



LORD, HAVE MERCY

For Treating Others Like Trash, Not Treasure

PEACE
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Houghton, Michigan
Wednesday, March 26, 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 TREATING OTHERS LIKE TRASH, NOT TREASURE

“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!”



Order of Service: Evening Prayer

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 41

Lord, create sympathy in our hearts for the poor and oppressed. In their suffering, help us to see you, denied and betrayed by your own disciples. Lead us to remember your suffering that we may have compassion for all people. In our Savior's love we pray. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

Week 3 Passion Reading

Luke 22:54-71

⁵⁴ Then seizing him, they led him away and took him into the house of the high priest. Peter followed at a distance. ⁵⁵ And when some there had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and had sat down together, Peter sat down with them. ⁵⁶ A servant girl saw him seated there in the firelight. She looked closely at him and said, "This man was with him."

⁵⁷ But he denied it. "Woman, I don't know him," he said.

⁵⁸ A little later someone else saw him and said, "You also are one of them." "Man, I am not!" Peter replied.

⁵⁹ About an hour later another asserted, "Certainly this fellow was with him, for he is a Galilean."

⁶⁰ Peter replied, “Man, I don’t know what you’re talking about!” Just as he was speaking, the rooster crowed. ⁶¹ The Lord turned and looked straight at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word the Lord had spoken to him: “Before the rooster crows today, you will disown me three times.” ⁶² And he went outside and wept bitterly.

The Guards Mock Jesus

22:63–65pp—Mt 26:67,68; Mk 14:65; Jn 18:22,23

⁶³ The men who were guarding Jesus began mocking and beating him. ⁶⁴ They blindfolded him and demanded, “Prophecy! Who hit you?” ⁶⁵ And they said many other insulting things to him.

Jesus Before Pilate and Herod

22:67–71pp—Mt 26:63–66; Mk 14:61–63; Jn 18:19–21

23:2,3pp—Mt 27:11–14; Mk 15:2–5; Jn 18:29–37

23:18–25pp—Mt 27:15–26; Mk 15:6–15; Jn 18:39–19:16

⁶⁶ At daybreak the council of the elders of the people, both the chief priests and the teachers of the law, met together, and Jesus was led before them. ⁶⁷ “If you are the Messiah,” they said, “tell us.”

Jesus answered, “If I tell you, you will not believe me, ⁶⁸ and if I asked you, you would not answer. ⁶⁹ But from now on, the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the mighty God.”

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

He replied, “You say that I am.”

⁷¹ Then they said, “Why do we need any more testimony? We have heard it from his own lips.”

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

Ecclesiastes 4:7-12

⁷ Again I saw something meaningless under the sun:

⁸ There was a man all alone;
he had neither son nor brother.
There was no end to his toil,
yet his eyes were not content with his wealth.
“For whom am I toiling,” he asked,
“and why am I depriving myself of enjoyment?”
This too is meaningless—
a miserable business!

⁹ Two are better than one,
because they have a good return for their labor:
¹⁰ If either of them falls down,
one can help the other up.
But pity anyone who falls
and has no one to help them up.
¹¹ Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm.
But how can one keep warm alone?
¹² Though one may be overpowered,
two can defend themselves.
A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

¹ If I speak in the tongues ⁿ of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. ² If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. ³ If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, ^u but do not have love, I gain nothing.
⁴ Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵ It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶ Love does not delight in evil but

rejoices with the truth. ⁷ It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

⁸ Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. ⁹ For we know in part and we prophesy in part, ¹⁰ but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears. ¹¹ When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. ¹² For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

¹³ And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

Sermon

The 4th, 5th, and 6th Commandments

From Luther's 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.

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.

- 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*

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