

Midweek Lenten Service
March 7,
Year of Our ✝ Lord 2018

The Christian's War:

Simul Iustus et Peccator

**The Life of the Christian
as Saint and Sinner**



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

**A Church of
The Lutheran Church—
Missouri Synod**

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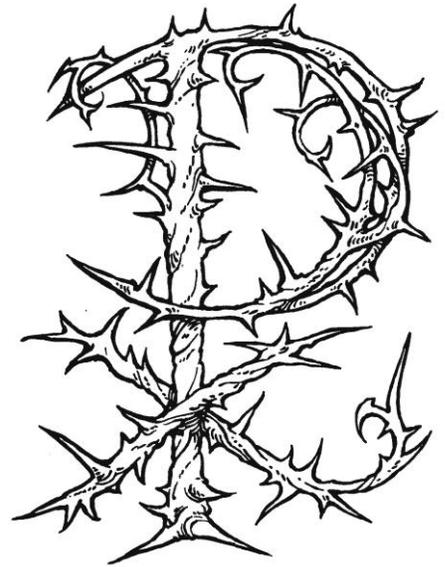
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A WORD ABOUT VESPERS

Vespers, meaning "evening", is the historic name for the early evening service of the pre-Reformation church and of the Lutheran church since the Reformation. This evening prayer service originates from the sixth-century but was maintained by Martin Luther and the Reformers because it functions as a faithful prayer service for the church during gatherings in the evening. In many respects it is reminiscent of the Jewish evening sacrifices with its incense and lights.



Vespers, from the earliest times, has been invested with deep sentiment and poetic feeling. Man feels his kinship with all nature. The sun and the winds have done their work, the day draws to its close, the shadows lengthen, and a peaceful calm descends upon the earth. So men feel a sense of duty done, the satisfaction that springs from honest toil in proper mood. However, many seek change in worldly pleasure, and for some the hours of dark are the hours of foolishness and sin. The Christian too, is not free from temptation. Isolation and weariness or evil companionship and example may lead him astray. Thankfully, there is grace and strength to be found in Christian fellowship and prayer, and a lively sense of God's providence may well lead the Christian, as opportunity affords, to recount the mercies of the day with thankful heart, and ask divine protection for the coming night. Indeed, Vespers is a tremendous gift to the church, for it allows us to look backwards in thankfulness for the mercies of the day and it invokes divine protection against all foes, and the gift of peace which the world cannot give.

The actual service of Vespers is rather simple. The service provides praise to God in psalmody, hymns and so forth. It also allows for the reading of God's Word, a brief Sermon, and a space for the prayers of the faithful.

Here at Zion Lutheran Church we continue this ancient prayer service during evening Advent and Lent Services. It indeed provides an interesting structure and a balanced structure, as well as a fine devotional spirit for the Baptized Saints as the day comes to a close.

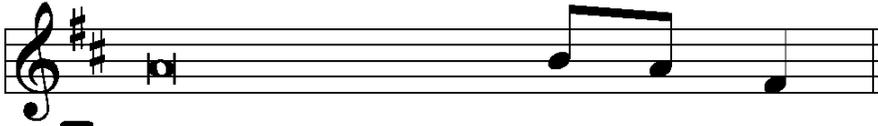
Portions above taken from : Luther D. Reed, *The Lutheran Liturgy* (Philadelphia, PA: Muhlenberg Press, 1947), 428-431.

✠ Vespers ✠

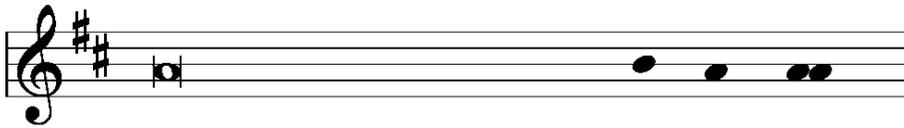
Stand



L O Lord, o - pen my lips,



C and my mouth will de - clare Your praise.



L Make haste, O God, to de - liv - er me;



C make haste to help me, O Lord.



C Glo-ry be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spir - it;



as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men.



Lent: Praise to You, O Christ, Lamb of our sal - va - tion.

Psalmody

Psalm

Psalm 51:7-15

- L** Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
- C** **Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones that you have broken rejoice.**
- L** Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my iniquities.
- C** **Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.**
- L** Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
- C** **Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and uphold me with a willing spirit.**
- L** Then I will teach transgressors your ways,
and sinners will return to you.
- C** **Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God,
O God of my salvation,
and my tongue will sing aloud of your righteousness.**
- L** O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth will declare your praise.

Sit

Office Hymn: 664 Fight the Good Fight

LSB 664

Reading

Colossians 3:1-17

L A reading from Colossians, the third chapter.

¹If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ²Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. ³For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

⁵Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. ⁶On account of these the wrath of God is coming. ⁷In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. ⁸But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. ⁹Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices ¹⁰and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. ¹¹Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and

uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.

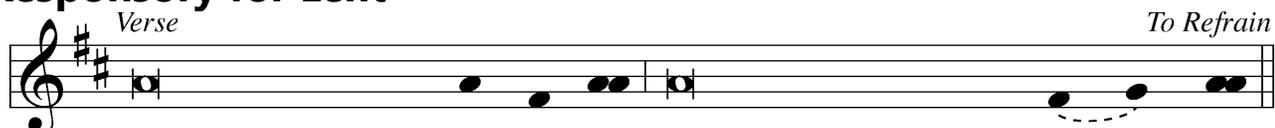
¹²Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, ¹³bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. ¹⁷And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Responsory for Lent

LSB 231



L 1 Deliver me, O Lord, my God, for You are
the God of my sal - va - tion.
2 In You, O Lord, do I put my trust, leave me not, O Lord, my God.
3 Deliver me, O Lord, my God, for You are
the God of my sal - va - tion.

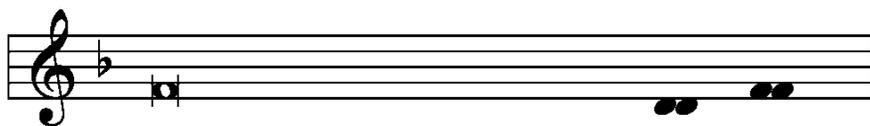


C Rescue me from my en - e - mies, protect me
from those who rise a - gainst me.

Sermon: Fighting the War: Executions and Turning Outward

Stand

Canticle



L Let my prayer rise before You as in - cense,



C and the lifting up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.

Magnificat: 933 My Soul Rejoices

LSB 933



1 My soul re - joic - es, My spir - it voic - es— Sing the
2 His arm now bar - ing, His strength de - clar - ing— Sing the



great - ness of the Lord! For God my Sav - ior Has shown me
great - ness of the Lord! The proud He scat - ters, Their rule He



fa - vor— Sing the great - ness of the Lord! With praise and
shat - ters— Sing the great - ness of the Lord! Op - pres - sion



bles - sing, Join in con - fess - ing God, who is sole - ly Might - y and
halt - ed; The meek ex - alt - ed. Full are the hun - gry; Emp - ty, the



ho - ly— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord! His mer - cy
wealth - y— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord! Here is the



sure - ly Shall rest se - cure - ly On all who fear Him,
to - ken All that was spo - ken To A - br'ham's off - spring



Love and re - vere Him— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord!
God is ful - fill - ing— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord!

Sit

Offering — given to ND Missions

Stand

Prayer

Kyrie

LSB 233



C Lord, have mer-cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer-cy.

Lord's Prayer

LSB 233

P Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:

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



L O Lord, hear my prayer.



C And let my cry come to You.

Collect of the Day

P O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy, be gracious to all who have gone astray from Your ways and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of Your Word; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord.

C Amen.

Collect for Peace

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

LSB 234



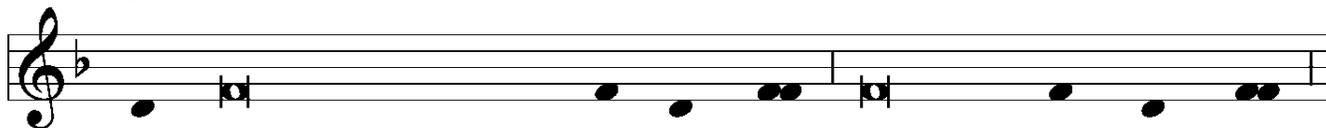
L Let us bless the Lord.



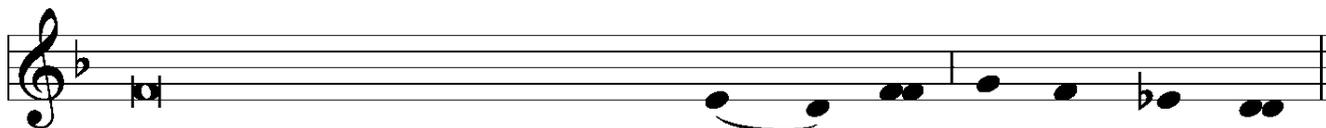
C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

LSB 234



P The grace of our Lord † Je - sus Christ and the love of God



and the communion of the Holy Spir - it be with you all.



C A - men.

Sit

Hymn: 422 On My Heart Imprint Your Image

LSB 422

***Following the closing hymn, you are dismissed.
Go in the Lord's grace and peace as this day draws to its close.***

Acknowledgments

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