

In View of God's Mercy

Week 2: Mercy in Suffering

By his wounds you have been healed. 1 Peter 2:24

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Interim Pastor: Pastor David E Schafer Organist: Marena Henkle Acolyte: Ryan Hackbart

Prelude

Invocation and Call to Worship

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 My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

C Be not far from me, for trouble is near.

P Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning?

C Be not far from me, for trouble is near.

P O my God, I cry by day and by night, but I find no rest.

C Be not far from me, for trouble is near.

P Deliver my soul from the sword, my precious life from the power of the dog.

C O you my help, come quickly to my aid.

P You have rescued me from the horns of the wild oxen.

C O you my help, come quickly to my aid.

P You who fear the Lord, praise him! All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him.

C O you my help, come quickly to my aid.

P For he has not despised or abhorred the affliction of the afflicted, and he has not hidden his face from him.

C But God has heard when we cried to him. Amen.

Hymn: *"Thank You, Jesus".....see insert*

Confession and Forgiveness

P The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned, for we have spoken against the Lord" (Numbers 21:7). We likewise confess to God that we have often spoken against him and have sinned.

C Holy God, we confess our sin to you. When adversity and suffering have come our way, we have complained and spoken against you. We have forgotten your many benefits and blessings to us. We have not trusted you through the hard times, but have resented you and resorted to our own strength. Forgive our iniquity, and pardon our sin.

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 "as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life" (John 3:14-15). 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 eternal life. His mercy endures forever because his love for you is steadfast.

C Amen.

Prayer of the Day

P Gracious Lord, as we continue our Lenten pilgrimage we do so in view of your mercy. We encounter many hardships and much suffering in life. Strengthen us by your Holy Spirit so that we may trust you through the trials and take up the cross to follow you. 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 ... Numbers 21:4-9

From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom. And the people became impatient on the way. And the people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we loathe this worthless food." Then the Lord sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died. And the people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned, for we have spoken against the Lord and against you. Pray to the Lord, that he take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. And the Lord said to Moses, "Make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live." So Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on a pole. And if a serpent bit anyone, he would look at the bronze serpent and live.

Epistle Reading ... 1 Peter 2:21-25

For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

Gospel Reading ... Matthew 8:14-17

And when Jesus entered Peter's house, he saw his mother-in-law lying sick with a fever. He touched her hand, and the fever left her, and she rose and began to serve him. That evening they brought to him many who were oppressed by demons, and he cast out the spirits with a word and healed all who were sick. This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah: "He took our illnesses and bore our diseases."

Sermon: "Mercy in Suffering"

Hymn: "Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love.....WOV # 765

Offering

Offering Response: "Create in Me"

Prayers

- P Almighty and merciful God, we approach your throne of grace today as those who struggle with hardships and suffer with pain. **C Lord, have mercy.**
- P When we encounter the brokenness of this world and the suffering that it brings—such as natural disasters, economic reversals and financial losses—restore us with your healing power so that we might rest secure in you as our mighty fortress. **C Lord, have mercy.**
- P When we experience broken relationships and the suffering that these bring—such as estrangement of family members, alienation from friends and conflict within congregations—restore us with your healing power so that we might seek reconciliation and peace.
C Lord, have mercy.
- P When we experience broken bodies and the suffering that it brings—such as illness, injury and disability—restore us with your healing power so that we might live in health once again. **C Lord, have mercy.**
- P When we experience broken minds and the suffering that it brings—such as with mental illness, neurosis and dementia—restore us with your healing power so that we might know of your love. **C Lord, have mercy.**
- P When we experience broken spirits and the suffering that it brings—such as depression, despair and desperation—restore us with your healing power so that we might have hope.
C Lord, have mercy.
- P When we encounter the death of loved ones and the sorrow that it brings, restore us with your abiding comfort so that we might trust in your victory over death. **C Lord, have mercy.**
- P When we encounter our own death and the terror that it brings, restore us with your resurrection power so that we might live eternally in your glory.
C Lord, grant me your grace to trust you in times of suffering and sorrow.
- P All these things we pray in the name of Jesus the Suffering Servant. **C Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Benediction

P May the merciful God, who suffered the pain of the cross for you and your salvation, strengthen you to trust him through hardship according to his good and gracious will, through Jesus Christ to whom be the glory forever! C **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 Betrayal*.

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.