

God's Love Is Shown

A Series of Services for Lent and Holy Week

Week 2: Steadfast Love

Order of Service

Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever. Psalm 118:1

Opening Hymn ... Blessed Jesus At Your Word (LSB #904)

Blessed Jesus, at your Word we are gathered all to hear you.
Let our hearts and souls be stirred now to seek and love and fear you,
By your teachings, sweet and holy, drawn from earth to love you solely.

All our knowledge, sense, and sight lie in deepest darkness shrouded
Till your Spirit breaks our night with the beams of truth unclouded.
You alone to God can win us; you must work all good within us.

Gracious Savior, good and kind, Light of Light, from God proceeding,
Open now our heart and mind; help us by your Spirit's pleading.
Hear the cry your Church now raises; hear and bless our prayers and praises.

Father, Son, and Spirit, Lord, praise to you and adoration!
Grant that we may trust your Word, confident of our salvation,
While we here below must wander, till we sing your praises yonder.

Invocation and Litany

P In the name of the Father,

C whose steadfast love endures forever;

P and of the Son,

C whose steadfast love endures forever;

P and of the Holy Spirit,

C whose steadfast love endures forever. Amen! Amen! Amen!

Confession and Absolution

P As we continue this Lenten journey of love, and reflect on the strong, deep, sure, and steadfast love of the Lord; we realize that we have not been steadfast in our faith. We have turned to the right and to the left and gotten off track. Our lives have wavered and gone astray. Let us then confess our sins to God, our Father.

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

C Heavenly Father, I have not remained steadfast as I should. I have teetered and tottered with the shifting changes and chances of this world. Too often have I fallen prey to fear. Too often have I given in to temptation. Too often have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight. Forgive me Lord God, and renew a right and steadfast spirit within me.

P God is steadfast in His love toward you even when you aren't. He doesn't waver. He doesn't move away. He stays! 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 ... Rock of Ages (LSB #761)

Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee;
Let the water and the blood, from thy wounded side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure; cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.

Not the labors of my hands can fulfill thy law's demands;
Could my zeal no respite know, could my tears forever flow,
All for sin could not atone; thou must save, and thou alone.

Nothing in my hand I bring, simply to the cross I cling;
Naked, come to thee for dress; helpless, look to thee for grace;
Foul, I to the fountain fly; wash me, Savior, or I die.

While I draw this fleeting breath, when mine eyes shall close in death,
When I soar to worlds unknown, see thee on thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee.

Prayer of the Day

Old Testament Reading ... Psalm 118:1-9

Epistle Reading ... Hebrews 6:13-20

Gospel Reading ... Luke 6:46-49

Sermon Hymn ... Built on the Rock, (LSB #645)

Built on the Rock, the church shall stand even when steeples are falling; Christ builds his church
in ev'ry land; bells still are chiming and calling, Calling the young and old to rest, calling the
souls of those distressed, Longing for life everlasting.

Not in a temple made with hands God the Almighty is dwelling; High in the heav'ns his temple
stands, all earthly temples excelling. Yet he who dwells in heav'n above chooses to live with us
in love, Making our body his temple.

We are God's house of living stones, built for his own habitation; He fills our hearts, his humble
thrones, granting us life and salvation. Yet to the place, an earthly frame, we come with thanks to
praise his name; God grants his people true blessing.

Grant, then, O Lord, your will be done, that, when church bells are ringing, Many in saving faith
may come where Christ his message is bringing: "I know my own, my own know me, you, not
the world, my face shall see; My peace I leave with you. Amen."

Sermon

Hymn of Response ... My Hope is Built on Nothing Less (LSB #576)

My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' name.
On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand.

When darkness veils his lovely face, I rest on his unchanging grace;
In ev'ry high and stormy gale my anchor holds within the veil.
On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand.

His oath, his covenant, and blood support me in the whelming flood;
When ev'ry earthly prop gives way, he then is all my hope and stay.
On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand.

When he shall come with trumpet sound, oh, may I then in him be found,
Clothed in his righteousness alone, faultless to stand before the throne!
On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand.

Prayers

P Lord God, we thank and praise you that you have not left us as orphans even though that is what we deserve. You have been faithful and will remain faithful to the end. Remind us of your faithfulness when we are weak. Fill us with the certainty of your love when we get anxious about the cares and concerns of this world, and hold us close to you through it all. Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,

C His steadfast love endures forever.

P In the midst of this season of Lent we get weary in doing good. Give us strength to proclaim your steadfast love in our words and actions, that we might be your witnesses and ambassadors to the ends of the earth. Let the house of Israel say,

C His steadfast love endures forever.

P Lord God, we are never deserving of your goodness and mercy. Yet you continue to give it freely. Have mercy on your children who are struggling with illnesses and injuries of many kinds (*including _____*). Heal them according to your will. Use this time of physical struggle to renew their faith in you. Let those who fear the Lord say,

C His steadfast love endures forever.

P Because of your steadfast love we are bold to put these petitions before you, knowing that you will hear us for your Son's sake.

C Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Benediction

Closing Hymn ... Abide, O Dearest Jesus (LSB #919)

Abide, O dearest Jesus, among us with your grace
That Satan may not harm us nor we to sin give place.

Abide, O dear Redeemer, among us with your Word,
And thus now and hereafter true peace and joy afford.

Abide with heav'nly brightness among us, precious Light;
Your truth direct and keep us from error's gloomy night.

Abide with richest blessings among us, bounteous Lord;
Let us in grace and wisdom grow daily through your Word.

Abide with your protection among us, Lord,
Our strength, lest world and Satan fell us and overcome at length.

Abide, O faithful Savior, among us with your love;
Grant steadfastness and help us to reach our home above.

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