

The Order of Vespers

for the Festival of St. Titus

Wednesday, January 26, 2022

Rev. Paul Rydecki, Pastor at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Las Cruces, NM
member of the Evangelical Lutheran Diocese of North America (ELDoNA)

The Lutheran Hymnal, p. 41

Hymn

TLH #331 – *Yea as I Live, Jehovah Saith*

Stand

Versicles and Responses

p.41

The Psalmody

Psalm 33

The verses are spoken antiphonally between the Pastor and Congregation.

P (*Antiphon*) Let all the earth fear the LORD; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him.

Rejoice in the LORD, O you righteous.

Praise befits the upright.

Praise the LORD with the lyre;

sing praise to him with the psaltery and a harp of ten strings.

Sing to him a new song;

play skillfully with a joyful shout.

For the word of the LORD is right;

and all his works are done in truth.

He loves righteousness and justice;

the earth is full of the LORD's mercy.

By the Word of the LORD the heavens were made;

and all the host of them by the Spirit of his mouth.

He gathers the waters of the sea together in a heap;

he lays up the deep in storehouses.

Let all the earth fear the LORD;

let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him.

For he spoke, and it was done;

he commanded, and it stood fast.

The LORD brings the counsel of the nations to nothing;

he frustrates the plans of the peoples.

The counsel of the LORD stands forever,

the plans of his heart to all generations.

Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD;

the people whom he has chosen for his own inheritance.

The LORD looks from heaven;
he sees all the children of man.
From the place of his habitation
he looks upon all the inhabitants of the earth.
He fashions their hearts alike;
he considers all their works.
No king is saved by the abundance of his strength;
a mighty man is not delivered by great might.
A horse is a false hope for safety;
by his great strength he delivers no one.
Behold, the eye of the LORD is on those who fear him,
on those who hope in his mercy
to deliver their soul from death,
and to keep them alive in famine.
Our soul waits for the LORD;
he is our help and our shield.
For our heart shall rejoice in him,
because we have trusted in his holy name.
Let your mercy be upon us, O LORD,
even as we hope in you.

Glory | be to the Father, and to | the Son, *
and to the Holy | Ghost;
as it | was in the beginning, is now, and ever | shall be, *
world without end. A- | men.

P (*Antiphon*) Let all the earth fear the LORD; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him.

Sit

First Lesson

Acts 20:17-35

After each Lesson:

P But Thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us.



R Thanks be to Thee, O Lord!

Second Lesson

Luke 10:1-9

Hymn

TLH #329 – From Depths of Woe I Cry to Thee

The Sermon

Stand

Versicle and Response	p.42
The Canticle	<i>The Magnificat, p.43</i>
The Prayers	p.44
The Kyrie	
The Lord's Prayer	
The Salutation & Collects	p. 45
The Benedicamus and The Benediction	p. 45

THE MINISTRY OF THE KEYS

What are the words about the ministry of the keys?

The Lord Jesus breathed on His disciples and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit! If you forgive the sins of any, to them they are forgiven, and if you retain the sins of any, to them they are retained.”

What does this mean?

I believe in what the called ministers of Christ do among us, by His divine command—especially when they exclude public, impenitent sinners from the Christian congregation, and when they absolve those who repent of their sins and are willing to mend their ways—that it is all as valid and certain in heaven also, as if our dear Lord Christ did it Himself.

St. Titus, to whom St. Paul’s Epistle to Titus was addressed, was a beloved companion and coworker of the Apostle. He is not mentioned in the book of Acts, but it is clear from Galatians that he was a Greek convert to Christianity, almost certainly converted by St. Paul himself, as Paul calls him, not only a “brother” (2 Cor. 2:13), but also a “true son in the common faith” (Tit. 1:4). As a Greek, he was uncircumcised, and Paul makes much of the fact that, when he brought Titus to Jerusalem from Antioch, Titus was not compelled to be circumcised (Gal. 2:3), proving that circumcision is not required for Christians. Titus also played an important role as Paul’s envoy to the Corinthians, to whom he wrote about Titus, “He is my partner and fellow worker concerning you” (2 Cor. 12:23). Eventually, Paul left Titus in Crete to set all things in order and to appoint elders (i.e., pastors) in every city (Titus 1:5), essentially making him Bishop of Crete.