

Midweek Lent



LORD, HAVE MERCY

**FOR DEMONSTRATING IRREVERENCE
AND DESPISING YOUR REST**

St. Paul Lutheran Church

March 26, 2025

EXPLANATION OF THE THEME

The Second and Third Commandment both relate to how our merciful God saves us. The Second Commandment deals with God's name. God's "name" is more than words we use to refer to him: the Lord, Jehovah, Jesus. God's name includes his reputation, i.e., everything the Word tells us about God. The Third Commandment deals with the Sabbath rest God wants his children to enjoy: resting *from* fear of condemnation, resting *in* his promise of mercy. When we use God's name flippantly... when we take God's reputation lightly... when we are apathetic about his Word... when we have little interest in the spiritual rest he offers... we demolish these Commandments. That hurts us way more than it hurts God. Disobedience of these Commandments are attempted acts of spiritual suicide. If we continue in this rebellion, we are guaranteeing that hell is our eternal home. So, this week, we ask the Spirit to give us the ability to sincerely pray, "Lord, have mercy, for demonstrating irreverence for your name and despising your Sabbath rest."

Serving Today

We thank our visiting pastor for this evening, Pastor Matt Rauh who serves St. Paul Lutheran Church in Arlington and the vacancy at St. John's Glencoe. We also thank our accompanist, Noah Helke.

As I Prepare for Worship

"I rejoiced with those who said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord.'" Give me joy, dear Jesus, as I prepare to worship you today. Make me understand what my life would be like without you so that I long to hear about your grace and compassion. Help me participate in a way that honors you and builds up all who worship with me, and let their worship strengthen and encourage my faith. Amen.

Stand

Opening Sentences

Our help is in the name of the Lord.

Who made heaven and earth.

Brothers and sisters in Christ, during the days of Lent, we fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of God.

The time of Lent reminds us that to know Christ and the power of his resurrection, we must also know the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death.

As disciples of the Lord Jesus, we are called to struggle against everything that leads us away from love of God and neighbor. I invite you, therefore, to confess your sins, ask our Father for forgiveness, and commit yourselves to this struggle.

652 Lord, Have Mercy

CW 652 sts. 1, Refrain 1

1 For what we have done and left un - done we fall on your
count - less mer - cies. For sins that are known and
those un - known we call on your name so ho - ly.

For en - vy and pride, for clos - ing our eyes; for
 scorn - ing our ver - y neigh - bor. In
 thought, word, and deed we've failed you, our King; how
 deep - ly we need a Sav - ior. *Refrain I*
Refrain I
 Lord, have mer - cy, Christ, have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy
 on us. Lord, have mer - cy, Christ, have mer - cy,
 Lord, have mer - cy on us. 2 For

Absolution

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, does not desire the death of sinners but rather that they turn from their wickedness and live. Therefore, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.

During these days of Lent, let us implore God to give us renewal and his Holy Spirit. May we continue to abide in the true faith and at the last be received by him through the merits of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

652 Lord, Have Mercy

CW 652 sts. 2, Refrain II

(2 For) what you have done, your life of love you perfect-ly
lived, we praise you. Though tempt-ed and tried, you
fixed your eyes; you fin-ished the work God gave you.
And there on the tree, a King a-mong thieves, you
bled for a world's be-tray-al. You
loved to the end, our mer-ci-ful friend; how
pure and for-ev-er faith-ful. *Refrain II*

Refrain II

Lord, have mer - cy, Christ, have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy
 on us. Lord, have mer - cy, Christ, have mer - cy,
 Lord, have mer - cy on us. on us. 3 For

Text: Matt Papa, b. 1983; Aaron Keyes, b. 1978; James Tealy, b. 1971; Matt Boswell, b. 1979
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Prayer

Merciful God, with souls parched by sin and spirits withered by enemies within and without, we lift our hands to you. Lead us by your Spirit on the path of truth, and guard us from all harm, trusting in Jesus Christ, our refuge and our righteousness. Amen.

Be Seated

The History of Our Lord's Suffering and Death

Luke 22:54–71

⁵⁴Then they seized him, led him away, and brought him into the high priest's house.

Peter followed at a distance. ⁵⁵When they had lit a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat down among them. ⁵⁶A servant girl saw him sitting near the light. She looked closely at him and said, "This man also was with him."

⁵⁷But he denied it, saying, "Woman, I do not know him."

⁵⁸After a little while someone else saw him and said, “You also are one of them!”

But Peter answered, “Man, I am not!”

⁵⁹After about one hour had passed, someone else was firmly insisting, “Truly this man was with him too, because he is a Galilean!”

⁶⁰But Peter said, “Man, I don’t know what you are talking about!” At that very moment, while he was still speaking, the rooster crowed. ⁶¹The Lord turned and looked at Peter. Then Peter remembered the Lord’s word, how he had said to him, “Before the rooster crows today you will deny me three times.” ⁶²He went outside and wept bitterly.

⁶³The men who were holding Jesus in custody mocked him while they were beating him. ⁶⁴They blindfolded him and kept asking him, “Prophesy! Who hit you?” ⁶⁵And they went on saying many other blasphemous things against him.

⁶⁶As soon as it was day, the council of the elders of the people met together, both the chief priests and experts in the law. They brought him into their Sanhedrin and said, ⁶⁷“If you are the Christ, tell us.”

But he said to them, “If I tell you, you will not believe, ⁶⁸and if I ask you, you will not answer me or release me. ⁶⁹But from now on, the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the power of God.”

⁷⁰They all said, “Are you then the Son of God?”

He said to them, “I am what you are saying.”

⁷¹Then they said, “Why do we need any more testimony? For we ourselves have heard it from his own mouth!”

Passion History Response

We all have gone astray like sheep. Each of us has turned to his own way
But the Lord has charged all our guilt to him.

116A I Will Lift Up the Cup of Salvation

Psalm 116A

¹Therefore, since the promise of entering his rest still stands, let us be fearful that any one of you may be judged to have failed to reach it. ²In fact, we have had the gospel preached to us, just as they did. But the message they heard did not benefit them, because they were not united in faith with those who did listen. ³Indeed, we who believe are going to enter his rest.

It happened just as he vowed when he said:

So I swore an oath in my wrath,
“They will never enter my rest.”

And yet his works have been finished since the creation of the world. ⁴For somewhere he has spoken about the seventh day in this way:

And God rested on the seventh day from all his works.

⁵And again in this statement:

They will never enter my rest.

⁶Therefore, since it is still the case that some do enter this rest, and yet those who formerly had the gospel preached to them did not enter because of disobedience, ⁷God again set a certain day, namely, “today,” when he later said through David, as quoted before:

Today, if you hear his voice,
do not harden your hearts.

⁸For, if Joshua had given them rest, then God would not have spoken later about another day.

⁹So there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God. ¹⁰For the one who enters God's rest also rests from his own work, just as God rested from his work. ¹¹Therefore, let us make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one will fall into the same pattern of disobedience.

¹²For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any double-edged sword. It penetrates even to the point of dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow, even being able to judge the ideas and thoughts of the heart.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Lord, Have Mercy for Demonstrating Irreverence

Stand

Confession of Faith

from the Small Catechism

The Second Commandment: You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God that we do not use his name to curse, swear, lie or deceive, or use witchcraft, but call upon God's name in every trouble, pray, praise, and give thanks.

The Third Commandment: Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God that we do not despise preaching and his Word, but regard it as holy and gladly hear and learn it.

Lord, Have Mercy

CW 221

In peace let us pray to the Lord:
Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord:
Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

For the leaders of our synod and district, for all pastors in Christ, for all who are servants of the Church, and for all the people of God, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

For all who govern our nation and for all public servants, that they may be upheld and strengthened for every good deed, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and need, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

For . . . [*additional bids for prayer may be inserted here*] . . . let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

For the faithful who have gone before us and are with Christ, let us give thanks to the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Silence for individual prayer may follow.

Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ our Lord:

to you, O Lord.

Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.

Blessing

The almighty and merciful Lord—the Father, the † Son, and the Holy Spirit—
bless us and keep us.
Amen.

787 God Who Made the Earth and Heaven

CW 787 sts. 1–2

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