

God's Love Is Shown

A Series of Services for Lent and Holy Week

Week 1: Compassionate Love

Order of Service

As a father shows compassion to his children, so the Lord ^{SEP}shows compassion to those who fear him. Psalm 103:13

Opening Hymn ... O Lord Throughout These 40 Days (LSB #418)

O Lord, throughout these forty days you prayed and kept the fast; Inspire repentance for own sin, and free us from our past.

You strove with Satan, and you won; your faithfulness endured; Lend us your nerve, your skill and trust in God's eternal Word.

Though parched and hungry, yet you prayed, yet you prayed and fixed your mind above; So teach us to deny ourselves, since we have known God's love.

Be with us through this season, Lord, and all our earthly days, That when the final Easter dawns, we join in heaven's praise.

Invocation and Litany

P In the name of the Father,

C Who has compassion on those whom he has created;

P and of the Son,

C Who has compassion on those whom he has redeemed;

P and of the Holy Spirit,

**C Who has continual compassion on those in whom he dwells. Amen! Amen!
Amen!**

Confession and Absolution

P As we continue this Lenten journey of love, and reflect on the extreme compassion our Lord God has for us even though we don't deserve it, let us confess our sinfulness, and plead for God's mercy on us.

(Silence for reflection on God's Word and self-examination)

C Heavenly Father, I, a destitute and unworthy sinner, confess to you all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended you. I don't deserve your compassion. I deserve your wrath and punishment, I have sinned in my thoughts, my words, and my actions. I have sinned by doing bad things and by failing and forgetting to do good things. I plead for your mercy and grace. Have compassion on me, a poor sinful being.

P God has, indeed, had compassion on you, and has taken away your sin! As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen! Amen! Amen!

Hymn of Praise ... Come, Unto Me Ye Weary (LSB #684)

“Come unto me, ye weary, and I will give you rest.” O blessed voice of Jesus, which comes to hearts oppressed! It tells of benediction, of pardon, grace, and peace, Of joy that hath no ending, of love which cannot cease.

“Come unto me, dear children, and I will give you light.” O loving voice of Jesus, which comes to cheer the night! Our hearts were filled with sadness, and we had lost our way; But morning brings us gladness, and songs the break of day.

“Come unto me, ye fainting, and I will give you life.” O peaceful voice of Jesus,

which comes to end our strife! The foe is stern and eager, the fight is fierce and long; But thou hast made us mighty, and stronger than the strong.

“And whosoever cometh I will not cast him out.” O patient love of Jesus, which drives away our doubt; Which calls us, very sinners, unworthy though we be, Of love so free and boundless, to come, dear Lord, to thee!

Old Testament Reading ... Isaiah 49:8-15

Epistle Reading ... Romans 9:6-18

Gospel Reading ... Luke 15:11-32

Sermon Hymn ... I Lay My Sins on Jesus (LSB #606)

I lay my sins on Jesus, the spotless Lamb of God; He bears them all, and frees us from the accursed load: I bring my guilt to Jesus, to wash my crimson stains white in his blood most precious, ‘til not a spot remains.

I lay my wants on Jesus; all fullness dwells in him; He heals all my diseases, he doth my soul redeem: I lay my griefs on Jesus, my burdens and my cares; He from them all releases, he all my sorrows shares.

I rest my soul on Jesus, this weary soul of mine; his right hand me embraces, I on his breast recline. I love the name of Jesus, Immanuel, Christ, the Lord; Like fragrance on the breezes his name abroad is poured.

I long to be like Jesus, meek, loving, lowly, mild; I long to be like Jesus, the Father’s holy child: I long to be with Jesus amid the heav’nly throng, To sing with saints his praises, to learn the angels’ song.

Sermon

Hymn of Response ... God Loved The World So That He Gave (LSB #571)

God loved the world so that he gave his only Son the lost to save, That all who would in him believe should everlasting life receive.

Be of good cheer, for God’s own Son forgives all sins which you have done; And, justified by Jesus’ blood, your Baptism grants the highest good.

Glory to God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Three in One! To Thee, O blessed Trinity, be praise now and eternally!

Prayers

P Heavenly Father, your compassion fills us with peace, because we know that it will never end. We humbly ask that you show the world this compassion that they may know you as we do, and may live in your house forever. In your compassionate love,

C Hear our prayer.

P Lord Jesus, our Redeemer and Lord, over and over again you showed compassion to humanity while you were here on earth. Ultimately you showed it by dying on the cross so that death, the devil, and hell would never harm us. Make us ever thankful that you paid the price we could not pay, so that our thankfulness and praise will resound to the ends of the earth. In your compassionate love,

C Hear our prayer.

P Holy Spirit, fill us with compassion for others that we may give as you have given to us. Turn our hearts toward you and your mercy and grace. Humble us, by your mighty power, that we may cling to Jesus alone for life. In your compassionate love,

C Hear our prayer.

P Lord God, you are the physician of body and soul. We humbly ask that you would heal those who are dealing with illness and injury according to your will as they wait upon your healing, work through their struggle to reveal your mighty power and love in their lives. In your compassionate love,

C Hear our prayer.

P Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Benediction

Closing Hymn ... Abide With Me (LSB #878)

Abide with me: fast falls the eventide; the darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee, help of the helpless, O abide with me.

Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day; earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass
away. Change and decay in all around I see. O thou who changest not, abide with
me.

I need thy presence every passing hour. What but thy grace can foil the tempter's
pow'r? Who like thyself my guide and strength can be? Through cloud and sun-
shine, O abide with me.

I fear no foe with thee at hand to bless, ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory? I triumph still, if thou abide
with me.

Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes. Shine through the gloom and point me
to the skies. Heav'n's morning breaks and earth's vain shadows flee; in life, in
death, O Lord, abide with me.

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