

MIDWEEK OF LENT 2

MALCHUS

All four Gospels record the event in Gethsemane when the ear of the high priest's servant is cut off. Only John gives us names—Peter and Malchus. Our attention now is drawn to Gethsemane that night when Judas betrays Jesus as Peter cuts off the ear of Malchus. The chief priests, scribes, Judas, and Peter all seek power and control of the situation. Jesus—the only one with true power and authority—lays it down, as He also does with His life itself. In His resurrection, Jesus will take up His life again, reclaiming His power, control, and authority, which extends throughout the earth and heavens.

Opening Sentences:

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.

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

Psalm 69:

P: Answer me, O LORD, for Your steadfast love is good;

C: according to Your abundant mercy, turn to me.

P: Save me, O God!

C: For the waters have come up to my neck.

P: I sink in deep mire,

C: where there is no foothold;

P: I have come into deep waters,

C: and the flood sweeps over me.

P: I am weary with my crying out;

C: my throat is parched.

P: My eyes grow dim

C: with waiting for my God.

P: But as for me, my prayer is to You, O LORD.

C: At an acceptable time, O God, in the abundance of Your steadfast

love answer me in Your saving faithfulness.

P: Deliver me from sinking in the mire;

C: let me be delivered from my enemies and from the deep waters.

P: Answer me, O LORD, for Your steadfast love is good;

C: according to Your abundant mercy, turn to me.

P: Hide not Your face from Your servant;

C: for I am in distress; make haste to answer me.

P: Draw near to my soul, redeem me;

C: ransom me because of my enemies!

**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.**

P: Answer me, O LORD, for Your steadfast love is good;

C: according to Your abundant mercy, turn to me.

Psalm Prayer:

P: God of hope, in Christ's Passover from death to life, You have restored Your fallen creation and raised up to life a people marked for death. Fill us with thanksgiving that we, who by the rescue of Your grace have been made new, may delight in Your ways; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord.

C: Amen.

Hymn: "O God, Forsake Me Not" - Hymn # 751

First Reading: Isaiah 53:1-5

P: Who has believed what they heard from us? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? For He grew up before Him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; He had no form or majesty that we should look at Him, and no beauty that we should desire Him. He was despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces He was despised, and we esteemed Him not. Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions; He was crushed for our iniquities; upon Him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with His stripes we are healed.

P: O Lord, have mercy on us.

C: Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 1:1–5

P: Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,
To the church of God that is at Corinth, with all the saints who are in the
whole of Achaia: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord
Jesus Christ. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the
Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our
affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction,
with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. For as we
share abundantly in Christ’s sufferings, so through Christ we share
abundantly in comfort too.

P: O Lord, have mercy on us.

C: Thanks be to God.

Third Reading: John 18:1-11

P: 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. Now Judas, who betrayed Him, also knew the place, for Jesus often
met there with His disciples. 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. 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. When Jesus said to them, “I am
He,” they drew back and fell to the ground. So He asked them again, “Whom
do you seek?” And they said, “Jesus of Nazareth.” Jesus answered, “I told
you that I am He. So, if you seek Me, let these men go.” This was to fulfill
the word that He had spoken: “Of those whom You gave Me I have lost not
one.” 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.) 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.

Lenten Responses:

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 Hymn: “*Jesus, Grant That Balm and Healing*” - **Hymn #421**

Sermon: “*Witness to Jesus: Malchus*” John 18:1-11

P: Let my prayer rise before You as incense,

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

Song of Mary: “*My Soul Rejoices*” - **Hymn #933**

Kyrie: (Lord, Have Mercy)

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

P: We think again of what God promised about His Son, Jesus Christ, whose death He prophesied through the words of Isaiah. Lord Jesus:

C: “Who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?”

P: How can anyone truly understand what You did, taking upon Yourself the form of servant, putting Yourself at the bottom for us?

C: “He grew up before Him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground.”

P: You did not come in a blaze of glory. You were born among common, peasant people.

C: “He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to Him, nothing in His appearance that we should desire Him.”

P: You were not what people expected. Your enemies even had to bribe Your disciple Judas to betray You because they were not sure what You looked like.

C: “He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain.”

P: The Son of God? The King of the universe? Do we have something wrong here?

C: “Like one from whom people hide their faces He was despised, and we held Him in low esteem.”

P: Maybe those people back then did this to You, but me? O Yes, it was our sin that nailed You to the cross.

C: Surely He took up our pain and bore our suffering,”

P: Yes, that was supposed to happen to us.

C: “Yet we considered Him punished by God, stricken by Him, and afflicted.”

P: This is how much the Father loves us, He inflicted punishment on You, His only Son, instead of us.

C “But He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities;”

P: I and everyone gathered here is at fault. Our sin put You on the cross.

C: “The punishment that brought us peace was on Him, and by His wounds we are healed.”

P: You healed us! No, not just a band aid to cover it, not just a painkiller to help us pretend it doesn't exist, not just a temporary remission until the sin comes back worse, but total healing, total and complete forgiveness!

ALL: Thanks be to You, Lord Jesus!

(other concerns)

P: All this we pray as You taught us to pray . . .

The Lord's Prayer:

P: Lord, hear my prayer.

C: And let my cry come to You.

P: Let us bless the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Blessing:

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.

Closing Hymn: “I Am Trusting Thee, Lord Jesus”- Hymn #729