



# LORD, HAVE MERCY

FOR DEMONSTRATING IRREVERENCE  
AND DESPISING YOUR REST

**PEACE**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Houghton, Michigan  
Wednesday, March 19, 2025

## Welcome to Worship

God's grace welcomes you, and so do we — the pastor and members of Peace! Jesus Christ is the only Savior of all people. By his perfect life, innocent death and triumphant resurrection, Jesus saves all sinners. We learn these truths from the Bible — God's complete plan for our salvation and his guidebook for our lives. Peace greets you with a warm welcome. We look forward to seeing you again soon.

## MIDWEEK SERIES: LORD HAVE MERCY

It is one of the most common prayers of God's child. "Lord, have mercy!" Mercy is the withholding of punishment or negative consequences that a guilty person deserves. Thus, when we pray, "Lord, have mercy," 1) we are acknowledging that we have lived in ways deserving of God's condemnation and punishment, and 2) we are begging God to not condemn or punish us. How important is that prayer? If you cannot say it with sincerity, you cannot be saved. For if you cannot speak that prayer, you cannot possibly believe you need a Savior. Therefore, God gave us his law, in part, so that we would see our need for mercy. St. Paul writes, "I would not have known what sin was had it not been for the law" (Romans 7:7). And God gave us the gospel that we might know he has shown us mercy.

Thus, it is good and right that in this solemn season of Lent, we would review God's law as revealed in the Ten Commandments and connect it with Christ's passion. We will how we have shattered all the Commandments and are deserving of punishment. However, will we also see how Jesus took the suffering we deserved upon himself. Seeing both, may the Spirit empower us to pray, "Lord, have mercy!" and confidently believe that in Christ, we have God's mercy in inexhaustible abundance.

Week 1: For Our Incessant Idolatry

**Week 2: For Demonstrating Irreverence and Despising Your Rest**

Week 3: For Treating Others Like Trash, Not Treasure

Week 4: For Failing to Live With Integrity

Week 5: For Abusing Your Commandments

## **TODAY'S FOCUS: FOR DEMONSTRATING IRREVERENCE AND DESPISING YOUR REST**

The Second and Third Commandments 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."



# Order of Service: Evening Prayer

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*For many centuries, Christians have observed special midweek Lenten services. These services cause us to contemplate the reflective nature of our faith as well as review the passion history.*

*Please stand.*

## Opening Dialogue

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.

## Confession

*Lord, to You I Make Confession st. 1*



Lord, to you I make con- fes - sion: I have sinned and gone a - stray;



I have mul-ti-plied trans - gres-sion, Cho-sen for my-self my way.



Led by you to see my er - rors, Lord, I trem-ble at your ter-rors.

## 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 T 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.



For your Son has suf-fered for me, Giv'n him - self to res-cue me,



Died to save me and re - store me, Rec - on - ciled and set me free.



Je - sus' cross a-lone can van-quisth These dark fears and soothe this an-guish.

## Prayer: Psalm 116

Lord Jesus, as I face death, turn my thoughts to your body, broken for me, and your blood, spilled for me. Let me rise as you have risen from the dead, to walk with you forever in the land of the living. I call on your name, for you have promised to be with me. **Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## Week 2 Passion Reading

Luke 22:39-53

### Jesus Prays on the Mount of Olives

22:40-46pp—Mt 26:36-46; Mk 14:32-42

<sup>39</sup>Jesus went out as usual to the Mount of Olives, and his disciples followed him. <sup>40</sup>On reaching the place, he said to them, “Pray that you will not fall into temptation.” <sup>41</sup>He withdrew about a stone’s throw beyond them, knelt down and prayed, <sup>42</sup>“Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done.” <sup>43</sup>An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him. <sup>44</sup>And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground.

<sup>45</sup> When he rose from prayer and went back to the disciples, he found them asleep, exhausted from sorrow. <sup>46</sup> “Why are you sleeping?” he asked them. “Get up and pray so that you will not fall into temptation.”

### **Jesus Arrested**

22:47-53pp—Mt 26:47-56; Mk 14:43-50; Jn 18:3-11

<sup>47</sup> While he was still speaking a crowd came up, and the man who was called Judas, one of the Twelve, was leading them. He approached Jesus to kiss him, <sup>48</sup> but Jesus asked him, “Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?”

<sup>49</sup> When Jesus’ followers saw what was going to happen, they said, “Lord, should we strike with our swords?” <sup>50</sup> And one of them struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his right ear.

<sup>51</sup> But Jesus answered, “No more of this!” And he touched the man’s ear and healed him.

<sup>52</sup> Then Jesus said to the chief priests, the officers of the temple guard, and the elders, who had come for him, “Am I leading a rebellion, that you have come with swords and clubs? <sup>53</sup> Every day I was with you in the temple courts, and you did not lay a hand on me. But this is your hour—when darkness reigns.”

### **Hymn**

2    **Yet, though conscience’ voice appall me,  
      Father, I will seek your face.  
      Though your child I dare not call me,  
      yet receive me to your grace.  
      Do not for my sins forsake me,  
      do not let your wrath o’ertake me.**

### **First Reading**

Exodus 34:1-7

<sup>1</sup>The Lord said to Moses, “Chisel out two stone tablets like the first ones, and I will write on them the words that were on the first tablets, which you broke. <sup>2</sup> Be ready in the morning, and then come up on Mount Sinai. Present yourself to me there on top of the mountain. <sup>3</sup> No one is to come

with you or be seen anywhere on the mountain; not even the flocks and herds may graze in front of the mountain.”

<sup>4</sup> So Moses chiseled out two stone tablets like the first ones and went up Mount Sinai early in the morning, as the Lord had commanded him; and he carried the two stone tablets in his hands. <sup>5</sup> Then the Lord came down in the cloud and stood there with him and proclaimed his name, the Lord.

<sup>6</sup> And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, “The Lord, the Lord, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, <sup>7</sup> maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children and their children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation.”

## Second Reading

Hebrews 4:1-12

Therefore, since the promise of entering his rest still stands, let us be careful that none of you be found to have fallen short of it. <sup>2</sup> For we also have had the good news proclaimed to us, just as they did; but the message they heard was of no value to them, because they did not share the faith of those who obeyed. <sup>x 3</sup> Now we who have believed enter that rest, just as God has said,

“So I declared on oath in my anger,  
‘They shall never enter my rest.’” <sup>y</sup>

And yet his works have been finished since the creation of the world. <sup>4</sup> For somewhere he has spoken about the seventh day in these words: “On the seventh day God rested from all his works.” <sup>z 5</sup> And again in the passage above he says, “They shall never enter my rest.”

<sup>6</sup> Therefore since it still remains for some to enter that rest, and since those who formerly had the good news proclaimed to them did not go in because of their disobedience, <sup>7</sup> God again set a certain day, calling it “Today.” This he did when a long time later he spoke through David, as in the passage already quoted:

“Today, if you hear his voice,  
do not harden your hearts.” <sup>c</sup>

<sup>8</sup> For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken later about another day. <sup>9</sup> There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God; <sup>10</sup> for anyone who enters God's rest also rests from their works, <sup>f</sup> just as God did from his. <sup>11</sup> Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one will perish by following their example of disobedience.

<sup>12</sup> For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. <sup>13</sup> Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

## Sermon

### The 2nd and 3rd Commandments

*From Luther's 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.**

## Hymn

- 4 Lord, on you I cast my burden—  
sink it in the deepest sea!  
Let me know your gracious pardon,  
cleanse me from iniquity.  
Let your Spirit leave me never,  
make me only yours forever.

## 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

## Doxology

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the Church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever! **Amen.**

## 23B Shepherd Me, O God

Psalm

### Refrain

Shep - herd me, O God, be - yond my wants, be -  
yond my fears, from death in - to life.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the refrain, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The lyrics are written below the notes.

- 1 God is my shepherd, so nothing shall I want,  
I rest in the meadows of faithfulness and love,  
I walk by the quiet waters of peace. *Refrain*
  
- 2 Gently you raise me and heal my weary soul,  
you lead me by pathways of righteousness and truth,  
my spirit shall sing the music of your name. *Refrain*
  
- 3 Though I should wander the valley of death,  
I fear no evil, for you are at my side,  
your rod and your staff, my comfort and my hope. *Refrain*
  
- 4 You have set me a banquet of love in the face of hatred,  
crowning me with love beyond my pow'r to hold. *Refrain*
  
- 5 Surely your kindness and mercy follow me all the days of my life;  
I will dwell in the house of my God forevermore. *Refrain*

Text: Marty Haugen

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**[Peacehoughton.org](http://Peacehoughton.org)**

Our mission is to spread the gospel of Christ, to gather college students and the local community into a family of believers, and to share the message of hope and the promise of salvation through grace.