



# LORD, HAVE MERCY

## FOR OUR INCESSANT IDOLATRY

### Service Notes

*If a loved one needed serious heart surgery, would you prefer a first-year medical student to perform the operation, or would you rather it be a seasoned doctor who has done that surgery two-thousand times? How about if you were accused of a serious crime you didn't commit? Would you be content with a legal intern defending you? Or might you want a more experienced, skilled attorney? You want the person who will best care for you. So, apply that reality to the First Commandment.*

*When God tells us not to have any other gods, our sinful nature's first inclination is to think it is because God is a narcissist who craves the attention. That is projecting what we are often like onto him. But God commands us to have no other gods, not because he seeks attention, but because he knows there is no one who loves us as much as he does... no one who can care for us anywhere close to as well as he can. It is he, by an infinite margin, who can best care for us. Therefore, when we love or trust anyone or anything else more than God, the sin doesn't simply offend him. It is incredibly self-destructive. As we begin our worship series on the Ten Commandments, by the Spirit teach us to say, "Lord, have mercy, for our incessant idolatry."*

## 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.

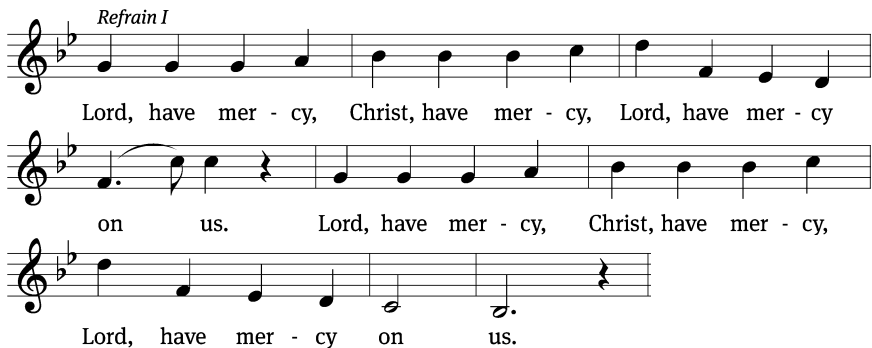
As disciples of the Lord Jesus, we are called to struggle against everything that leads us away from love of God and neighbor. I invite you, therefore, to confess your sins, ask our Father for forgiveness, and commit yourselves to this struggle.

## Response

652 Lord, Have Mercy sts. 1, Refrain I

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.

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## 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  $\text{T}$  and of the Holy Spirit.

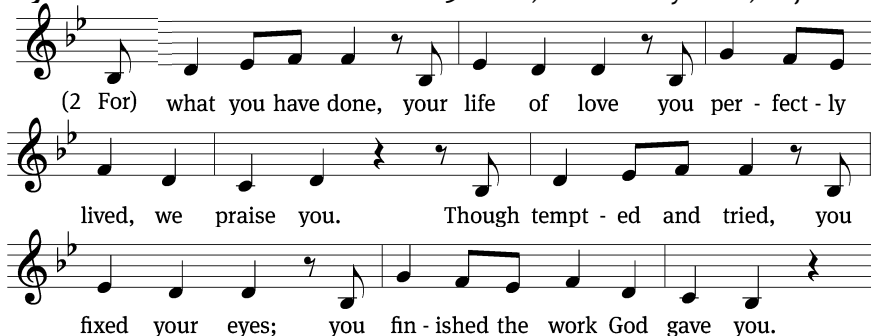
During these days of Lent, let us implore God to give us renewal and his Holy Spirit. May we continue to abide in the true faith and at the last be received by him through the merits of Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

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

## Hymn

652 *Lord, Have Mercy* 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. on us.

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## Prayer

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.**

## 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.*

<sup>6</sup>This is what the LORD, the King of Israel, Israel's Redeemer, the LORD of Armies, says. I am the first, and I am the last. Except for me there is no god. <sup>7</sup>For who is like me? Let him declare it. Let him recite

in order for me the things that took place since the time I established an ancient people. Or let them declare what is yet to come, and what is going to take place.

<sup>8</sup>Do not tremble, and do not be frightened. Did I not announce this to you, and declare it already long ago? You are my witnesses. Is there any god except me? There is no other Rock. I am not aware of any other. <sup>9</sup>All those who form an idol are good for nothing. All the things which delight them provide no benefit. As for their witnesses—they do not see. They know nothing, so they will be ashamed.

<sup>10</sup>Who is this who forms a god or casts a metal image that can provide no profit? <sup>11</sup>Look at him! All his associates will be ashamed. The craftsmen are merely men. Let them all gather themselves and take a stand. They will be terrified and ashamed together. (EHV®)

## 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.*

<sup>1</sup>Therefore, because you were raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup>Set your mind on things above, not on earthly things. <sup>3</sup>For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup>When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

<sup>5</sup>So put to death whatever is worldly in you: sexual immorality, uncleanness, lust, evil desire, and greed, which is idolatry. <sup>6</sup>It is because of these things that the wrath of God is coming on the sons of disobedience. (EHV®)

## Reading

Luke 22:1–38

*Even as the disciples demonstrated sinful pride and scandalous betrayal, Jesus demonstrates mercy, instituting the Lord's Supper for the forgiveness of sins.*

<sup>1</sup>The Festival of Unleavened Bread, which is called the Passover, was approaching. <sup>2</sup>The chief priests and the experts in the law were trying to find some way to put Jesus to death, because they were afraid of the people. <sup>3</sup>Then Satan entered Judas, called Iscariot, who was one of the Twelve. <sup>4</sup>He went away and spoke with the chief priests and officers of the temple guard about how he could betray Jesus to them. <sup>5</sup>They were glad and agreed to give him money. <sup>6</sup>He promised to do it and was looking for an opportunity to betray Jesus to them away from the crowd.

<sup>7</sup>The day of Unleavened Bread arrived, when it was necessary to sacrifice the Passover lamb. <sup>8</sup>Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, “Go prepare the Passover for us, so that we may eat it.”

<sup>9</sup>They said to him, “Where do you want us to prepare it?”

<sup>10</sup>He told them, “Just as you enter the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him into the house that he enters. <sup>11</sup>Tell the owner of the house, “The Teacher says to you, “Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?”” <sup>12</sup>He will show you a large, furnished upper room. Make preparations there.” <sup>13</sup>They went and found things just as he had told them, and they prepared the Passover.

<sup>14</sup>When the hour had come, Jesus reclined at the table with the twelve apostles. <sup>15</sup>He said to them, “I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer, <sup>16</sup>for I tell you, I will not eat it again until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.”

<sup>17</sup>He took a cup, gave thanks, and said, “Take this and divide it among yourselves, <sup>18</sup>for I tell you, from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.”

<sup>19</sup>He took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

<sup>20</sup>In the same way, he took the cup after the supper, saying, “This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is being poured out for you.

<sup>21</sup>“But look, the hand of him who is going to betray me is with mine on the table. <sup>22</sup>The Son of Man is going to go as it has been determined, but woe to that man by whom he is betrayed!”

<sup>23</sup>They began to discuss with one another which of them it was who was going to do this.

<sup>24</sup>A dispute arose among the disciples about which of them was considered to be greatest. <sup>25</sup>But he told them, “The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who have authority over them are called Benefactors. <sup>26</sup>But it is not to be that way with you. Instead, let the greatest among you become like the youngest, and the one who leads like the one who serves. <sup>27</sup>For who is greater, one who reclines at the table or one who serves? Isn't it the one who reclines at the table? But I am among you as one who serves. <sup>28</sup>You are those who have remained with me in my trials. <sup>29</sup>I am going to grant a kingdom to you, just as my Father granted to me, <sup>30</sup>so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom. And you will sit on thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.”

<sup>31</sup>The Lord said, “Simon, Simon, pay attention: Satan has asked to have you all, so that he may sift you as wheat. <sup>32</sup>But I prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have returned to me, strengthen your brothers.”

<sup>33</sup>He said to him, “Lord, I am ready to go with you both to prison and to death!”

<sup>34</sup>But Jesus replied, “I tell you, Peter, the rooster will not crow today until you deny three times that you know me.”

<sup>35</sup>He said to them, “When I sent you out without money bag, traveler's bag, and sandals, did you lack anything?”

“Nothing,” they said.

<sup>36</sup>Then he told them, “But now, let the one who has a money bag take it, and likewise a traveler's bag. And let the one who has no sword sell his cloak and buy one. <sup>37</sup>For I tell you that this Scripture must be fulfilled in me: ‘He was counted with transgressors.’ Indeed, what is written about me is going to have its fulfillment.”

<sup>38</sup>They said, “Lord, look, here are two swords.”

He said to them, “That is enough.” (EHV®)

## Hymn

635 *From High Atop the Mount* (sts. 1,4,3)

## Confession of Faith

*from the Small Catechism*

The First Commandment: You shall have no other gods.

*What does this mean?*

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

## Sermon

**Love God with All Your Heart**

## Offering

## Prayer

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 those who work to bring peace, justice, health, and protection in this and every place, let us pray to the Lord:

**Lord, have mercy.**

For those who bring offerings, those who do good works in this congregations, those who toil, those who sing, and all who await from the Lord great and abundant mercy, 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.**

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

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

## **Blessing**

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

**Amen.**

## **Hymn**

*400 Sweet the Moments, Rich in Blessing*

