

In View of God's Mercy

A Series of Services for the Season of Lent

Week 1: Mercy in Temptation

Order of Service

God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, ^[11]but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape. 1 Corinthians 10:13

Invocation and Call to Worship

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

C Amen.

P All we like sheep have gone astray.

C Lead us not into temptation.

P We have turned every one to his own way.

C Lead us not into temptation.

P The Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

C Deliver us from evil.

P But he was wounded for our transgressions.

C Deliver us from evil.

P He was crushed for our iniquities.

C Deliver us from evil.

P Upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace.

C Deliver us from evil.

P And with his stripes we are healed.

C Amen.

Hymn: *Go To Dark Gethsemane* *LSB#436*

Go to dark Gethsemane, all who feel the tempter's pow'r;
Your Redeemer's conflict see, watch with him one bitter hour;
Turn not from his griefs away; learn from Jesus Christ to pray.

Follow to the judgment hall, view the Lord of life arraigned;
Oh the wormwood and the gall! Oh the pangs his soul sustained!
Shun not suff'ring, shame or loss; learn from him to bear the cross.

Calv'ry's mournful mountain climb; there adoring at his feet,
Mark that miracle of time, God's own sacrifice complete.
"It is finished!" hear him cry; learn from Jesus Christ to die.

Confession and Forgiveness

P "Let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall" (1 Corinthians 10:12). We confess to God that we have often fallen into temptation and succumbed to sin.

C Holy God, we acknowledge our guilt before you. We have sinned against you in thought, word and deed. When tempted by the evil one, we have desired evil. Our sinful appetites have been attracted to what you forbid. We have submitted to our lusts and succumbed to temptation. Forgive our transgression and lead us from temptation.

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 "God is faithful" and "he will provide the way of escape" from temptation and sin (1 Corinthians 10:13). 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 renews a right spirit within you. His mercy endures forever because his love for you is steadfast.

C Amen.

Prayer of the Day

Old Testament Reading ... Deuteronomy 6:4-6

Epistle Reading ... 1 Corinthians 10:6-13

Gospel Reading ... Matthew 4:1-11

Hymn: *O Christ, You Walked The Road* *LSB#424*

O Christ, you walked the road our wand'ring feet must go.
You faced with us temptation's pow'r and fought our ancient foe.

No bread of earth alone can fill our hung'ring hearts.
Lord, help us seek your living Word, the food your grace imparts.

No blinding sign we ask, no wonder from above.
Lord, help us place our trust alone in your unswerving love.

When lures of easy gain with promise brightly shine,
Lord, help us seek your kingdom first; our wills with yours align.

O Christ, you walked the road our wand'ring feet must go.
Stay with us through temptation's hour to fight our ancient foe.

Sermon

Offering

Prayers

P Almighty and merciful God, we approach your throne of grace today as those who are prone to wander into sin because of the temptations of the evil one.

C Lord, have mercy.

P When we face the temptations of the devil—who entices us to doubt and deny your true Word—keep our eyes on Jesus who conquered Satan in the wilderness and on the cross.

C Lord, have mercy.

P When we face the temptations of the flesh—our sinful appetites and lusts—keep our eyes on Jesus who lived purely as our substitute and Savior.

C Lord, have mercy.

P When we face the temptations of the world—our sinful pride and the quest for more possessions—keep our eyes on Jesus who provides for all we need in this life and the life to come.

C Lord, have mercy.

P When temptations come alluring, make us patient and enduring.

C Lord, have mercy.

P We praise you that you are faithful and that with every temptation you provide a way of escape.

C Lord, have mercy.

P Fill us with your Spirit so that we will say no to sin and yes to 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 triumphed over temptation.

C Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Benediction

P May the merciful God, who is faithful and provides the way of escape from temptation and sin, empower you to live according to his good and gracious will, through Jesus Christ to whom be the glory forever.

C Amen.

Hymn: *Jesus Lead Thou On*

LSB#718

Jesus, lead thou on till our rest is won;
And although the way be cheerless,
we will follow calm and fearless.
Guide us by thy hand to our fatherland.

If the way be drear, if the foe be near,
Let not faithless fears o'ertake us;
let not faith and hope forsake us;
For through many a woe to our home we go.

When we seek relief from a long-felt grief,
When temptations come alluring,
make us patient and enduring.
Show us that bright shore where we weep no more.

Jesus, lead thou on till our rest is won.
Heav'nly leader, still direct us,
still support, console, protect us,
Till we safely stand in our fatherland.