



March 15, 2023

LAKE OCONEE LUTHERAN CHURCH

A Stephen Ministry Congregation

*God writes His Word on our Lives, building us into a Family engaged
in Spirit-filled Service.*



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MERCY IN BETRAYAL

In this service for Lent in our In View of God's Mercy series, we look at our lives through the lens of God's love toward us in the sacrifice of his Son, Jesus. In this service, we ponder the truth that though we may turn away from our God again and again, our Lord continues to call us back into his merciful arms for Jesus' sake.

Opening Sentences

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

People: Amen.

Pastor: 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.

People: We are blessed to be a blessing.

Pastor: The eyes of the Lord are toward the righteous and His ears toward their cry.

People: We are blessed to be a blessing.

Pastor: When the righteous cry for help, the Lord hears and delivers them out of all their troubles.

People: We are blessed to be a blessing.

Pastor: The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit.

People: We are blessed to be a blessing.

Pastor: Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking deceit.

People: We are blessed to be a blessing.

Pastor: Turn away from evil and do good, seek peace and pursue it.

People: We are blessed to be a blessing.

Pastor: The Lord redeems the life of His servants.

People: We are blessed to be a blessing.

Pastor: None of those who take refuge in Him will be condemned.
People: Amen.

Hymn "Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain" Hymn 435



1 Come to Cal - v'ry's ho - ly moun - tain, Sin - ners, ru - ined
2 Come in pov - er - ty and mean - ness, Come de - filed, with -
3 Come in sor - row and con - tri - tion, Wound - ed, im - po -
4 They that drink shall live for - ev - er; 'Tis a soul - re -

by the fall; Here a pure and heal - ing foun - tain
out, with - in; From in - fec - tion and un - clean - ness,
tent, and blind; Here the guilt - y, free re - mis - sion,
new - ing flood. God is faith - ful; God will nev - er

Flows for you, for me, for all, In a full, per -
From the lep - ro - sy of sin, Wash your robes and
Here the trou - bled, peace may find. Health this foun - tain
Break His cov - e - nant of blood, Signed when our Re -

pet - ual tide, O - pened when our Sav - ior died.
make them white; Ye shall walk with God in light.
will re - store; They that drink shall thirst no more.
deem - er died, Sealed when He was glo - ri - fied.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854, alt.
Tune: Ludvig M. Lindeman, 1812-87
Text and tune: Public domain

Confession and Forgiveness

Pastor: "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.

People: 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.

(Please silently reflect on the fact that though our sin is great, God's mercy is greater.)

Pastor: 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.

People: Amen.

The Prayer of the Day

Pastor: 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.

The First Reading

Jonah 3:1-10

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.

The New Testament Reading

1 Peter 3:9-12

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.”

The Gospel Reading

Matthew 26:47-50

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.

Hymn

Upon the Cross Extended Hymn 453 v1-3, 7



1 Up - on the cross ex - tend - ed See, world, your
 2 Come, see these things and pon - der, Your soul will
 3 Who is it, Lord, that bruised You? Who has so
 7 Your cross I place be - fore me; Its sav - ing



Lord sus - pend - ed. Your Sav - ior yields His breath.
 fill with won - der As blood streams from each pore.
 sore a - bused You And caused You all Your woe?
 pow'r re - store me, Sus - tain me in the test.



The Prince of Life from heav - en Him - self has free - ly
 Through grief be - yond all know - ing From His great heart came
 We all must make con - fes - sion Of sin and dire trans -
 It will, when life is end - ing, Be guid - ing and at -



giv - en To shame and blows and bit - ter death.
 flow - ing Sighs well - ing from its deep - est core.
 gres - sion While You no ways of e - vil know.
 tend - ing My way to Your e - ter - nal rest.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607-76; tr. John Kelly, 1833-90, alt.
 Tune: Heinrich Isaac, c. 1450-1517
 Text and tune: Public domain

The Message

The Prayers

Pastor: Almighty and merciful God, we approach your throne of grace today as those who betray you by our disobedience to your will.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: When we are tempted to betray you at the price of greed, point us to the cross where we see the price of grace.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: When we are tempted to betray you at the price of ambition, point us to the cross where we see the price of absolution.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: 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.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: When we are tempted to betray you at the price of retaliation, point us to the cross where we see the price of redemption.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: We praise you that your faithfulness to us is great and your mercies are new to us every morning.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: 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.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: Lead us away from temptation and deliver us from evil.

People: **Lord, grant me your grace both to will and to do what pleases You.**

Pastor: All these things we pray in the name of Jesus, who suffered in our stead the penalty for betrayal.

People: **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

**C Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass
against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and
ever. Amen**

The Blessing

Pastor: Let us bless the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Pastor: May the merciful God, who is faithful to forgive the treachery of traitors, empower you to live according to his good and gracious will, through Jesus Christ to whom be the glory forever!

People: Amen.

Hymn

“On My Heart Imprint Your Image” (422)

On my heart im - print Your im - age, Bless - ed Je - sus, King of grace,
That life's rich-es, cares, and plea-sures Nev - er may Your work e-rase;
Let the clear in - scrip-tion be: Je - sus, cru - ci - fied for me,
Is my life, my hope's foun - da - tion, And my glo - ry and sal - va - tion!

Join us next week in our *In View of God's Mercy* series for Lent, as we look at our lives through the lens of God's love toward us in the sacrifice of his Son, Jesus. In this service, we come to understand that within the communities God has placed us, we are given the grace to treat one another as Christ has cared for us in his love and mercy.

Lenten Wednesday Services for this year:

Wednesday, 3/22 Supper at 6pm and Worship at 7pm,

Wednesday, 3/29 Lunch at 12pm and Worship at 1 pm

Thursday, 4/6 Maundy Thursday Worship with Communion at 7pm

Friday, 4/7 Good Friday Worship at 7pm