

LENT



Midweek of Lent 4 RETURN FROM DENIAL

In one of the classic hymns associated with the season of Lent, Scottish-born writer James Montgomery, author of over four hundred hymns, penned this thoughtful prayer: “In the hour of trial, Jesus, plead for me Lest by base denial I depart from Thee” (*LW* 511:1). Although the language of the hymn reflects the era in which it was written almost two hundred years ago, the central concern is as valid today as it was when the stanza was written. The phrase “base denial” calls to mind the disciple Peter, who disowns his Lord while in the courtyard of the house of the high priest. At times in our lives, we may be tempted to deny our Lord and to act as though our faith is not central to who we are. It is then that we can draw strength from remembering the forgiveness won for us by our suffering Lord, who calls us even from “base denial” to return to Him.

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 118:19–29

¹⁹ Open to me the gates of | righteousness,*
that I may enter through them
and give thanks | to the LORD.
²⁰ This is the gate | of the LORD;*
the righteous shall enter | through it.
²¹ I thank You that You have | answered me*
and have become my sal- | vation.
²² The stone that the builders re- | jected*
has become the | cornerstone.
²³ This is the LORD's | doing;*
it is marvelous | in our eyes.
²⁴ This is the day that the | LORD has made;*
let us rejoice and be | glad in it.
²⁵ Save us, we pray, | O LORD!*
O LORD, we pray, give | us success!
²⁶ Blessèd is He who comes in the name | of the LORD!*
We bless You from the house | of the LORD.
²⁷ The LORD is God,
and He has made His light to shine up- | on us.*
Bind the festal sacrifice with cords,
up to the horns of the | altar!
²⁸ You are my God, and I will give | thanks to You;*
You are my God; I will ex- | tol You.
²⁹ Oh give thanks to the LORD, for | He is good;*
for His steadfast love endures for- | ever!
**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.**

+ READINGS +

READING

Isaiah 59:1–3, 12–13

P A reading from Isaiah, the fifty-ninth chapter.

¹ Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save,
or His ear dull, that it cannot hear;
² but your iniquities have made a separation
between you and your God,

and your sins have hidden His face from you
so that He does not hear.

³ For your hands are defiled with blood
and your fingers with iniquity;
your lips have spoken lies;
your tongue mutters wickedness.

¹² For our transgressions are multiplied before You,
and our sins testify against us;
for our transgressions are with us,
and we know our iniquities:

¹³ transgressing, and denying the LORD,
and turning back from following our God,
speaking oppression and revolt,
conceiving and uttering from the heart lying words.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING

1 Peter 5:6–10

P A reading from First Peter, the fifth chapter.

⁶ Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time He may exalt you, ⁷ casting all your anxieties on Him, because He cares for you. ⁸ Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. ⁹ Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. ¹⁰ And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 22:54–62

P A reading from St. Luke, the twenty-second chapter.

⁵⁴ Then they seized Him and led Him away, bringing Him into the high priest's house, and Peter was following at a distance. ⁵⁵ And when they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat down among them. ⁵⁶ Then a servant girl, seeing him as he sat in the light and looking closely at him, said, "This man also was with Him." ⁵⁷ But he denied it, saying, "Woman, I do not know Him." ⁵⁸ And a little later someone else saw him and said, "You also are one of them." But Peter said, "Man, I am not." ⁵⁹ And after an interval of about an hour still another insisted, saying, "Certainly this man also was with Him, for he too is a Galilean." ⁶⁰ But Peter said, "Man, I do not know what you are talking about." And immediately, while he was still speaking, the rooster crowed. ⁶¹ And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the saying of

the Lord, how He had said to him, “Before the rooster crows today, you will deny Me three times.”⁶² And he went out and wept bitterly.

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

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.

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, our Lord.

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 T Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **Amen.**