

In View of God's Mercy

Week 3: Mercy in Betrayal

Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless, for to this you were called, that you may obtain a blessing. 1 Peter 3:9

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Interim Pastor: Pastor David E Schafer Organist: Marena Henkle Acolyte: Jaxon Edwards

Prelude

Invocation and Call to Worship

- P In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **C Amen**
- P The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **C Amen.**
- P Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless, for to this you were called, that you may obtain a blessing. **C We are blessed to be a blessing.**
- P The eyes of the Lord are toward the righteous and his ears toward their cry.
C We are blessed to be a blessing.
- P When the righteous cry for help, the Lord hears and delivers them out of all their troubles.
C We are blessed to be a blessing.
- P The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit.
C We are blessed to be a blessing.
- P Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking deceit.
C We are blessed to be a blessing.
- P Turn away from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it.
C We are blessed to be a blessing.
- P The Lord redeems the life of his servants.
C We are blessed to be a blessing.
- P None of those who take refuge in him will be condemned. **C Amen.**

Hymn: *"There is a Green Hill Far Away"*LBW #114

Confession and Forgiveness

- P "Whoever desires to love life and see good days, let him keep his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking deceit; let him turn away from evil and do good; let him seek peace and pursue it" (1 Peter 3:10-11). We confess to God that we have often spoken evil and lived deceitfully. We have turned from good to do evil and have pursued betrayal rather than peace.
- C Holy God, we acknowledge that we have betrayed you. We have sinned against you in thought, word and deed. We have not kept our tongues from evil, especially when slandering others. We have not sought peace with others, but have pursued sinful revenge. Forgive our transgressions. Bring reconciliation and restoration to our relationship with you and our relationships with others.**
- P We cry to you for mercy. **C Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**
(Please silently reflect on the fact that though our sin is great, God's mercy is greater.)
- P Hear the good news! God's Word declares that "the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayer" (1 Peter 3:12). In the mercy of Almighty God, his Son Jesus was given to die for you to remove the guilt of your sin. For Christ's sake God forgives you all your sin and gives you his righteousness, making you righteous in his sight. His mercy endures forever because his love for you is steadfast. **C Amen.**

Prayer of the Day

Gracious Lord, as we continue our Lenten pilgrimage, we do so in view of your mercy. Although we have betrayed you with our sin, you continue to show your mercy to us. Strengthen us by the Holy Spirit so that we might live by your grace and follow you in faithfulness. We pray through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Old Testament Reading ... Jonah 3:1-10

Jaxon Edwards: Then the word of the Lord came to Jonah the second time, saying, "Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it the message that I tell you." So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, three days' journey in breadth. Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's journey. And he called out, "Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!" And the people of Nineveh believed God. They called for a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them to the least of them. The word reached the king of Nineveh, and he arose from his throne,

removed his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. And he issued a proclamation and published through Nineveh, "By the decree of the king and his nobles: Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste anything. Let them not feed or drink water, but let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and let them call out mightily to God. Let everyone turn from his evil way and from the violence that is in his hands. Who knows? God may turn and relent and turn from his fierce anger, so that we may not perish." When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil way, God relented of the disaster that he had said he would do to them, and he did not do it.

Epistle Reading ... 1 Peter 3:9-12

Aundraya Paulson: Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless, for to this you were called, that you may obtain a blessing. For "Whoever desires to love life and see good days, let him keep his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking deceit; let him turn away from evil and do good; let him seek peace and pursue it. For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayer. But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil."

Gospel Reading ... Matthew 26:47-56

Gospel Acclamation: "Glory to you, O Lord"

While he was still speaking, Judas came, one of the twelve, and with him a great crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one I will kiss is the man; seize him." And he came up to Jesus at once and said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" And he kissed him. Jesus said to him, "Friend, do what you came to do." Then they came up and laid hands on Jesus and seized him.

Gospel Acclamation: "Praise to You, O Christ"

Sermon: "Mercy in Betrayal"

Song: "You Love Me Anyway" (by the Sidewalk Prophets).....Marena Henkle

The question was raised as my conscience fell, a silly, little lie.

It didn't mean much, but it lingers still, in the corners of my mind.

*Still you call me to walk on the edge of this world, to spread my dreams and fly,
But the future's so far and my heart is so frail, I think I'd rather stay inside. (Refrain)*

(Refrain) But you love me anyway. It's like nothing in life that I've ever known.

Yes, you love me anyway. Oh, how you love me, how you love me.

It took more than my strength to simply be still, to seek, but never find.

All the reasons we change, the reasons I doubt.

And why do loved ones have to die? (Refrain)

I am the thorn in your crown, but you love me anyway.

I am the sweat from your brow, but you love me anyway.

I am the nail in your wrist, but you love me anyway.

I am Judas' kiss, but you love me anyway.

*See now, I am the man who yelled out from the crowd
for your blood to be spilled on this earth-shaking ground.*

*Yes, and I turned away with a smile on my face
with this sin in my heart, tried to bury your grace.*

*Then alone in the night, I still called out for you
so ashamed of my life, my life, my life;*

But you loved me anyway, oh God, how you loved me,

Yes, you loved me anyway. It's like nothing in life that I've ever known,

Yes, you loved me anyway, oh, God, how you love me.

Yes, you love me anyway, how you love me...

Offering

Offering Response: "Create in Me"

Prayers (led by Landon Hillman)

- L Almighty and merciful God, we approach your throne of grace today as those who betray you by our disobedience to your will. **C Lord, have mercy.**
- L When we are tempted to betray you at the price of greed, point us to the cross where we see the price of grace. **C Lord, have mercy.**
- L When we are tempted to betray you at the price of ambition, point us to the cross where we see the price of absolution. **C Lord, have mercy.**
- L When we are tempted to betray you at the price of acceptance by the world, point us to the cross where we see our adoption through the Word. **C Lord, have mercy.**
- L When we are tempted to betray you at the price of retaliation, point us to the cross where we see the price of redemption. **C Lord, have mercy.**
- L We praise you that your faithfulness to us is great and your mercies are new to us every morning. **C Lord, have mercy.**
- L In view of your mercy, lead us by your Spirit so that we will say no to traitorous sin and yes to faith-filled righteousness. **C Lord, have mercy.**
- L Lead us away from temptation and deliver us from evil.
C Lord, grant me your grace both to will and to do what pleases you.
- L All these things we pray in the name of Jesus, who suffered in our stead the penalty for betrayal. **C Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Benediction

P The Lord bless you and keep you, The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. C (sing the three-fold Amen)

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Hymn: "Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus" (led by Marena Henkle)

*Turn your eyes upon Jesus, Look full in His wonderful face;
And the things of earth will go strangely dim In the light of His glory and grace.*

*Oh soul, are you weary and troubled? No light in the darkness you see?
There's light for a look at the Savior And life more abundant and free.*

*Though death into life everlasting He passed, and we follow Him there
O'er us sin no more hath dominion For more than conquerors we are. (Refrain)*

*Refrain: Oh, Turn your eyes upon Jesus, Look full in His wonderful face;
And the things of earth will go strangely dim In the light of His glory and grace.*

*His Word shall not fail you, He promised Believe Him and all will be well.
Then go to a world that is dying His perfect salvation to tell. (Refrain)*

(Please wait to leave the sanctuary until Pastor makes his way to the back)

Postlude

Thank you... for joining us for our Lenten service, please continue to worship with us on Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m. as we reflect on the series: "In View of God's Mercy".
Next week will focus on *Mercy in Relationships*.

Offering collected... during the Lenten services on Wednesdays and Easter will be kept at Emmanuel. Monies collected for Maundy Thursday and Good Friday will go to Benevolence.

For the next month...all loose offering collected on Sundays will be designated for assistance to Ukraine through Lutheran World Relief.