



LORD, HAVE MERCY

FOR DEMONSTRATING IRREVERENCE AND DESPISING YOUR REST

Service Notes

The Second and Third Commandment 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.

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 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

Lord God, with your name and with your Word, you have provided everything we need for true joy, peace, and help in our lives. Open our eyes to the flippancy and apathy present in our hearts. By your mercy and forgiveness, give us rest in your name.

Amen.

First Reading

Exodus 34:1-7

As God gives Moses the commandments, God also proclaims his name, the LORD. God's name includes his reputation, what he is like... what he does.

¹The LORD said to Moses, "Cut out two stone tablets like the first ones. On these tablets I will write the same words that were on the first tablets, which you broke. ²Be ready by morning, and come up to

Mount Sinai in the morning. Present yourself to me there on top of the mountain. ³No one may come up with you. In fact, no person is to be seen anywhere on the entire mountain. Do not even let the flocks or herds graze in front of that mountain.”

⁴Moses cut out two stone tablets like the first ones. Moses got up early in the morning and went up Mount Sinai, as the LORD had commanded him, and he carried the two stone tablets in his hand.

⁵The LORD came down in the cloud. He took his stand there with Moses and proclaimed the name of the LORD. ⁶The LORD passed by in front of him and proclaimed: “The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, and overflowing with mercy and truth, ⁷maintaining mercy for thousands, forgiving guilt and rebellion and sin. He will by no means clear the guilty. He calls their children and their children’s children to account for the guilt of the fathers, even to the third and the fourth generation.” (EHV®)

Second Reading

Hebrews 4:1–12

Through the Word of Christ, God mercifully provides us with Sabbath rest.

¹Therefore, since the promise of entering his rest still stands, let us be fearful that any one of you may be judged to have failed to reach it.

²In fact, we have had the gospel preached to us, just as they did. But the message they heard did not benefit them, because they were not united in faith with those who did listen. ³Indeed, we who believe are going to enter his rest.

It happened just as he vowed when he said:

So I swore an oath in my wrath,

“They will never enter my rest.”

And yet his works have been finished since the creation of the world.

⁴For somewhere he has spoken about the seventh day in this way:

And God rested on the seventh day from all his works.

⁵And again in this statement:

They will never enter my rest.

⁶Therefore, since it is still the case that some do enter this rest, and yet those who formerly had the gospel preached to them did not enter because of disobedience, ⁷God again set a certain day, namely, “today,” when he later said through David, as quoted before:

Today, if you hear his voice,
do not harden your hearts.

⁸For, if Joshua had given them rest, then God would not have spoken later about another day.

⁹So there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God. ¹⁰For the one who enters God's rest also rests from his own work, just as God rested from his work. ¹¹Therefore, let us make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one will fall into the same pattern of disobedience.

¹²For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any double-edged sword. It penetrates even to the point of dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow, even being able to judge the ideas and thoughts of the heart. (EHV®)

Passion Reading

Luke 22:39–54

Jesus prayed and then willingly submitted to arrest, knowing he would suffer and be killed. He did this so we might call upon his name and receive rest his Sabbath rest.

³⁹Jesus left and went out to the Mount of Olives, as was his custom. His disciples followed him. ⁴⁰When he reached the place, he told them, “Keep praying that you may not enter into temptation.”

⁴¹He withdrew from them about a stone's throw, knelt down, and prayed, ⁴²“Father, if you are willing, take this cup away from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours be done.”

⁴³An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him. ⁴⁴As he was in agony, he prayed more fervently. His sweat became like great drops of blood falling to the ground.

⁴⁵When he rose from prayer, he went to the disciples and found them sleeping as a result of sorrow. ⁴⁶He said to them, “Why are you sleeping? Get up and keep praying so that you may not enter into temptation.”

⁴⁷While he was still speaking, suddenly a crowd appeared, and the man called Judas, one of the Twelve, was leading them. He came near to Jesus to kiss him. ⁴⁸But Jesus said to him, “Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?”

⁴⁹When those who were around him saw what was about to happen, they said to him, “Lord, should we strike with a sword?” ⁵⁰Then one of them struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his right ear.

⁵¹But Jesus responded, “Stop! No more of this!” Then he touched the servant's ear and healed him. ⁵²Jesus said to the chief priests, the officers of the temple guard, and the elders, who had come out against him, “Have you come out as you would against a robber, with swords and clubs?

⁵³“Every day I was with you in the temple courts, and you did not lay hands on me. But this is your hour—when darkness rules.”

⁵⁴Then they seized him, led him away, and brought him into the high priest's house.

Peter followed at a distance. (EHV®)

Hymn of the Day

634 *These Are the Holy Ten Commands*
sts. 1,6,7,3,4

Confession of Faith

from the 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.

Sermon

Offering

Come, Thou Almighty King

Hymn

425 *Go to Dark Gethsemane*

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.

Choral Blessing

Benediction

