

The Week of Laetare / 4 Lent

Wednesday / 25 March 2020

Matins / Morning Prayer

(L: Leader; C: Congregation)

Opening

L: O Lord, open my lips,

C: and my mouth will declare your praise.

L: Make haste, O God to deliver me;

C: make haste to help me, O Lord.

**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.**

L: Blessed be God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

C: The Lord has redeemed His people.

Venite (Psalm 95:1-7)

C: O come, let us sing to the Lord,

let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation.

Let us come into His presence with thanksgiving;

let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise.

For the Lord is a great God

and a great king above all gods.

In his hands are the depths of the earth;

the heights of the mountains are His also.

The sea is His, for He made it;

and His hand formed the dry land.

O come, let us worship and bow down;

let us kneel before the Lord, our maker.

For He is Our God,

and we are the people of His pasture

and the sheep of His hand.

L: Blessed be God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

C: The Lord has redeemed His people.

Psalm 26:1-7

C: Vindicate me, O LORD, for I have walked in my integrity,
and I have trusted in the LORD without wavering.

Prove me, O LORD, and try me;
test my heart and my mind.

For your steadfast love is before my eyes,
and I walk in your faithfulness.

I do not sit with men of falsehood,
nor do I consort with hypocrites.

I hate the assembly of evildoers,
and I will not sit with the wicked.

I wash my hands in innocence
and go around your altar, O LORD,
proclaiming thanksgiving aloud,
and telling all your wondrous deeds.

The Hebrew Scriptures (Genesis 44:1-18, 32-34)

L: A reading from Genesis:

Then he commanded the steward of his house, “Fill the men's sacks with food, as much as they can carry, and put each man's money in the mouth of his sack, ²and put my cup, the silver cup, in the mouth of the sack of the youngest, with his money for the grain.” And he did as Joseph told him.

³As soon as the morning was light, the men were sent away with their donkeys. ⁴They had gone only a short distance from the city. Now Joseph said to his steward, “Up, follow after the men, and when you overtake them, say to them, ‘Why have you repaid evil for good?^[a] ⁵Is it not from this that my lord drinks, and by this that he practices divination? You have done evil in doing this.’”

⁶When he overtook them, he spoke to them these words. ⁷They said to him, “Why does my lord speak such words as these? Far be it from your servants to do such a thing! ⁸Behold, the money that we found in the mouths of our sacks we brought back to you from the land of Canaan.

How then could we steal silver or gold from your lord's house? ⁹ Whichever of your servants is found with it shall die, and we also will be my lord's servants.” ¹⁰ He said, “Let it be as you say: he who is found with it shall be my servant, and the rest of you shall be innocent.” ¹¹ Then each man quickly lowered his sack to the ground, and each man opened his sack. ¹² And he searched, beginning with the eldest and ending with the youngest. And the cup was found in Benjamin's sack. ¹³ Then they tore their clothes, and every man loaded his donkey, and they returned to the city.

¹⁴ When Judah and his brothers came to Joseph's house, he was still there. They fell before him to the ground. ¹⁵ Joseph said to them, “What deed is this that you have done? Do you not know that a man like me can indeed practice divination?” ¹⁶ And Judah said, “What shall we say to my lord? What shall we speak? Or how can we clear ourselves? God has found out the guilt of your servants; behold, we are my lord's servants, both we and he also in whose hand the cup has been found.” ¹⁷ But he said, “Far be it from me that I should do so! Only the man in whose hand the cup was found shall be my servant. But as for you, go up in peace to your father.”

¹⁸ Then Judah went up to him and said, “Oh, my lord, please let your servant speak a word in my lord's ears, and let not your anger burn against your servant, for you are like Pharaoh himself...³² For your servant became a pledge of safety for the boy to my father, saying, ‘If I do not bring him back to you, then I shall bear the blame before my father all my life.’ ³³ Now therefore, please let your servant remain instead of the boy as a servant to my lord, and let the boy go back with his brothers. ³⁴ For how can I go back to my father if the boy is not with me? I fear to see the evil that would find my father.”

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

The Christian Scriptures (Mark 12:28-44)

L: A reading from the Gospel according to St. Mark:

²⁸ And one of the scribes came up and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, asked him, “Which commandment is the most important of all?” ²⁹ Jesus answered, “The most important is, ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. ³⁰ And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ ³¹ The second is

this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." ³² And the scribe said to him, "You are right, Teacher. You have truly said that he is one, and there is no other besides him. ³³ And to love him with all the heart and with all the understanding and with all the strength, and to love one's neighbor as oneself, is much more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices." ³⁴ And when Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." And after that no one dared to ask him any more questions.

³⁵ And as Jesus taught in the temple, he said, "How can the scribes say that the Christ is the son of David? ³⁶ David himself, in the Holy Spirit, declared,

"The Lord said to my Lord,

"Sit at my right hand,

until I put your enemies under your feet."

³⁷ David himself calls him Lord. So how is he his son?" And the great throng heard him gladly.

³⁸ And in his teaching he said, "Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes and like greetings in the marketplaces ³⁹ and have the best seats in the synagogues and the places of honor at feasts, ⁴⁰ who devour widows' houses and for a pretense make long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation."

⁴¹ And he sat down opposite the treasury and watched the people putting money into the offering box. Many rich people put in large sums. ⁴² And a poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which make a penny.^[f] ⁴³ And he called his disciples to him and said to them, "Truly, I say to you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the offering box. ⁴⁴ For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on."

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Responsory for Lent

- L:** We have an advocate with the Father;
Jesus is the propitiation for our sins.
- C:** **He was delivered up to death;**
He was delivered for the sins of the people.
- L:** Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven
and whose sin is put away.
- C:** **He was delivered up to death;**
He was delivered for the sins of the people.
- L:** We have an advocate with the Father;
Jesus is the propitiation for our sins.
- C:** **He was delivered up to death;**
He was delivered for the sins of the people.

A homily may be inserted here.

Te Deum

- C:** ¹We praise You, O God; we acknowledge You to be the Lord.
All the earth now worships You, The Father everlasting.
To You all angels cry aloud, the heavens and all the pow'rs therein.
To You cherubim and seraphim continually do cry:
- ²Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sabaoth;
heaven and earth are full of the majesty of Your glory.
The glorious company of the apostles praise You.
The goodly fellowship of the prophets praise You.
- ³The noble army of martyrs praise You.
The holy Church throughout all the world does acknowledge You:
You are the king of glory, O Christ;
You are the everlasting Son of the Father.
- ⁵When You took upon Yourself to deliver man,
You humbled Yourself to be born of a virgin.
When You had overcome the sharpness of death,
You opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers.
- ⁶You sit at the right hand of God
in the glory of the Father.
We believe that You will come
to be our judge.
- ⁷We therefore pray You to help Your servants,

whom You have redeemed with Your precious blood.
Make them to be numbered with Your saints
in glory everlasting.
⁸O Lord, save Your people and bless Your heritage.
Govern them and lift them up forever.
Day by day we magnify You.
And we worship your name forever and ever.
⁹Grant, O Lord, to keep us this day without sin.
O Lord, have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us.
O Lord, let Your mercy be upon us, as our trust is in You.
O Lord, in You have I trusted; let me never be confounded.

Kyrie

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

The Lord's Prayer

C: Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed by 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

L: O Lord, hear my prayer.

C: **And let my cry come to you.**

L: We pray: Lord God heavenly Father, the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, Your servant Moses proclaimed the resurrection to the children of Israel to give them hope in the midst of their darkness. As we journey to the darkness of the cross, give us hope to look beyond it to the light of the resurrection; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Prayer

L: Lord God, heavenly Father, let Your Holy Spirit dwell in us that He may enlighten and lead us into all truth and evermore defend us from all adversities.

Lord in your mercy:

C: **Hear our prayer.**

L: O Lord God, by the example of Your blessed Son, grant us grace to accept patiently the sufferings of the present time in full assurance of the glory that shall be revealed to us.

Lord in your mercy:

C: **Hear our prayer.**

L: Almighty Father, preserve our nation in justice and honor that we may lead a peaceable life with integrity. Grant health and favor to all who bear office in our land, especially Donald Trump our President, Mike DeWine our governor, and all those who make, administer, and judge our laws. Help them to serve this people according to Your holy will.

Lord in your mercy:

C: **Hear our prayer.**

L: We pray together:

C: I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. 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.

Benedicamus & Benediction

L: Let us bless the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us all.

C: **Amen.**