

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
Lohman (Stringtown), Missouri
Phone (573) 782-3191 Cell: (573) 818-2112
Brian Whittle, Pastor
Email: stjohnstringtown@gmail.com
Website: www.stjohnstringtown.org
Facebook: fb.me/stjohnstringtown/

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RETURN FROM BETRAYAL

In the Transfiguration hymn “Swiftly Pass the Clouds of Glory,” hymnwriter Thomas Troeger portrays the days of the Lord’s Passion as that time when Jesus’ disciples are to be “following the Savior Through the valley to the cross and . . . testing faith’s resilience Through betrayal, pain, and loss” (*LSB* 416:2). The weekly reading of the Gospel account of Holy Week reveals how the disciples do and do not meet the challenges of following their Lord. The witness of Scripture also shows how in every situation Jesus remains faithful to His own even in the face of betrayal, pain, and loss. The season of Lent gives us the opportunity to reflect on our discipleship and to test the resiliency of our faith as well.

Stand

- 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.

+ PSALMODY +

PSALM

Psalm 41

- ¹ Blessèd is the one who consid- | ers the poor!*
In the day of trouble the LORD de- | livers him;
² the LORD protects him and keeps him alive;
he is called blessèd | in the land;*
You do not give him up to the will of his | enemies.
³ The LORD sustains him on his | sickbed;*
in his illness You restore him to | full health.
⁴ As for me, I said, “O LORD, be gra- | cious to me;*
heal me, for I have sinned a- | gainst You!”
⁵ My enemies say of me in | malice,*
“When will he die and his name | perish?”
⁶ And when one comes to see me, he utters empty words,*
while his heart gathers in- | iquity;
when he goes out, he tells | it abroad.
⁷ All who hate me whisper together a- | bout me;*
they imagine the | worst for me.
⁸ They say, “A deadly thing is poured | out on him;*
he will not rise again from | where he lies.”
⁹ Even my close friend in whom I | trusted,*
who ate my bread, has lifted his heel a- | gainst me.
¹⁰ But You, O LORD, be gra- | cious to me,*
and raise me up, that I may re- | pay them!
¹¹ By this I know that You de- | light in me:*
my enemy will not shout in triumph | over me.
¹² But You have upheld me because of my in- | tegrity,*
and set me in Your presence for- | ever.
¹³ Blessèd 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 be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

Sit

OFFICE HYMN

“Now Rest beneath Night’s Shadow” (*LSB* 880)

+ READINGS +

FIRST READING

2 Samuel 15:12; 17:1–4

P A reading from Second Samuel, the fifteenth and seventeenth chapters.

¹² And while Absalom was offering the sacrifices, he sent for Ahithophel the Gilonite, David’s counselor, from his city Giloh. And the conspiracy grew strong, and the people with Absalom kept increasing.

¹ Moreover, Ahithophel said to Absalom, “Let me choose twelve thousand men, and I will arise and pursue David tonight. ² I will come upon him while he is weary and discouraged and throw him into a panic, and all the people who are with him will flee. I will strike down only the king, ³ and I will bring all the people back to you as a bride comes home to her husband. You seek the life of only one man, and all the people will be at peace.” ⁴ And the advice seemed right in the eyes of Absalom and all the elders of Israel.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN

“Jesus, Grant That Balm and Healing” (*LSB 421*)

SECOND READING

Acts 3:14–19

P A reading from Acts, the third chapter.

¹⁴ “But you denied the Holy and Righteous One, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, ¹⁵ and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. ¹⁶ And His name—by faith in His name—has made this man strong whom you see and know, and the faith that is through Jesus has given the man this perfect health in the presence of you all.

¹⁷ “And now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. ¹⁸ But what God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets, that His Christ would suffer, He thus fulfilled. ¹⁹ Repent therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out.”

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

SERIES HYMN

“Break Your Hearts” (*See insert*)

P A reading from St. John, the eighteenth chapter.

¹ When Jesus had spoken these words, He went out with His disciples across the Kidron Valley, where there was a garden, which He and His disciples entered. ² Now Judas, who betrayed Him, also knew the place, for Jesus often met there with His disciples. ³ So Judas, having procured a band of soldiers and some officers from the chief priests and the Pharisees, went there with lanterns and torches and weapons. ⁴ Then Jesus, knowing all that would happen to Him, came forward and said to them, “Whom do you seek?” ⁵ They answered Him, “Jesus of Nazareth.” Jesus said to them, “I am He.” Judas, who betrayed Him, was standing with them. ⁶ When Jesus said to them, “I am He,” they drew back and fell to the ground. ⁷ So He asked them again, “Whom do you seek?” And they said, “Jesus of Nazareth.” ⁸ Jesus answered, “I told you that I am He. So, if you seek Me, let these men go.” ⁹ This was to fulfill the word that He had spoken: “Of those whom You gave Me I have lost not one.” ¹⁰ Then Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest’s servant and cut off his right ear. (The servant’s name was Malchus.) ¹¹ So Jesus said to Peter, “Put your sword into its sheath; shall I not drink the cup that the Father has given Me?”

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

LENT RESPONSORY

LSB, p. 231

P Deliver me, O Lord, my God, for You are the God of my salvation.

C **Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.**

P In You, O Lord, do I put my trust, leave me not, O Lord, my God.

C **Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.**

P Deliver me, O Lord, my God, for You are the God of my salvation.

C **Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.**

SERMON

+ CANTICLE +

Stand

ANTIPHON

LSB, p. 231

- P** Let my prayer rise before You as incense,
C and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

MAGNIFICAT

“My Soul Now Magnifies the Lord” (LSB 934)

OFFERING

+ PRAYER +

Stand

KYRIE

LSB, p. 233

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

LORD’S PRAYER

LSB, p. 233

- 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.

COLLECTS

- P** O Lord, hear my prayer.
C And let my cry come to You.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

- P** Faithful God, Your love for us remains constant, even when we falter
and fail. Help us to recognize our betrayals and to return to You by the
cross of Jesus, where He paid for our sin with His life, so that our lives
may be restored; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives
and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C Amen.

ADDITIONAL COLLECTS OF INTERCESSION AND THANKSGIVING

COLLECT FOR LENT

P Faithful God, through the ancient prophets You call us to return to You with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. Let these Lenten days be a time when, remembering how You relentlessly return to us in mercy, we return also to You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

COLLECT AT EVENING

P Almighty God, we thank You for Your steadfast faithfulness throughout this day. Now that the day is almost over, by the cross of Christ forgive our past betrayals, both large and small, that we may rest peacefully in Your care and awake in the morning filled with gratitude for Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

COLLECT FOR PEACE

P Lord God, amidst the turmoil of this world, Your love for us in Christ remains constant and sure. Guide our hearts to rest in You, that we experience the peace that surpasses all understanding; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Stand

BENEDICAMUS

LSB, p. 234

P Let us bless the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

BENEDICTION

LSB, p. 234

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.**

Acknowledgments

Vespers from *Lutheran Service Book*

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