn with fire. You shall not covet the silver or the gold that is on them or take it for yourselves, lest you be ensnared by it, for it is an abomination to the LORD your God. ²⁶And you shall not bring an abominable thing into your house and become devoted to destruction like it. You shall utterly detest and abhor it, for it is devoted to destruction.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

The Passion of Our Lord: The Palace of the High Priest

Hymn: O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken **LSB 439** *sts. 1–3, 5*

Sermon: Soon and Never

Psalm 41:5

Kyrie

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

Lord's Prayer

Collects

- P** O Lord, hear my prayer.
- C** **And let my cry come to You.**
- P** We thank You, our God and Father, that You have drawn us to Your Son, Jesus Christ. As we consider His sign of sacrifice and love, sustain us in our trials, comfort us in our sorrows, and strengthen us against temptation. Grant that the cross may be to us a continuing promise of the forgiveness of our sins as we observe a holy Lent. We ask this through Jesus Christ, our gracious Lord.
- C** **Amen.**
- C** **I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. 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

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.**

Sending Hymn

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