

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

Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless, for to this you were called, that you may obtain a blessing. 1 Peter 3:9

(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.

G Amen.

P Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless, for to this you were called, that you may obtain a blessing.

G We are blessed to be a blessing.

P The eyes of the Lord are toward the righteous and his ears toward their cry.

G We are blessed to be a blessing.

P When the righteous cry for help, the Lord hears and delivers them out of all their troubles.

G We are blessed to be a blessing.

P The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit.

G We are blessed to be a blessing.

P Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking deceit.

G We are blessed to be a blessing.

P Turn away from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it.

G We are blessed to be a blessing.

P The Lord redeems the life of his servants.

C We are blessed to be a blessing.

P None of those who take refuge in him will be condemned.

C Amen.

Opening Hymn LSB 435 Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain

1 Come to Calv'ry's holy mountain,
Sinners, ruined by the fall;
Here a pure and healing fountain
Flows for you, for me, for all,
In a full, perpetual tide,
Opened when our Savior died.

2 Come in poverty and meanness,
Come defiled, without, within;
From infection and uncleanness,
From the leprosy of sin,
Wash your robes and make them white;
Ye shall walk with God in light.

3 Come in sorrow and contrition,
Wounded, impotent, and blind;
Here the guilty, free remission,
Here the troubled, peace may find.
Health this fountain will restore;
They that drink shall thirst no more.

4 They that drink shall live forever;
'Tis a soul-renewing flood.
God is faithful; God will never
Break His covenant of blood,
Signed when our Redeemer died,
Sealed when He was glorified.

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Confession and Absolution

P "Whoever desires to love life and see good days, let him keep his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking deceit; let him turn away from evil and do good; let him seek peace and pursue it" (1 Peter 3:10-11). We confess to God that we have often spoken evil and lived deceitfully. We have turned from good to do evil and have pursued betrayal rather than peace.

C **Holy God, we acknowledge that we have betrayed you. We have sinned against you in thought, word and deed. We have not kept our tongues from evil, especially when slandering others. We have not sought peace with others, but have pursued sinful revenge. Forgive our transgressions. Bring reconciliation and restoration to our relationship with you and our relationships with others.**

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 "the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and

his ears are open to their prayer" (1 Peter 3:12). 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 his righteousness, making you righteous in his sight. 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. Although we have betrayed you with our sin, you continue to show your mercy to us. Strengthen us by the Holy Spirit so that we might live by your grace and follow you in faithfulness. 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, Jonah 3:1-10

Then the word of the Lord came to Jonah the second time, saying, "Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it the message that I tell you." So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, three days' journey in breadth. Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's journey. And he called out, "Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!" And the people of Nineveh believed God. They called for a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them to the least of them. The word reached the king of Nineveh, and he arose from his throne, removed his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. And he issued a proclamation and published through Nineveh, "By the decree of the king and his nobles: Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste anything. Let them not feed or drink water, but let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and let them call out mightily to God. Let everyone turn from his evil way and from the violence that is in his hands. Who knows? God may turn and relent and turn from his fierce anger, so that we may not perish." When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil way, God relented of the disaster that he had said he would do to them, and he did not do it.

L This is the Word of the Lord

C Thanks be to God

Epistle Reading, 1 Peter 3:9-12

Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless, for to this you were called, that you may obtain a blessing. For "Whoever desires to love life and see good days, let him keep his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking deceit; let him turn away from evil and do good; let him seek peace and pursue it. For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayer. But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil."

L This is the Word of the Lord

G Thanks be to God

(Please stand as you are able)

The Holy Gospel, Matthew 26:47-50

While he was still speaking, Judas came, one of the twelve, and with him a great crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one I will kiss is the man; seize him." And he came up to Jesus at once and said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" And he kissed him. Jesus said to him, "Friend, do what you came to do." Then they came up and laid hands on Jesus and seized him.

L This is the Gospel of the Lord

G Praise to You, O Christ!

(Please be seated)

Sermon Song, "At the Cross" (Randy Butler and Terry Butler)

Verse: I know a place, a wonderful place
Where accused and condemned find mercy and grace,
Where the wrongs we have done and the wrongs done to us
Were nailed there with Him, there on the cross.

Chorus: **At the cross, He died for our sin.**
 At the cross, He gave us life again.

Verse

Chorus 2X

Verse

Sermon

Offering

Prayers of the Church

P Almighty and merciful God, we approach your throne of grace today as those who betray you by our disobedience to your will.

G Lord, have mercy.

P When we are tempted to betray you at the price of greed, point us to the cross where we see the price of grace.

C Lord, have mercy.

P When we are tempted to betray you at the price of ambition, point us to the cross where we see the price of absolution.

C Lord, have mercy.

P When we are tempted to betray you at the price of acceptance by the world, point us to the cross where we see our adoption through the Word.

C Lord, have mercy.

P When we are tempted to betray you at the price of retaliation, point us to the cross where we see the price of redemption.

C Lord, have mercy.

P We praise you that your faithfulness to us is great and your mercies are new to us every morning.

C Lord, have mercy.

P In view of your mercy, lead us by your Spirit so that we will say no to traitorous sin and yes to faith-filled righteousness.

C Lord, have mercy.

P Lead us away from temptation and deliver us from evil.

C Lord, grant me your grace both to will and to do what pleases you.

P All these things we pray in the name of Jesus, who suffered in our stead the penalty for betrayal.

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 is faithful to forgive the treachery of traitors, empower you to live according to his good and gracious will, through Jesus Christ to whom be the glory forever!

C Amen.

Closing Song, LSB 570 Just as I Am, without One Plea

1 Just as I am, without one plea
But that Thy blood was shed for me
And that Thou bidd'st me come to Thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

2 Just as I am and waiting not
To rid my soul of one dark blot,
To Thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

3 Just as I am, though tossed about
With many_a conflict, many_a doubt,
Fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

4 Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;
Sight, riches, healing of the mind,
Yea, all I need, in Thee to find,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

5 Just as I am, Thou wilt receive, Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because Thy promise I believe, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

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