



## SOON AND NEVER

King David's enemies said of him, "When will he die and his name perish?" (Psalm 41:5) Do you have enemies who wish the same fate on you? Regardless of your best efforts to "lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way" (1 Timothy 2:2), you are pursued unceasingly by three dread adversaries: the world, the devil, and your own sinful flesh. When will you die? When will your name perish? Christ silences your foes and your fears and will strengthen and keep you firm in His Word and faith unto the end.

### HYMN: 423

#### 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.**
- 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.**

#### PSALM

*Psalm 41*

- P** Blessed is the one who considers the poor!
- C** **In the day of trouble the LORD delivers him;**
- P** the LORD protects him and keeps him alive; he is called blessed in the land;
- C** **You do not give him up to the will of his enemies.**
- P** The LORD sustains him on his sickbed; in his illness You restore him to full health.
- C** **As for me, I said, "O LORD, be gracious to me; heal me, for I have sinned against You!"**
- P** My enemies say of me in malice, "When will he die and his name perish?"

**C** And when one comes to see me, he utters empty words, while his heart gathers iniquity; when he goes out, he tells it abroad.

**P** All who hate me whisper together about me; they imagine the worst for me.

**C** They say, “A deadly thing is poured out on him; he will not rise again from where he lies.”

**P** Even my close friend in whom I trusted, who ate my bread, has lifted his heel against me.

**C** But You, O LORD, be gracious to me, and raise me up, that I may repay them!

**P** By this I know that You delight in me: my enemy will not shout in triumph over me.

**C** But You have upheld me because of my integrity, and set me in Your presence forever. Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting! Amen and Amen.

**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.**

**READING: DEUTERONOMY 7:22–26** *Deuteronomy 7:22–26*

**P** A reading from Deuteronomy, the seventh chapter.

<sup>22</sup>The LORD your God will clear away these nations before you little by little. You may not make an end of them at once, lest the wild beasts grow too numerous for you. <sup>23</sup>But the LORD your God will give them over to you and throw them into great confusion, until they are destroyed. <sup>24</sup>And he will give their kings into your hand, and you shall make their name perish from under heaven. No one shall be able to stand against you until you have destroyed them. <sup>25</sup>The carved images of their gods you shall burn with fire. You shall not covet the silver or the gold that is on them or take it for yourselves, lest you be ensnared by it, for it is an abomination to the LORD your God. <sup>26</sup>And you shall not bring an abominable thing into your house and become

devoted to destruction like it. You shall utterly detest and abhor it, for it is devoted to destruction.

**P** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

**READING: REVELATION 19:11–16**      *Revelation 19:11–16*

**P** A reading from Revelation, the nineteenth chapter.

<sup>11</sup>Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war. <sup>12</sup>His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems, and he has a name written that no one knows but himself. <sup>13</sup>He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God. <sup>14</sup>And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses. <sup>15</sup>From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. <sup>16</sup>On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords.

**P** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

**READING: JOHN 12:20–30**      *John 12:20–30*

**P** A reading from St. John, the twelfth chapter.

<sup>20</sup>Now among those who went up to worship at the feast were some Greeks. <sup>21</sup>So these came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” <sup>22</sup>Philip went and told Andrew; Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. <sup>23</sup>And Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. <sup>24</sup>Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. <sup>25</sup>Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. <sup>26</sup>If anyone serves me,

he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him.

<sup>27</sup>“Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? But for this purpose I have come to this hour. <sup>28</sup>Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven: “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.”

<sup>29</sup>The crowd that stood there and heard it said that it had thundered. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.”

<sup>30</sup>Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not mine.

**P** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

### LENT RESPONSORY

**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.**

**HYMN: 439 vs. 1-4**

**SERMON**

**OFFERING**

**ANTIPHON**

**P** Let my prayer rise before You as incense,

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

## KYRIE

**C** Lord, have mercy;  
Christ, have mercy;  
Lord, have mercy.

## PRAYERS

HYMN: 420

## 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

**P** O Lord, hear my prayer.

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

**P** We thank You, our God and Father, that You have drawn us to Your Son, Jesus Christ. As we consider His sign of sacrifice and love, sustain us in our trials, comfort us in our sorrows, and strengthen us against temptation. Grant that the cross may be to us a continuing promise of the forgiveness of our sins as we observe a holy Lent. We ask this through Jesus Christ, our gracious Lord.

**C** Amen.

**C** I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

**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**

**P** Let us bless the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## **BENEDICTION**

**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: 878**

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

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