

In View of God's Mercy

A Series of Services for the Season of Lent

Week 3: Mercy in Betrayal

Order of Service

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

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 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.

C We are blessed to be a blessing.

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

C 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.

C We are blessed to be a blessing.

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

C We are blessed to be a blessing.

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

C We are blessed to be a blessing.

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

C 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.

Hymn: *Come To Calvary's Holy Mountain* LSB #435

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.

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.

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.

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.

Confession and Forgiveness

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

Old Testament Reading ... Jonah 3:1-10

Epistle Reading ... 1 Peter 3:9-12

Gospel Reading ... Matthew 26:47-56

Hymn: *Upon The Cross Extended* *LSB #453* *Verses 1,3,4,5,and 7*

Upon the cross extended
see, world, your Lord suspended. Your Savior yields his breath.
The Prince of Life from heaven himself has freely given
To shame and blows and bitter death.

Who is it, Lord, that bruised you?
Who has so sore abused you And caused you all your woe?
We all must make confession of sin and dire transgression
While you no ways of evil know.

I caused your grief and sighing
by evils multiplying As countless as the sands.
I caused the woes unnumbered with which your soul is cumbered,
Your sorrows raised by wicked hands.

Your soul in griefs unbounded,
your head with thorns surrounded, You died to ransom me.
The cross for me enduring, the crown for me securing,
You healed my wounds and set me free.

Your cross I place before me;
its saving pow'r restore me, Sustain me in the test.
It will, when life is ending,
be guiding and attending My way to your eternal rest.

Sermon

Offering

Prayers

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

C 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

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.

Hymn: *Just As I Am* *LSB #570*

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.