Opening Versicles

Stand

L O Lord, open my lips,

C **and my mouth will declare Your praise.**

L 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 10:1–12; antiphon: v. 12*

L Arise, O Lord; O God, lift up Your hand;
 forget not the afflicted.

C **Why, O Lord, do You stand afar off?** **Why do You hide yourself in times of trouble?**

L In arrogance the wicked hotly pursue the poor;
 let them be caught in the schemes that they have devised.

C **For the wicked boasts of the desires of his soul,** **and the one greedy for gain curses and renounces the Lord.
In the pride of his face the wicked does not seek Him;** **all his thoughts are, “There is no God.”**

L His ways prosper at all times;
Your judgments are on high, out of his sight;
 as for all his foes, he puffs at them.

C **He says in his heart, “I shall not be moved;** **throughout all generations I shall not meet adversity.”**

L His mouth is filled with cursing and deceit and oppression;
 under his tongue are mischief and iniquity.

C **He sits in ambush in the villages;
in hiding places he murders the innocent.** **His eyes stealthily watch for the helpless;**

L he lurks in ambush like a lion in his thicket;
he lurks that he may seize the poor;
 he seizes the poor when he draws him into his net.

C **The helpless are crushed,** **sink down, and fall by his might.**

L He says in his heart, “God has forgotten,
 He has hidden His face, He will never see it.”

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.**

L Arise, O Lord; O God, lift up Your hand;
 forget not the afflicted.

Sit

Office Hymn *453 Upon the Cross Extended*

*Pause the audio here should you choose to sing the hymn*

1 Upon the cross extended
See, world, your Lord suspended.
 Your Savior yields His breath.
The Prince of Life from heaven
Himself has freely given
 To shame and blows and bitter death.

2 Come, see these things and ponder,
Your soul will fill with wonder
 As blood streams from each pore.
Through grief beyond all knowing
From His great heart came flowing
 Sighs welling from its deepest core.

4 I caused Your grief and sighing
By evils multiplying
 As countless as the sands.
I caused the woes unnumbered
With which Your soul is cumbered,
 Your sorrows raised by wicked hands.

5 Your soul in griefs unbounded,
Your head with thorns surrounded,
 You died to ransom me.
The cross for me enduring,
The crown for me securing,
 You healed my wounds and set me free.

7 Your cross I place before me;
Its saving pow’r restore me,
 Sustain me in the test.
It will, when life is ending,
Be guiding and attending
 My way to Your eternal rest.

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+ Readings +

Reading *Job 24:13–17*

L A reading from Job, chapter 24.

13“There are those who rebel against the light,
 who are not acquainted with its ways,
 and do not stay in its paths.
14The murderer rises before it is light,
 that he may kill the poor and needy,
 and in the night he is like a thief.
15The eye of the adulterer also waits for the twilight,
 saying, ‘No eye will see me’;
 and he veils his face.
16In the dark they dig through houses;
 by day they shut themselves up;
 they do not know the light.
17For deep darkness is morning to all of them;
 for they are friends with the terrors of deep darkness.

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Reading *1 John 3:11–15*

L A reading from 1 John, chapter 3.

 11For this is the message that you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. 12We should not be like Cain, who was of the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own deeds were evil and his brother’s righteous. 13Do not be surprised, brothers, that the world hates you. 14We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death. 15Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Reading *Matthew 23:29–36*

L A reading from Matthew, chapter 23.

 29“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you build the tombs of the prophets and decorate the monuments of the righteous, 30saying, ‘If we had lived in the days of our fathers, we would not have taken part with them in shedding the blood of the prophets.’ 31Thus you witness against yourselves that you are sons of those who murdered the prophets. 32Fill up, then, the measure of your fathers. 33You serpents, you brood of vipers, how are you to escape being sentenced to hell? 34Therefore I send you prophets and wise men and scribes, some of whom you will kill and crucify, and some you will flog in your synagogues and persecute from town to town, 35so that on you may come all the righteous blood shed on earth, from the blood of innocent Abel to the blood of Zechariah the son of Barachiah, whom you murdered between the sanctuary and the altar. 36Truly, I say to you, all these things will come upon this generation.

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Reading *Mark 14:1, 53–65*

L A reading from Mark, chapter 14.

 1It was now two days before the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread. And the chief priests and the scribes were seeking how to arrest him by stealth and kill him,

 53And they led Jesus to the high priest. And all the chief priests and the elders and the scribes came together. 54And Peter had followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest. And he was sitting with the guards and warming himself at the fire. 55Now the chief priests and the whole Council were seeking testimony against Jesus to put him to death, but they found none. 56For many bore false witness against him, but their testimony did not agree. 57And some stood up and bore false witness against him, saying, 58“We heard him say, ‘I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and in three days I will build another, not made with hands.’” 59Yet even about this their testimony did not agree. 60And the high priest stood up in the midst and asked Jesus, “Have you no answer to make? What is it that these men testify against you?” 61But he remained silent and made no answer. Again the high priest asked him, “Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?” 62And Jesus said, “I am, and you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven.” 63And the high priest tore his garments and said, “What further witnesses do we need? 64You have heard his blasphemy. What is your decision?” And they all condemned him as deserving death. 65And some began to spit on him and to cover his face and to strike him, saying to him, “Prophesy!” And the guards received him with blows.

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon *“Murderous Eyes” (Mark 14:1, 53–65)*

+ Canticle +

*Pause the audio here should you choose to sing the hymn*

Hymn (*Sing to the tune of “Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed”*) *Our Eyes Behold the Savior’s Face*

1 Our eyes behold the Savior’s face
And yet cannot perceive
That His perspective held our grace
Before we could believe.

2 Our focus flits and fails to see
The One whose steadfast gaze
Propelled Him to the darkened tree
Enveloped in death’s haze.

3 Our sights train on the dreadful cross.
Beneath His knowing eyes,
Our sins are bare and set for loss;
He sees us as His prize.

4 Our vision blurs with anxious tears
As Jesus’ eyelids fall
To conquer sin and all our fears
And tear in two our pall.

5 Our view scans for the coming Day
That evermore grows near,
When Jesus wipes our tears away
And all is crystal clear.

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+ Prayer +

Kneel/Stand

Kyrie *LSB 233*

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

L O Lord, hear my prayer.

C **And let my cry come to You.**

Collect of the Day

L Lord Jesus Christ, we often have gazed with murderous hatred upon our fellow man. Look upon us with favor, forgive all our sins, and replace all hatred in our hearts with love for You and our neighbor; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Collect for Lent

L Almighty and everlasting God, You despise nothing You have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and contrite hearts that lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness we may receive from You full pardon and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Collect for Peace

L 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.**

Stand

Benedicamus *LSB 234*

L Let us bless the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Benediction *LSB 234*

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 to Depart *877 God, Who Made the Earth and Heaven*

1 God, who made the earth and heaven,
    Darkness and light:
You the day for work have given,
    For rest the night.
May Your angel guards defend us,
Slumber sweet Your mercy send us,
Holy dreams and hopes attend us
    All through the night.

2 And when morn again shall call us
    To run life’s way,
May we still, whate’er befall us,
    Your will obey.
From the pow’r of evil hide us,
In the narrow pathway guide us,
Never be Your smile denied us
    All through the day.

3 Guard us waking, guard us sleeping,
    And when we die,
May we in Your mighty keeping
    All peaceful lie.
When the last dread call shall wake us,
Then, O Lord, do not forsake us,
But to reign in glory take us
    With You on high.

D 4 Holy Father, throned in heaven,
    All-holy Son,
Holy Spirit, freely given,
    Blest Three in One:
Grant us grace, we now implore You,
Till we lay our crowns before You
And in worthier strains adore You
    While ages run.

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