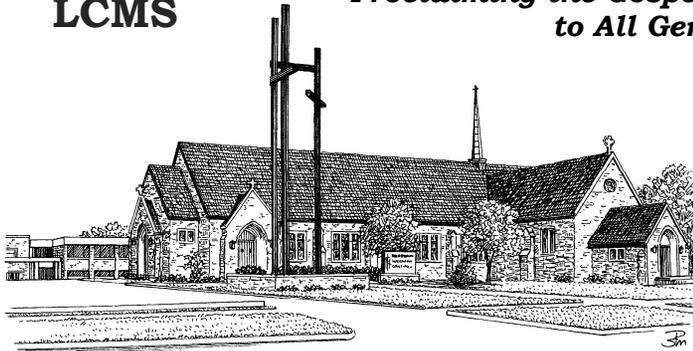


Redeemer Lutheran Church

LCMS

*“Proclaiming the Gospel
to All Generations”*



510 S. 33rd St - Lincoln, NE 68510 - 402-477-1710
www.redeemerlincoln.org

LENTEN VESPERS #2

“Return to the Lord: Return to Prayer”
Wednesday, February 24, 2021

WELCOME! May the Lord bless your time in this place! We ask that all worshippers sign an attendance card and place it in the appropriate box in the narthex. If you are not a member of Redeemer and are **interested in becoming a member**, please contact one of the Pastors.

PARENTS OF INFANTS AND TODDLERS: During this time, we will temporarily close the nursery space off from playing activities. The nursery toys and children's activity bags have been stored away. The nursery should only be used for mothers who are nursing and diaper changing needs. A diaper changing table is also available in the main narthex bathroom. Thank you for your understanding. When it is safe to resume to normal activities, the nursery toys and the activity bags will return.

TODAY'S LITURGY is Vespers, from the Lutheran Service Book (LSB), Copyright 2006 Concordia Publishing House. Hymns are from LSB using Lutheran Service Builder. Reprinted/used by permission.

PLEASE WEAR YOUR FACE MASK at all times, removing it only to receive Holy Communion. Remember, *“Wearing a mask is not just about you; it's also about your neighbor.”*

LARGE PRINT BULLETINS WITH HYMNS are available in the main narthex.

LISTENING DEVICES are available for those who need assistance in hearing the service. Please speak to the Elder on duty (main narthex) if you need one.

PLEASE RESPECT the prayerful atmosphere of this holy place. We ask you to turn off all cell phones and electronic devices. Thank you!

DID YOU FORGET your offering envelope? Extra envelopes are located in the tract rack of each narthex.

THE LENTEN PRAYER: *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, our Lord. Amen.*



RETURN TO THE LORD: RETURN TO PRAYER

The season of Lent is a time for self-examination and repentance, and it is a time for prayer. “Prayer is the soul’s sincere desire . . . the Christian’s vital breath,” penned hymnwriter James Montgomery (*TLH* 454:1, 5). But sometimes that holy conversation is interrupted or sidelined from a place of priority in our lives. Even our Lord’s closest disciples did not serve Him faithfully as watchers and prayers with Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane. In this holy season, we return to prayer, treasuring the opportunity to pray without ceasing and leading prayerful lives that reflect the mercy of our heavenly Father, who hears our supplications and responds to them in love.

THE PRELUDE

THE RINGING OF THE CHIMES

THE WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE ORDER OF VESPERS

(LSB, pp. 229-234)

THE HYMN: 772 – “In Holy Conversation”



1 In ho - ly con - ver - sa - tion We speak to God in prayer,
2 These ho - ly con - ver - sa - tions Be - gin in child-like ways;
3 As ho - ly con - ver - sa - tion, In si - lence or by word,



And at His in - vi - ta - tion Our deep - est thoughts we share.
We bring our sup - pli - ca - tions And words of thanks and praise.
In ev - 'ry sit - u - a - tion Through Je - sus, we are heard.



We come, His will o - bey - ing, As chil - dren bring - ing needs;
With care our Fa - ther lis - tens To ev - 'ry thought ex - pressed,
So let us pray se - cure - ly, Ex - press - ing hopes and fears



And to sup - port our pray - ing, His Spir - it in - ter - cedes.
Then an - swers our pe - ti - tions In ways He knows are best.
With con - fi - dence that sure - ly Our Fa - ther ev - er hears.

Tune: Public domain

Text: © 2004 Gregory J. Wismar. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110003759

(Please stand for the last stanza)

THE VERSICLES, RESPONSES, AND ASCRIPTION OF PRAISE

(LSB, p. 229; Spoken)

P(Pastor): O Lord, open my lips,

C(Congregation): and my mouth will declare Your praise.

P: Make haste, O God, to deliver me;

C: make haste to help me, O Lord.

All: 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.

All: Praise to You, O Christ, Lamb of our salvation.

THE PSALM: (from Psalm 121; Spoken responsively)

P: I lift up my eyes to the hills.

From where does my help come?

C: My help comes from the LORD,
who made heaven and earth.

P: He will not let your foot be moved;

He who keeps you will not slumber.

C: Behold, He who keeps Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.

P: The LORD is your keeper;

the LORD is your shade on your right hand.

C: The sun shall not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.

P: The LORD will keep you from all evil;

He will keep your life.

C: The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in
from this time forth and forevermore.

All: 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.

(Please be seated)

THE OFFICE HYMN: 663 – “Rise, My Soul, to Watch and Pray”

– Stanzas 1, 2, 5



1 Rise, my soul, to watch and pray; From your sleep a - wak -
2 Watch a - gainst the dev - il's snares Lest a - sleep he find
5 But while watch - ing, al - so pray To the Lord un - ceas -



en! Be not by the e - vil day Un - a - wares o'er -
you; For in - deed no pains he spares To de - ceive and
ing. God pro - tects you day by day, Strength and faith in -

tak - en; For the foe, Well we know, Is a
 blind you. Sa - tan's prey Oft are they Who se -
 creas - ing, So that still Mind and will Shall u -
 har - vest reap - ing While the saints are sleep - ing.
 cure are sleep - ing And no watch are keep - ing.
 nite to serve Him And for - ev - er love Him.

Tune and text: Public domain

THE FIRST READING: Genesis 32:22-30

P: The First Reading for this evening is from the 32nd chapter of Genesis.

²² The same night he arose and took his two wives, his two female servants, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. ²³ He took them and sent them across the stream, and everything else that he had. ²⁴ And Jacob was left alone. And a man wrestled with him until the breaking of the day. ²⁵ When the man saw that He did not prevail against Jacob, He touched his hip socket, and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as He wrestled with him. ²⁶ Then He said, "Let Me go, for the day has broken." But Jacob said, "I will not let You go unless You bless me." ²⁷ And He said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." ²⁸ Then He said, "Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with men, and have prevailed." ²⁹ Then Jacob asked Him, "Please tell me Your name." But He said, "Why is it that you ask My name?" And there He blessed him. ³⁰ So Jacob called the name of the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life has been delivered." (ESV)

P: O Lord, have mercy on us.

C: Thanks be to God.

THE SECOND READING: Romans 8:22-28

P: The Second Reading for this evening is from the 8th chapter of Romans.

²² For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. ²³ And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for

what he sees? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

²⁶ Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷ And He who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

²⁸ We know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose. (ESV)

P: O Lord, have mercy on us.

C: Thanks be to God.

THE THIRD READING: Matthew 26:36-46

P: The Third Reading for this evening is from the 26th chapter of St. Matthew.

³⁶ Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane, and He said to His disciples, "Sit here, while I go over there and pray." ³⁷ And taking with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, He began to be sorrowful and troubled. ³⁸ Then He said to them, "My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with Me." ³⁹ And going a little farther He fell on His face and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will." ⁴⁰ And He came to the disciples and found them sleeping. And He said to Peter, "So, could you not watch with Me one hour? ⁴¹ Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." ⁴² Again, for the second time, He went away and prayed, "My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, Your will be done." ⁴³ And again He came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. ⁴⁴ So, leaving them again, He went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words again. ⁴⁵ Then He came to the disciples and said to them, "Sleep and take your rest later on. See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. ⁴⁶ Rise, let us be going; see, My betrayer is at hand." (ESV)

P: O Lord, have mercy on us.

C: Thanks be to God.

THE RESPONSORY FOR LENT (*LSB, p. 231; Spoken*)

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.

THE CHOIR ANTHEM: “Glory Be to Jesus”

(Burkhardt) – Good News Singers

THE CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

THE HYMN: “Break Your Hearts”



1 Break your hearts with mourn - ing And your pride in two,
2 See your Sav - ior dy - ing, Hung up - on the tree.
3 Gath - er all in num - ber From both far and near;



Ash and grief a - dorn - ing Your re - pen - tance true.
It is vain de - ny - ing What is plain to see:
E - ven those in slum - ber Wait for trum - pets clear.



With your tears and fast - ing, From your God dis - cern
While His heart is break - ing, Still your God will earn
When the Lord grants bless - ing, Bro - ken hearts will learn



His ways ev - er - last - ing: To your Lord re - turn.
Free - dom in the mak - ing, To your Lord re - turn.
Joy be - yond ex - press - ing; To your Lord re - turn.

THE SERMON

Title: “Return to the Lord: Return to Prayer”

Text: Genesis 32:22-30 & Matthew 26:36-46

(Please stand)

THE VERSICLE AND RESPONSE (*Spoken*)

P: Let my prayers rise before You as incense,

C: and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

THE MAGNIFICAT

ALL: My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God, my savior;

Men: for He has regarded the lowliness of His handmaiden.

Women: For behold, from this day all generations will call me blessed.

Men: For the Mighty One has done great things to me, and holy is His name;

Women: and His mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to generation.

Men: He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

Women: He has cast down the mighty from their thrones and has exalted the lowly.

Men: He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich He has sent empty away.

Women: He has helped His servant Israel in remembrance of His mercy as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed forever.

ALL: 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.

(Please be seated)

THE OFFERING

(Please stand)

THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

P: O God, You see in secret. Look into the secret of our hearts; know our intentions.

C: Receive the gifts we offer with our thanks. Help us, this Lent, to save and to share, that others may discover Your goodness.

P: Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

THE KYRIE *(Spoken)*

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(Spoken)*

All: 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.

THE COLLECTS:

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And with your spirit.

P: Let us pray.

P: God our Father, You promise to hear our prayers, whether spoken or even too deep for words. During these Lenten days, breathe the breath of Your Spirit into our mouths, that we learn to pray without ceasing; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: Ever-present God, stay with us, for darkness has come and the day is now past. Forgive, we pray, both our neglect in doing good this day and the wrongs we have done. Awaken us in the morning, bathed in the light of our Baptism, so that we will be ready to love and serve You and our neighbor; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: God our strength, the peace You provide through the cross of Christ flows like a river through the chaos of our lives. Lead us to drink deeply from the still waters of Your peace, and thereby dispel our anxieties and fears, so that we may serve you with humility and grace; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

THE BENEDICAMUS *(LSB, p. 234; Spoken)*

P: Let us bless the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

THE BLESSING *(LSB, p. 234; Spoken)*

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.

THE CLOSING HYMN: 878 – “Abide with Me” – Stanzas 1 & 6

1 A - bid e with me, fast falls the e - ven - tide.
6 Hold Thou Thy cross be - fore my clos - ing eyes;

The dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bid e.
Shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies.

When oth - er help - ers fail and com - forts flee,
Heav'n's morn - ing breaks, and earth's vain shad - ows flee;

Help of the help - less, O a - bid e with me.
In life, in death, O Lord, a - bid e with me.

Text and tune: Public domain

THE SILENT PRAYER

THE THREE CHIMES

(Please be seated)

THE POSTLUDE

SERVING US TODAY

Liturgist & Preacher: Pastor Mark H. Ebert

Organist: Joe Herl

Choir Director: Holly Guilford

Children’s Message: Pastor Mark H. Ebert

Acolyte: Tyson McFarland

Elder on Duty: Brent Bolte

Head Usher: Lee Fiddler

< **NEWS & NOTES** >

LENTEN VESPERS #2

“A RETURN TO PRAYER”

This sermon focuses our attention on Peter, James, and John in the Garden of Gethsemane, and explores the topic of prayer. Our prayer life ebbs and flows; we have seasons of abundant prayer and seasons of drought. Throughout all of it, though, Jesus prays consistently. Indeed, “the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words” (Romans 8:26). When God calls us to pray, He provides the means to do so and even fulfills what we ourselves are unable to do. So also Jesus takes our sins upon Himself and dies on the cross, satisfying the wrath of God and fulfilling what we ourselves are unable to do.

“My Special Lenten Gift for Missions”

Please consider using the special offering envelope included in the February Cross Talk mailing. Please make sure to include your name on the outside of the envelope. These envelopes can be returned at any time. The funds gathered in this way are added to our regular commitment to missions. Additional envelopes are also available in the main narthex.

**Dine to Donate
Youth Fundraiser**



Due to concerns for the health of the congregation, Lenten dinners for this year are canceled. Redeemer’s Board for Youth has come up with an alternative for you to consider. Almost every week during Lent, we have a restaurant that has agreed to donate proceeds to Redeemer’s high school youth, who are attending this summer’s servant trip. Restaurant fundraisers are the most delicious way to change our community! Please consider patronizing our restaurant partners on the following dates:

- ☪ **March 3, Wed - DaVinci’s** (44th & O)
5-8PM, Call ahead & pickup, *Say you’re from Redeemer*
- ☪ **March 10, Wed - Don & Millie’s** (56th & Hwy 2)
4-10PM, *Say you’re from Redeemer*
- ☪ **March 17, Wed - Panera** (62nd & O)
- ☪ **March 24, Wed - Amigos** (70th & A), 5-8PM
- ☪ **March 30, Tue - Runza** (48th & O), 5-8PM
- ☪ **April 1, Maundy Thur - Taco John’s** (48th & O), 5-9PM
For Taco John’s, a coupon needs to be presented which will be available in later bulletins.

YOU MAY CONTACT US AT:

Church number: 402-477-1710

Church Office E-Mail Addresses:

Secretary Ruth Schultz: secretary@redeemerlincoln.org

Secretary Susan Behrens: susanb@redeemerlincoln.org

Pastor Ebert: pastor.ebert@redeemerlincoln.org

Pastor Dietrich: pastor.dietrich@redeemerlincoln.org

DCE Rod Lane: dcerod@redeemerlincoln.org

Financial Secretary Cindy Dull: cindydull@redeemerlincoln.org

Redeemer Web page: redeemerlincoln.org

Redeemer Facebook page: facebook.com/redeemerlincoln.org

Worship Opportunities Lent & Holy Week 2021



PLEASE REGISTER FOR ALL SERVICES.

Other Midweek Lenten Services *

Wednesdays: March 3, 10, 17, 24
6:30PM

Palm Sunday *

Saturday & Sunday, March 27 & 28
6:00PM Saturday: **Divine Service**
8:30 & 11:00AM Sunday: **Divine Services**
9:45AM Sunday: Sunday School & Bible Classes

Maundy Thursday *

Thursday, April 1
4:00 & 7:00PM: **Divine Services with Holy Communion**

Good Friday *

Friday, April 2
4:00 & 7:00PM: **Tenebrae Service**

Easter Vigil Service

Saturday, April 3
6:00PM: **Divine Service with Holy Communion**

Easter Sunday *

Sunday, April 4
7:00 & 10:00AM: **Divine Services with Holy Communion**
9:00AM: Sunday School & Bible Classes

* Service will be live streamed and available for later viewing.

EASTER LILY ORDER FORM

We are taking orders for Easter Lilies to decorate the church for Easter.
You can purchase 1 Easter Lily plant with foil wrap for a price of \$8.50.

Please return whole completed form.



To purchase an Easter Lily:

- 1) Fill out the order form
- 2) Enclose your check (made payable to Redeemer Lutheran Church) with your order form.
- 3) Place your order and payment in the offering plate with your offering

OR

Mail your check and form to:
Redeemer Lutheran Church
510 South 33rd Street
Lincoln, NE 68510

DEADLINE: Sunday, March 7

Name: _____

Phone #: _____

Plants Ordering: _____ Enclosed is: Cash ___ Check: ___

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____
