

In View of God's Mercy

A Series of Services for the Season of Lent

Week 2: Mercy in Suffering

Order of Service

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

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 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.

Hymn: *Jesus, I Will Ponder Now* *LSB #440*

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.

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.

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.

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?

Confession and Forgiveness

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

Old Testament Reading ... Numbers 21:4-9

Epistle Reading ... 1 Peter 2:21-25

Gospel Reading ... Matthew 8:14-17

Hymn: *Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted*

LSB #451

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.

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.

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.

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.

Sermon

Offering

Prayers

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

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.

Hymn: *Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed* *LSB #437*

Alas! And did my Savior bleed, and did my sov'reign die?
Would he devote that sacred head for such a worm as I?

Was it for crimes that I had done he groaned upon the tree?
Amazing pity, grace unknown, and love beyond degree!

Well might the sun in darkness hide and shut his glories in
When God, the mighty maker, died for his own creatures' sin.

Thus might I hide my blushing face while his dear cross appears,
Dissolve my heart in thankfulness, and melt mine eyes to tears.

But drops of grief can ne'er repay the debt of love I owe;
Here, Lord, I give myself away: 'Tis all that I can do.