



Return from Exile

A LENTEN JOURNEY

Wednesday
February 21, 2018

Order of Vespers

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 137:1-6

P: By the waters of Babylon, there we sat down and wept,*

C: **when we remembered Zion.**

P: On the willows there we hung up our lyres.

C: **For there our captors required of us songs,**

P: and our tormentors, mirth, saying,

C: **“Sing us one of the songs of Zion!”**

P: How shall we sing the Lord’s song

C: **in a foreign land?**

P: If I forget you, O Jerusalem,

C: **let my right hand forget its skill!**

P: Let my tongue stick to the roof of my mouth,

C: **if I do not remember you,**

P: if I do not set Jerusalem above my highest joy!

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.

HYMN OF THE DAY – We Are Exiles from the Garden

We are exiles from the garden,
Banished by our sinful choice,
Terrified to seek His pardon,
Hiding from our Father's voice.
Underneath the branches swaying,
Sweat and blood fall to the ground.
In the darkness, Christ is praying;
He comes forward to be bound.

Leaves will fail our vain concealing
Our true nakedness and shame.
We must rend our hearts, revealing
All our guilt and sinful blame.
Jesus takes our flesh and sentence
As His clothes are claimed below.
We fall down in true repentance;
His new robe He will bestow.

On the mount, the Lord is waiting
For the proper sacrifice.
What is worth His wrath abating?
Who could pay the dreadful price?
God the Son will be the scion.
God the Father will provide.
God the Spirit points to Zion;
There, with God, we will abide.

On this journey we are taking,
We fear not what lies in store.
Though our feeble wills are breaking,
We know Christ has gone before.
As we walk the way completed,
On His throne, the Savior waits.
Death and hell have been unseated.
We behold the open gates!

+ READINGS +

OLD TESTAMENT *Genesis 3:22–24*

Then the LORD God said, “Behold, the man has become like one of us in knowing good and evil. Now, lest he reach out his hand and take also of the tree of life and eat, and live forever—” therefore the LORD God sent him out from the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken. He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE *Revelation 22:1–5*

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL

Now [Jesus] was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. And behold, there was a woman who had had a disabling spirit for eighteen years. She was bent over and could not fully straighten herself. When Jesus saw her, He called her over and said to her, “Woman, you are freed from your disability.” And He laid His hands on her, and immediately she was made straight, and she glorified God. But the ruler of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, said to the people, “There are six days in which work ought to be done. Come on those days and be healed, and not on the Sabbath day.” Then the Lord answered him, “You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger and lead it away to water it? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath day?” As He said these things, all His adversaries were put to shame, and all the people rejoiced at all the glorious things that were done by Him.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORY

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 “Garden to Garden: Eden to Heaven”

+ CANTICLE +

HYMN “My Soul Now Magnifies the Lord” #934

OFFERING

+ PRAYER +

KYRIE

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

LORD’S PRAYER

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.**

P: Lord God, our Father, you created a perfect home for us in the beginning, but we left through the disobedience of our ancestors, Adam and Eve. We languish now in the land of suffering and death, and in the land of darkness. Bring us out of exile into our true home which You have prepared for us, that we may live before Your face in light and grace forever; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: **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.**

HYMN “All Mankind Fell in Adam’s Fall”

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Acknowledgments

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