

# Midweek Lent



**LORD, HAVE MERCY**

**FOR TREATING OTHERS LIKE TRASH,  
NOT TREASURE**

**St. Paul Lutheran Church**

April 2, 2025

## **EXPLANATION OF THE THEME**

“Let us make mankind in our image” (Genesis 1:26). God’s intent was that being made in his image, mankind would not only live in close communion with him, but that we would reflect God’s love and care in our dealings with each other. The Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth Commandments are all about different aspects of healthy human relationships: respect and obedience for those God places in a position of authority; valuing and defending the life and well-being of others; expressing relational bonds, particularly marriage, in appropriate ways. God wants us to treasure our fellow man. Yet, in virtually every type of relationship that can exist – parent and child, husband and wife, employer and employee, neighbor and neighbor – we invent new ways to hurt one other. Breaking these Commandments shows how we feel about our fellow man. More, that disobedience speaks volumes about how we really feel about our God. Jesus said, “Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me... Whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me” (Matthew 25:40,45). This week we see that Jesus is the only one who lives up to God’s expectations of how we should treat each other. So, in Lenten faith, we cry out to him, “Lord, have mercy for treating others like trash, not treasure!”

### **Serving Today**

We thank our visiting pastor for this evening, Pastor Dan Slaughter who serves Trinity Lutheran Church in Belle Plaine. We also thank our accompanist, Lois Zander.

### **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.

The image shows three staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a common time signature. It contains a repeat sign followed by the melody for the first line of lyrics. The second staff continues the melody for the second line of lyrics. The third staff continues the melody for the third line of lyrics. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes.

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.

## Hymn

*CW 652 sts. 2, Refrain II*

(2 For) what you have done, your life of love you per - fect - 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. 1 2 *Fine (last time)* 7  
 on us. 3 For

Text: Matt Papa, b. 1983; Aaron Keyes, b. 1978; James Tealy, b. 1971; Matt Boswell, b. 1979  
 Tune: Matt Papa, b. 1983; Aaron Keyes, b. 1978; James Tealy, b. 1971; Matt Boswell, b. 1979  
 Text and tune: © Common Hymnal Publishing/10000 Fathers, admin. IntegratedRights.com. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 727266

## 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 23:1–25*

<sup>1</sup>The whole group of them got up and brought him before Pilate. <sup>2</sup>They began to accuse him, saying, “We found this fellow misleading our nation, forbidding the payment of taxes to Caesar, and saying that he himself is Christ, a king.”

<sup>3</sup>Pilate asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?”

“It is as you say,” Jesus replied.

<sup>4</sup>Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowds, “I find no basis for a charge against this man.”

<sup>5</sup>But they kept insisting, “He stirs up the people, teaching all through Judea, beginning from Galilee all the way here.”

<sup>6</sup>When Pilate heard this, he asked if the man was a Galilean. <sup>7</sup>When he learned that he was under Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him to Herod, who was also in Jerusalem during those days.

<sup>8</sup>When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad. For a long time, he had wanted to see him, because he had heard many things about him. He hoped to see some miracle performed by him. <sup>9</sup>He questioned him with many words, but Jesus gave him no answer. <sup>10</sup>The chief priests and the experts in the law stood there, vehemently accusing him. <sup>11</sup>Herod, along with his soldiers, treated him with contempt and ridiculed him. Dressing him in bright clothing, he sent him back to Pilate. <sup>12</sup>Herod and Pilate became friends with each other on that day. Before this they had been enemies of each other.

<sup>13</sup>Pilate called together the chief priests, the rulers, and the people, <sup>14</sup>and said to them, “You brought this man to me as one who is misleading the people. Look, I have examined him in your presence. I have found in this man no basis for the charges you are bringing against him. <sup>15</sup>Herod did not either, for he sent him back to us. See, he has done nothing worthy of death. <sup>16</sup>So I will have him flogged and release him.”

<sup>17</sup>Pilate needed to release one prisoner to them at the Festival. <sup>18</sup>But they all shouted together with one voice: “Take him away! Release Barabbas to us!” <sup>19</sup>Barabbas had been thrown in prison for a rebellion in the city and for murder.

<sup>20</sup>Pilate addressed them again, because he wanted to release Jesus. <sup>21</sup>But they kept shouting, “Crucify! Crucify him!”

<sup>22</sup>He said to them the third time, “Why? What evil has he done? I have found no grounds for sentencing him to death. So I will whip him and release him.” <sup>23</sup>But they kept pressuring him with loud voices, demanding that he be crucified. And their voices were overwhelming. <sup>24</sup>So Pilate decided that what they demanded would be done. <sup>25</sup>He released the one they had asked for, who had been thrown in prison for rebellion and murder, but he handed Jesus over to their will.

## 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.**

### 41A Heal My Soul, for I Have Sinned

*Psalm 41A*

#### Reading

*Ecclesiastes 4:7–12*

<sup>7</sup>I looked again and saw another example of meaningless vapor under the sun: <sup>8</sup>There was a single person all alone, without even a son or a brother, and there was no end to all his hard work. His eyes also were not satisfied with wealth. “So for whom am I working so hard,” he asks, “and depriving myself of enjoyment?” This too is vapor and a miserable task.

<sup>9</sup>Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their hard work. <sup>10</sup>If one of them falls, his companion can lift him up. Pity the person who falls and has no one else to lift him up. <sup>11</sup>What's more, if two lie down, they can keep warm, but how can one person keep warm alone? <sup>12</sup>Though an attacker can overpower one person, two people together can stand up against him. A rope with three strands is not quickly snapped.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### 408 He Stood before the Court

*CW 408*

#### Sermon

*Lord, Have Mercy for Treating Others Like Trash, Not Treasure*



## Confession of Faith

*from the Small Catechism*

The Fourth Commandment: Honor your father and mother, that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.

*What does this mean?*

**We should fear and love God that we do not dishonor or anger our parents and others in authority, but honor, serve, and obey them, and give them love and respect.**

The Fifth Commandment: You shall not murder.

*What does this mean?*

**We should fear and love God that we do not hurt or harm our neighbor in his body, but help and befriend him in every bodily need.**

The Sixth Commandment: You shall not commit adultery.

*What does this mean?*

**We should fear and love God that we lead a pure and decent life in words and actions, and that husband and wife love and honor each other.**

## 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 favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, 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 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.**

**526 What Wondrous Love Is This**

CW 526

## **Acknowledgments**

Unless otherwise noted, Scripture quotations are from the Holy Bible, Evangelical Heritage Version® (EHV®) © 2017 Wartburg Project. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Liturgical and musical settings of Scripture based on text from The Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide.

Software distributed in partnership with Northwestern Publishing House.  
Created by Christian Worship: Service Builder © 2025 Concordia Publishing House.