

**Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer
Peekskill, NY**

Laetare Wednesday 2023

Matins, p. 32-40

Prelude	
Versicles & Gloria Patri	p. 32
Invitatory & Venite	pp. 33-34
Hymn	# 151
Psalm	# <i>122, p. 152</i>
Lessons & Responses	p. 34
Sermon	
Te Deum	pp. 35-37
Kyrie & Lord's Prayer	p. 39
Salutation & Collects	p. 40
Benedicamus & Benediction	p. 40
Doxology etc.	

Vespers, pp. 41-45

Prelude	
Versicles & Gloria Patri	p. 41
Psalm	# <i>122, p. 152</i>
Lessons & Responses	p. 42
Hymn	# 151
Sermon	
Versicle	p. 42
Nunc Dimittis	pp. 43-44
Kyrie & Lord's Prayer	p. 44
Salutation & Collects	p. 45
Benedicamus & Benediction	p. 45
Doxology etc.	

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Lessons & Responses	p. 34
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First Lesson: Isaiah 49.8-13

8 Thus saith the LORD, In an acceptable time have I heard thee, and in a day of salvation have I helped thee: and I will preserve thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, to establish the earth, to cause to inherit the desolate heritages; 9 That thou mayest say to the prisoners, Go forth; to them that are in darkness, Shew yourselves. They shall feed in the ways, and their pastures shall be in all high places. 10 They shall not hunger nor thirst; neither shall the heat nor sun smite them: for he that hath mercy on them shall lead them, even by the springs of water shall he guide them. 11 And I will make all my mountains a way, and my highways shall be exalted. 12 Behold, these shall come from far: and, lo, these from the north and from the west; and these from the land of Sinim. 13 Sing, O heavens; and be joyful, O earth; and break forth into singing, O mountains: for the LORD hath comforted his people, and will have mercy upon his afflicted.

Second Lesson: Galatians 4.21-31

21 Tell me, ye that desire to be under the law, do ye not hear the law? 22 For it is written, that Abraham had two sons, the one by a bondmaid, the other by a freewoman. 23 But he who was of the bondwoman was born after the flesh; but he of the freewoman was by promise. 24 Which things are an allegory: for these are the two covenants; the one from the mount Sinai, which gendereth to bondage, which is Agar. 25 For this Agar is mount Sinai in Arabia, and answereth to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children. 26 But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all. 27 For it is written, Rejoice, thou barren that bearest not; break forth and cry, thou that travailest not: for the desolate hath many more children than she which hath an husband. 28 Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are the children of promise. 29 But as then he that was born after the flesh persecuted him that was born after the Spirit, even so it is now. 30 Nevertheless what saith the scripture? Cast out the bondwoman and her son: for the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the freewoman. 31 So then, brethren, we are not children of the bondwoman, but of the free.

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