

LENT

in view of

GOD'S MERCY



ASH WEDNESDAY:
Mercy in Ashes



WEEK ONE:
Mercy in Temptation



WEEK TWO:
Mercy in Suffering



WEEK THREE:
Mercy in Betrayal



WEEK FOUR:
Mercy in Relationships



WEEK FIVE:
Mercy in Service

A SERIES OF SERVICES FOR LENT

Welcome

By his wounds you have been healed. 1 Peter 2:24

(Please stand, as you are able)

Invocation and Call to Worship

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C Amen.

P My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

C Be not far from me, for trouble is near.

P Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning?

C Be not far from me, for trouble is near.

P O my God, I cry by day and by night, but I find no rest.

C Be not far from me, for trouble is near.

P Deliver my soul from the sword, my precious life from the power of the dog.

C O you my help, come quickly to my aid.

P You have rescued me from the horns of the wild oxen.

C O you my help, come quickly to my aid.

P You who fear the Lord, praise him! All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him.

C O you my help, come quickly to my aid.

P For he has not despised or abhorred the affliction of the afflicted, and he has not hidden his face from him.

C But God has heard when we cried to him. Amen.

Opening Hymn LSB 440 Jesus, I Will Ponder Now

- 1 Jesus, I will ponder now
On Your holy passion;
With Your Spirit me endow
For such meditation.
Grant that I in love and faith
May the image cherish
Of Your suff'ring, pain, and death
That I may not perish.
- 2 Make me see Your great distress,
Anguish, and affliction,
Bonds and stripes and wretchedness
And Your crucifixion;
Make me see how scourge and rod,
Spear and nails did wound You,
How for them You died, O God,
Who with thorns had crowned You.
- 3 Yet, O Lord, not thus alone
Make me see Your passion,
But its cause to me make known
And its termination.
Ah! I also and my sin
Wrought Your deep affliction;
This indeed the cause has been
Of Your crucifixion.
- 4 Grant that I Your passion view
With repentant grieving.
Let me not bring shame to You
By unholy living.
How could I refuse to shun
Ev'ry sinful pleasure
Since for me God's only Son
Suffered without measure?

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Confession and Absolution

P The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned, for we have spoken against the Lord" (Numbers 21:7). We likewise confess to God that we have often spoken against him and have sinned.

C **Holy God, we confess our sin to you. When adversity and suffering have come our way, we have complained and spoken against you. We have forgotten your many benefits and blessings to us. We have not trusted you through the hard times, but have resented you and resorted to our own strength. Forgive our iniquity, and pardon our sin.**

P We cry to you for mercy!

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

(Please silently reflect on the fact that though our sin is great, God's mercy is greater.)

P Hear the good news! God's Word declares that "as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life" (John 3:14-15). In the mercy of Almighty God, his Son Jesus was given to die for you to remove the guilt of your sin. For Christ's sake God forgives you all your sin and gives you eternal life. His mercy endures forever because his love for you is steadfast.

C **Amen.**

Prayer of the Day

P Gracious Lord, as we continue our Lenten pilgrimage, we do so in view of your mercy. We are surrounded by all kinds of temptations to sin. Strengthen us by your Holy Spirit so that we resist temptation and instead do what pleases you. We pray through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen** *(Please be seated)*

Old Testament Reading, Numbers 21:4-9

From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom. And the people became impatient on the way. And the people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we loathe this worthless food." Then the Lord sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died. And the people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned, for we have spoken against the Lord and against you. Pray to the Lord, that he take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. And the Lord said to Moses, "Make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live." So Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on a pole. And if a serpent bit anyone, he would look at the bronze serpent and live.

L This is the Word of the Lord

G Thanks be to God

Epistle Reading, 1 Peter 2:21-25

For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

L This is the Word of the Lord

G Thanks be to God

(Please stand as you are able)

The Holy Gospel, Matthew 8:14-17

And when Jesus entered Peter's house, he saw his mother-in-law lying sick with a fever. He touched her hand, and the fever left her, and she rose and began to serve him. That evening they brought to him many who were oppressed by demons, and he cast out the spirits with a word and healed all who were sick. This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah: "He took

our illnesses and bore our diseases.”

L This is the Gospel of the Lord

C Praise to You, O Christ!

(Please be seated)

Sermon Song, LSB 451 Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted

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| <p>1 Stricken, smitten, and afflicted,
See Him dying on the tree!
'Tis the Christ, by man rejected;
Yes, my soul, 'tis He, 'tis He!
'Tis the long-expected Prophet,
David's Son, yet David's Lord;
Proofs I see sufficient of it:
'Tis the true and faithful Word.</p> <p>3 Ye who think of sin but lightly
Nor suppose the evil great
Here may view its nature rightly,
Here its guilt may estimate.
Mark the sacrifice appointed,
See who bears the awful load;
'Tis the Word, the Lord's anointed,
Son of Man and Son of God.</p> | <p>2 Tell me, ye who hear Him groaning,
Was there ever grief like His?
Friends through fear His cause disowning,
Foes insulting His distress;
Many hands were raised to wound Him,
None would intervene to save;
But the deepest stroke that pierced Him
Was the stroke that justice gave.</p> <p>4 Here we have a firm foundation,
Here the refuge of the lost:
Christ, the Rock of our salvation,
Is the name of which we boast;
Lamb of God, for sinners wounded,
Sacrifice to cancel guilt!
None shall ever be confounded
Who on Him their hope have built.</p> |
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Sermon

Offering

Prayers of the Church

P Almighty and merciful God, we approach your throne of grace today as those who struggle with hardships and suffer with pain.

C Lord, have mercy.

P When we encounter the brokenness of this world and the suffering that it brings—such as natural disasters, economic reversals and financial losses—restore us with your healing power so that we might rest secure in you as our mighty fortress.

C Lord, have mercy.

P When we experience broken relationships and the suffering that these bring—such as estrangement of family members, alienation from friends and conflict within congregations—restore us with your healing power so that we might seek reconciliation and peace.

C Lord, have mercy.

P When we experience broken bodies and the suffering that it brings—such as illness, injury and disability—restore us with your healing power so that we might live in health once again.

C Lord, have mercy.

P When we experience broken minds and the suffering that it brings—such as with mental illness, neurosis and dementia—restore us with your healing power so that we might know of your love.

C Lord, have mercy.

P When we experience broken spirits and the suffering that it brings—such as depression, despair and desperation—restore us with your healing power so that we might have hope.

C Lord, have mercy.

P When we encounter the death of loved ones and the sorrow that it brings, restore us with your abiding comfort so that we might trust in your victory over death.

C Lord, have mercy.

P When we encounter our own death and the terror that it brings, restore us with your resurrection power so that we might live eternally in your glory.

C Lord, grant me your grace to trust you in times of suffering and sorrow.

P All these things we pray in the name of Jesus the Suffering Servant.

C Amen.

Lord's Prayer

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.

Benediction

P May the merciful God, who suffered the pain of the cross for you and your salvation, strengthen you to trust him through hardship according to his good and gracious will, through Jesus Christ to whom be the glory forever.

C Amen.

Closing Song, Above All – by Lenny LeBanc and Paul Baloche

Above all powers, above all kings,
Above all nature and all created things;
Above all wisdom and all the ways of man,
You were here before the world began.

Above all kingdoms, above all thrones,
Above all wonders the world has ever known;
Above all wealth and treasures of the earth,
There's no way to measure what You're worth.

Crucified, laid behind the stone;
You lived to die, rejected and alone.
Like a rose trampled on the ground,

You took the fall, and thought of me,
Above all.

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