

THE SECOND WEDNESDAY IN LENT
MARCH 3, 2021

Theme of the Day: Satan accuses Joshua, the High Priest. All seems lost until the LORD's Messenger appears. Our Lord Jesus Christ silences Satan—for Joshua and for us!

INVOCATION AND CALL TO WORSHIP (From selected verses in Zechariah 9:9–10)

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

C: **Amen.**

P: Behold, your King comes to you—

C: **Righteous and having salvation.**

P: Speaking peace to the nations.

C: **And ruling from sea to sea—**

P: To the ends of the earth!

C: **God's kingdom comes—**

P: To us!

All: Through Jesus Christ our Lord!

HYMN

Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain

#435:1-3

1 Come to Calv'ry's holy mountain,
Sinners, ruined by the fall;
Here a pure and healing fountain
Flows for you, for me, for all,
In a full, perpetual tide,
Opened when our Savior died.

2 Come in poverty and meanness,
Come defiled, without, within;
From infection and uncleanness,
From the leprosy of sin,
Wash your robes and make them white;
Ye shall walk with God in light.

3 Come in sorrow and contrition,
Wounded, impotent, and blind;
Here the guilty, free remission,
Here the troubled, peace may find.
Health this fountain will restore;
They that drink shall thirst no more.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Come to Calvary's holy mountain, sinners ruined by the fall.
C: **Here, a pure and healing fountain flows for you, for me, for all.**
P: In a full, perpetual tide—
C: **Opened when our Savior died!**
P: Coming to Calvary's holy mountain, we confess our sins.

Silence for reflection and confession.

P: Merciful Father—
C: **I am wrapped up in myself.**
P: I cling to comfort and choose the easy way.
C: **I want tweaking not transformation.**
P: Greed, envy, intolerance and jealousy mark my life.
C: **I fail to learn, and what I have learned, I fail to practice.**
P: I judge others with a standard I never use for myself.
All: **Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**
P: Zechariah 13:1 states, "On that day there will be a fountain opened to cleanse from sin and uncleanness." Because of Christ's cross and crucifixion—Zechariah's day is today. Here, a pure and healing fountain flows for you, for me, for all. In a full, perpetual tide opened when our Savior died. In Jesus' name, you are absolved, forgiven and loved! God's kingdom comes to us—
All: **Through Jesus Christ our Lord!**

HYMN Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain **#435:4**

4 They that drink shall live forever;
'Tis a soul-renewing flood.
God is faithful; God will never
Break His covenant of blood,
Signed when our Redeemer died,
Sealed when He was glorified.

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.
C: **And also with you.**
P: Let us pray. Lord Jesus Christ, you have all authority in heaven and on earth. Use that authority in our time to defeat the devil, plunder the accuser and silence Satan; for you live and reign with the Father and Spirit—God forever,
All: **Amen.**

THE READINGS ARE ABOUT SILENCING SATAN

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Zechariah 3:1–10

Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to accuse him. And the LORD said to Satan, "The LORD rebuke you, O Satan! The LORD who has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you! Is not this a brand plucked from the

fire?" Now Joshua was standing before the angel, clothed with filthy garments. And the angel said to those who were standing before him, "Remove the filthy garments from him." And to him he said, "Behold, I have taken your iniquity away from you, and I will clothe you with pure vestments." And I said, "Let them put a clean turban on his head." So they put a clean turban on his head and clothed him with garments. And the angel of the LORD was standing by. And the angel of the LORD solemnly assured Joshua, "Thus says the LORD of hosts: If you will walk in my ways and keep my charge, then you shall rule my house and have charge of my courts, and I will give you the right of access among those who are standing here. Hear now, O Joshua the high priest, you and your friends who sit before you, for they are men who are a sign: behold, I will bring my servant the Branch. For behold, on the stone that I have set before Joshua, on a single stone with seven eyes, I will engrave its inscription, declares the LORD of hosts, and I will remove the iniquity of this land in a single day. In that day, declares the LORD of hosts, every one of you will invite his neighbor to come under his vine and under his fig tree."

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

[Silence for Meditation on the Lesson]

EPISTLE LESSON

Romans 16:17–20

I appeal to you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and create obstacles contrary to the doctrine that you have been taught; avoid them. For such persons do not serve our Lord Christ, but their own appetites, and by smooth talk and flattery they deceive the hearts of the naive. For your obedience is known to all, so that I rejoice over you, but I want you to be wise as to what is good and innocent as to what is evil. The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

[Silence for Meditation on the Lesson]

GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 16:13–23

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the sixteenth chapter.

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the sixteenth chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." Then he strictly charged the disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ. From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "Far be it from

you, Lord! This shall never happen to you.” But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

APOSTELS’ CREED

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life T everlasting. Amen.**

SERMON

“Silencing Satan”

Zechariah 3:1–10

WE CONFESS from Catechism

ALL: “Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done...”

P: What does this mean?

C: The good and gracious will of God is done even without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may be done among us also.

P: How is God’s will done?

C: God’s will is done when He breaks and hinders every evil plan and purpose of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature, which do not want us to hallow God’s name or let His kingdom come; and when He strengthens and keeps us firm in His Word and faith until we die. This is His good and gracious will.

OFFERING & HYMN

“Church of God, Elect and Glorious”

#646

1 Church of God, elect and glorious,
Holy nation, chosen race;

Called as God's own special people,
Royal priests and heirs of grace:
Know the purpose of your calling,
Show to all His mighty deeds;
Tell of love that knows no limits,
Grace that meets all human needs.

2 God has called you out of darkness
Into His most marv'lous light;
Brought His truth to life within you,
Turned your blindness into sight.
Let your light so shine around you
That God's name is glorified
And all find fresh hope and purpose
In Christ Jesus crucified.

3 Once you were an alien people,
Strangers to God's heart of love;
But He brought you home in mercy,
Citizens of heav'n above.
Let His love flow out to others,
Let them feel a Father's care;
That they too may know His welcome
And His countless blessings share.

4 Church of God, elect and holy,
Be the people He intends;
Strong in faith and swift to answer
Each command your Master sends:
Royal priests, fulfill your calling
Through your sacrifice and prayer;
Give your lives in joyful service—
Sing His praise, His love declare.

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PRAYERS

P: Our King comes to us, righteous and having salvation. May God hear our prayers, because of our crucified and risen King—Christ Jesus.

A brief silence

P: Heavenly Father, as you first came to us, claiming us as your own, we welcome you into our lives—

C: We make ourselves available to your holy will.

P: Help us become living examples of your love in the world.

C: Open our hearts to the areas of our lives that need to change—

P: So we carry out the mission of our church—

C: *Connecting People to Jesus.*

P: Inspire us to live the Christian life—

C: In ways that are dynamic and engaging.

P: Bring renewal to our church.

C: And make us hunger and thirst for more of Jesus.

P: Give us courage when we are afraid.

C: Hope when we are discouraged.

P: And clarity in times of decision.

Additional prayers: After each petition respond...

P: Lord in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

P: They that drink shall live forever; 'tis a soul renewing flood.

C: God is faithful; God will never, break his covenant of blood.

P: Signed when our Redeemer died—

All: Sealed when he was glorified. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BENEDICTION (From Zechariah 9:9)

P: Behold, your King comes to you—

C: Righteous and having salvation.

P: Speaking peace to the nations.

C: And ruling from sea to sea—

P: To the ends of the earth!

C: God's kingdom comes to us.

P: By his Spirit.

C: God's kingdom comes through us—

P: To the ends of the earth!

All: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

Be Strong in the Lord

#665 (Tune #804)

1 Be strong in the Lord In armor of light,
With helmet and sword, With shield for the fight;
On prayer be dependent, Be belted and shod,
In breastplate resplendent: The armor of God.

2 Integrity gird You round to impart
The truth of His Word As truth in your heart;
His righteousness wearing As breastplate of mail,
His victory sharing, Be strong to prevail.

3 With eagerness shod Stand firm in your place,
Or go forth for God With news of His grace;
No foe shall disarm you Nor force you to yield,
No arrow can harm you With faith as your shield.

4 Though Satan presume To test you and try,
In helmet and plume Your head shall be high;
Beset by temptation Be true to your Lord,
Your helmet salvation And Scripture your sword.

5 So wield well your blade, Rejoice in its pow'rs,
Fight on undismayed For Jesus is ours!
Then in Him victorious Your armor lay down,
To praise, ever glorious, His cross and His crown.

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SILENT PRAYER Lord Jesus Christ, rebuke the enemy and silence Satan's ugly accusations against me. Amen and amen!