



LORD, HAVE MERCY

FOR TREATING OTHERS LIKE TRASH, NOT TREASURE

Service Notes

“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!”

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.

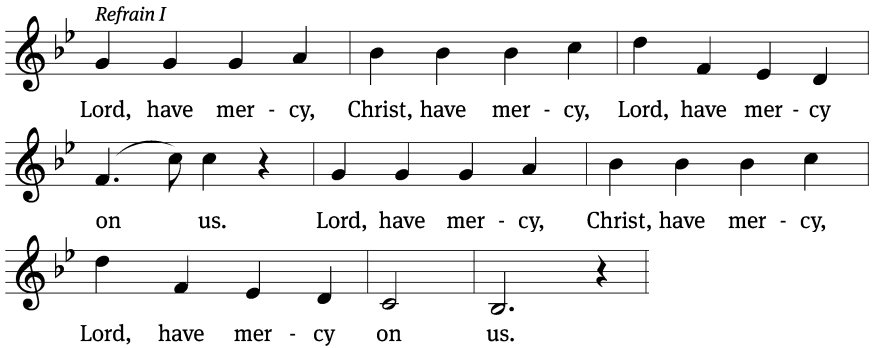
As disciples of the Lord Jesus, we are called to struggle against everything that leads us away from love of God and neighbor. I invite you, therefore, to confess your sins, ask our Father for forgiveness, and commit yourselves to this struggle.

Response

652 Lord, Have Mercy sts. 1, Refrain 1

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 1

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 T and of the Holy Spirit.

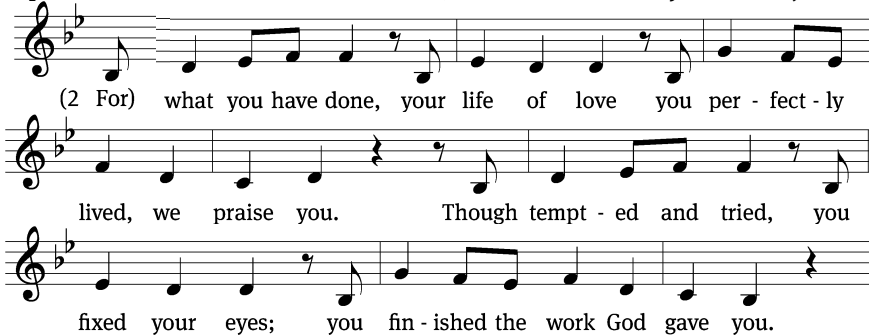
During these days of Lent, let us implore God to give us renewal and his Holy Spirit. May we continue to abide in the true faith and at the last be received by him through the merits of Jesus Christ our Lord.

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. *Fine (last time)*

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Prayer

Lord God, thank you for the many relationships we have around us. All of them are ways you bless us and opportunities for us to show the same self-sacrificing love that you have shown to us. Forgive us for our self-centeredness in these relationships and give us a new heart that sees you in the individuals around us. In our Savior's name we pray.
Amen.

First Reading

Ecclesiastes 4:7–12

The Teacher shares some of the blessings of living in loving community with others.

7I looked again and saw another example of meaningless vapor under the sun: ⁸There was a single person all alone, without even a son or a brother, and there was no end to all his hard work.

His eyes also were not satisfied with wealth. “So for whom am I working so hard,” he asks, “and depriving myself of enjoyment?” This too is vapor and a miserable task.

⁹Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their hard work. ¹⁰If one of them falls, his companion can lift him up. Pity the person who falls and has no one else to lift him up. ¹¹What’s more, if two lie down, they can keep warm, but how can one person keep warm alone? ¹²Though an attacker can overpower one person, two people together can stand up against him. A rope with three strands is not quickly snapped. (EHV®)

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 13

St. Paul describes the way we are called to reflect God’s love and mercy in all our relationships.

¹If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ²If I have the gift of prophecy and know all the mysteries and have all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. ³If I give away everything I own, and if I give up my body that I may be burned but do not have love, I gain nothing.

⁴Love is patient. Love is kind. Love does not envy. It does not brag. It is not arrogant. ⁵It does not behave indecently. It is not selfish. It is not irritable. It does not keep a record of wrongs. ⁶It does not rejoice over unrighteousness but rejoices with the truth. ⁷It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

⁸Love never comes to an end. But if there are prophetic gifts, they will be done away with; if tongues, they will cease; if knowledge, it will be done away with. ⁹For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part, ¹⁰but when that which is complete has come, that which is partial will be done away with. ¹¹When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put away childish things. ¹²Now we see indirectly using a mirror, but then we will see face to face. Now I know in part, but then I will know fully, just as I was fully known.

¹³So now these three remain: faith, hope, and love—and the greatest of these is love. (EHV®)

Passion Reading

Luke 22:54–71

Even as Jesus' disciple treated him like trash, denying any connection to him, Jesus mercifully treats us like treasure, enduring the trial and condemnation our sins deserved.

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

Peter followed at a distance. ⁵⁵When they had lit a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat down among them. ⁵⁶A servant girl saw him sitting near the light. She looked closely at him and said, "This man also was with him."

⁵⁷But he denied it, saying, "Woman, I do not know him."

⁵⁸After a little while someone else saw him and said, "You also are one of them!"

But Peter answered, "Man, I am not!"

⁵⁹After about one hour had passed, someone else was firmly insisting, "Truly this man was with him too, because he is a Galilean!"

⁶⁰But Peter said, "Man, I don't know what you are talking about!" At that very moment, while he was still speaking, the rooster crowed.

⁶¹The Lord turned and looked at Peter. Then Peter remembered the Lord's word, how he had said to him, "Before the rooster crows today you will deny me three times." ⁶²He went outside and wept bitterly.

⁶³The men who were holding Jesus in custody mocked him while they were beating him. ⁶⁴They blindfolded him and kept asking him, "Prophecy! Who hit you?" ⁶⁵And they went on saying many other blasphemous things against him.

⁶⁶As soon as it was day, the council of the elders of the people met together, both the chief priests and experts in the law. They brought him into their Sanhedrin and said, ⁶⁷"If you are the Christ, tell us."

But he said to them, "If I tell you, you will not believe, ⁶⁸and if I ask you, you will not answer me or release me. ⁶⁹But from now on, the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the power of God."

⁷⁰They all said, "Are you then the Son of God?"

He said to them, "I am what you are saying."

⁷¹Then they said, "Why do we need any more testimony? For we ourselves have heard it from his own mouth!" (EHV®)

Hymn of the Day

635 *From High Atop the Mount*
(sts. 1, 7, 8, 9, 3)

Confession of Faith

from the 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.

Sermon

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

526 What Wondrous Love Is This

