



LORD, HAVE MERCY

Midweek Lenten Service

April 9, 2025

3:30pm & 6:30pm

St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church, School & Preschool

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Lent 2025: Lord, Have Mercy

ORDER OF SERVICE

OPENING SENTENCES

Our help is in the name of the Lord.

Who made heaven and earth.

Brothers and sisters in Christ, during these 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. Hebrews 12:2

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. Philippians 3:10

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

CONFESSION (sung)

Psalm 51:1-12

*Oh LORD, my God, my sin before you bearing
My heart is grieved and guilt afflicts my soul.
In penitence, I'm humbly now declaring
For each misdeed, Your wrath should o'er me roll.
Have Mercy Lord, wash every sin away.
Have Mercy Lord, Have Mercy Lord!
Have Mercy Lord, wash every sin away.
Have Mercy Lord, Have Mercy Lord!*

¹ Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. ² Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. ³ For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.

⁴ **Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are proved right when you speak and justified when you judge.**

- ⁵ Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me. ⁶ Surely you desire truth in the inner parts; you teach me wisdom in the inmost place.
- ⁷ **Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.**

*Your First Command would rouse us all from slumber
placing You first in life, in mind, in heart.
Yet in our world, idols are without number
Lord by Your love, repentance now impart.
Have Mercy Lord, Have Mercy Lord!
Your Mercy Lord, forgives us every day!
Have Mercy Lord, Have Mercy Lord!*

- ⁸ Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice. ⁹ Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity. ¹⁰ Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.
- ¹¹ **Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. ¹² Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.**
- ¹³ Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will turn back to you.
- ¹⁴ Save me from bloodguilt, O God, the God who saves me, and my tongue will sing of your righteousness.
- ¹⁵ **O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.**
- ¹⁶ You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.
- ¹⁷ **The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.**

*O God Your Son, humanity then sharing
Fulfilled Your Law, gave righteousness to me.
His righteous robe, forever now I'm wearing
By grace, though faith, it's all You now shall see.
Have Mercy Lord, Your Son has lived for me.
Have Mercy Lord, Have Mercy Lord!
Have Mercy Lord, Your saint He has made me.
Have Mercy Lord, Have Mercy Lord!*

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 to accomplish it. 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.

*Upon the cross, in love, I cannot fathom,
Christ's holy blood, washed all my sin away.
His vic'try cry, it closed sin's awful chasm
All work is done! Heaven is mine today.
Your Mercy Lord, washed every sin away.
Your Mercy Lord, Your Mercy Lord!
Your Mercy Lord, has saved again today!
Your Mercy Lord, Your Mercy Lord!*

PRAYER

Please stand

There is no god but You, Lord. Keep us from making idols fashioned in our own image, gods whose highest priority is our own desires. Remind us that you are the One Who shaped the universe and redeemed Your people from vain imagination so that we may worship You, the only true God; through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Be seated

FIRST READING

Isaiah 44:6-11

God gave us the First Commandment because he knows all idols are worthless, completely unable to help us in any way.

⁶ “This is what the Lord says — Israel’s King and Redeemer, the Lord Almighty: I am the first and I am the last; apart from me there is no God. ⁷ Who then is like me? Let him proclaim it. Let him declare and lay out before me what has happened since I established my ancient people, and what is yet to come — yes, let him foretell what will come. ⁸ Do not tremble, do not be afraid. Did I not proclaim this and foretell it long ago? You are my witnesses. Is there any God besides me? No, there is no other Rock; I know not one.” ⁹ All who make idols are

nothing, and the things they treasure are worthless. Those who would speak up for them are blind; they are ignorant, to their own shame. ¹⁰ Who shapes a god and casts an idol, which can profit him nothing? ¹¹ He and his kind will be put to shame; craftsmen are nothing but men. Let them all come together and take their stand; they will be brought down to terror and infamy.

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 135

Refrain



Tone



I know that the / LORD is great,
that our Lord is greater / than all gods.
The LORD does whatever / pleases him,
in the heavens and / on the earth.
Your name, LORD, endures for- / ever,
your renown, LORD, through all gener- / ations. *Refrain*

The idols of the nations are silver and gold, made by / human hands.
They have mouths, but cannot speak, eyes, but / cannot see.
Those who make them will / be like them,
and so will all who / trust in them.
Praise be to the LORD from / Zion,
to him who dwells in Jerusalem. / Praise the LORD. *Refrain*

SECOND READING

Colossians 3:1-6

St. Paul teaches that idolatry is more than bowing down to a statue of wood or gold. It is greedily loving anything more than we love God.

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. ³ For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. ⁵ Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. ⁶ Because of these, the wrath of God is coming.

CONFESSION OF FAITH *from the Small Catechism* Please stand

The First Commandment: You shall have no other gods.

What does this mean?

We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things.

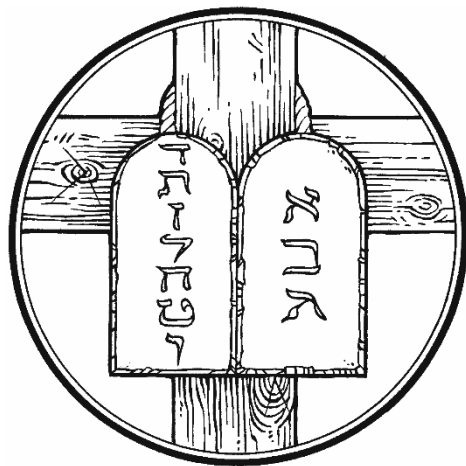
Be Seated

PASSION HISTORY READING

Luke 23:26-56

²⁶ As they led him away, they seized Simon from Cyrene, who was on his way in from the country, and put the cross on him and made him carry it behind Jesus. ²⁷ A large number of people followed him, including women who mourned and wailed for him. ²⁸ Jesus turned and said to them, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep for yourselves and for your children. ²⁹ For the time will come when you will say, 'Blessed are the barren women, the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!'" ³⁰ Then " 'they will say to the mountains, "Fall on us!" and to the hills, "Cover us!" ' " ³¹ For if men do these things when the tree is green, what will happen when it is dry?" ³² Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed. ³³ When they came to the place called the Skull, there they crucified him, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left. ³⁴ Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." And they divided up his clothes by casting lots. ³⁵ The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They said, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Christ of God, the Chosen One." ³⁶ The soldiers also came up and mocked him. They offered him wine vinegar ³⁷ and said, "If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself." ³⁸ There was a written notice above him, which read: this is the king of the jews. ³⁹ One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: "Aren't

you the Christ? Save yourself and us!" ⁴⁰ But the other criminal rebuked him. "Don't you fear God," he said, "since you are under the same sentence? ⁴¹ We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong." ⁴² Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." ⁴³ Jesus answered him, "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise." ⁴⁴ It was now about the sixth hour, and darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour, ⁴⁵ for the sun stopped shining. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. ⁴⁶ Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." When he had said this, he breathed his last. ⁴⁷ The centurion, seeing what had happened, praised God and said, "Surely this was a righteous man." ⁴⁸ When all the people who had gathered to witness this sight saw what took place, they beat their breasts and went away. ⁴⁹ But all those who knew him, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things. ⁵⁰ Now there was a man named Joseph, a member of the Council, a good and upright man, ⁵¹ who had not consented to their decision and action. He came from the Judean town of Arimathea and he was waiting for the kingdom of God. ⁵² Going to Pilate, he asked for Jesus' body. ⁵³ Then he took it down, wrapped it in linen cloth and placed it in a tomb cut in the rock, one in which no one had yet been laid. ⁵⁴ It was Preparation Day, and the Sabbath was about to begin. ⁵⁵ The women who had come with Jesus from Galilee followed Joseph and saw the tomb and how his body was laid in it. ⁵⁶ Then they went home and prepared spices and perfumes. But they rested on the Sabbath in obedience to the commandment.



HYMN OF THE DAY

Sweet the Moment, Rich in Blessing | CW #400



1 Sweet the mo - ments, rich in bless - ing, which be -
2 Here we rest in won - der, view - ing all our
3 Here we find the dawn of heav - en while up -
4 Oh, that, near the cross a - bid - ing, we may
5 Lord, in lov - ing con - tem - pla - tion fix our



fore the cross we spend, life and health and
sins on Je - sus laid; here we see re -
on the cross we gaze, see our tres - pass -
to the Sav - ior cleave, naught with him our
hearts and eyes on you till we taste your



peace pos - sess - ing from the sin - ner's dy - ing friend.
demp - tion flow - ing from the sac - ri - fice he made.
es for - giv - en, and our songs of tri - umph raise.
hearts di - vid - ing, all for him con - tent to leave!
full sal - va - tion and your un - veiled glo - ry view.

Text: James Allen, 1734–1804; alt. Walter Shirley, 1725–1786

Tune: Erbaulicher Musicalischer Christen-Schatz, Basel, 1745, alt.

Text and tune: Public domain

SERMON

OFFERING

On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made (1 Cor. 16:2).

The offering plates will be passed through the congregation. After collection, the ushers will take the offering plates to the front handing them to the pastor to present them at the altar of God. ***As the plates come forward, please remain seated as we sing the third hymn.***



THIRD HYMN

Holy Spirit, Light Divine | CW #593

593 Holy Spirit, Light Divine

CW 593



- 1 Ho - ly Spir - it, light di - vine, shine up - on this heart of mine;
- 2 Ho - ly Spir - it, love di - vine, cleanse this guilt - y heart of mine;
- 3 Ho - ly Spir - it, joy di - vine, cheer this sad - dened heart of mine;
- 4 Ho - ly Spir - it, pow'r di - vine, dwell with - in this heart of mine;
- 5 Ho - ly Spir - it, fill my heart, cleanse my life in ev - 'ry part;



chase the gloom of night a - way, turn the dark - ness in - to day.
in your mer - cy pit - y me, from sin's bond - age set me free.
fill me with your heav'n - ly peace, let it grow and still in - crease.
cast down ev - 'ry i - dol throne, reign su - preme and reign a - lone.
your own tem - ple I would be now and for e - ter - ni - ty.

Text: Andrew Reed, 1787–1862, abr., alt.

Tune: Orlando Gibbons, 1583–1625

Text and tune: Public domain

PRAYERS

Please stand

Lord God, all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works come from You. Give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments. Defend us also from the fear of our enemies, that we may live in peace and quietness, through the merits of Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

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 grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

All Praise to God Who Reigns Above | CW #603:1,5



1 All praise to God who reigns a - bove, the God of
5 All who con - fess Christ's ho - ly name, to God give
all cre - a - tion, the God of won - ders, pow'r, and
praise and glo - ry! Let all who know his pow'r pro -
love, the God of our sal - va - tion! With heal - ing
claim a - loud the won - drous sto - ry! All i - dols
balm my soul he fills, the God who ev - 'ry sor - row
un - der foot be trod - The Lord is God! The Lord is
still: To God all praise and glo - ry!
God! To God all praise and glo - ry!

Text: Johann Jacob Schütz, 1640–1690, abr.; tr. composite

Tune: Melchior Vulpus, c. 1570–1615

Text and tune: Public domain