



Mercy forever.

Lenten Devotion Two

The Spirit Anointed Christ for Mercy – Lenten Worship Series

Lent was the time when candidates for Holy Baptism were intently preparing to be baptized at the Vigil of Easter. We, too, in this season of Lent prepare ourselves to remember our Baptism at Easter as we ritually “pass over” with Jesus from death to new life. During this Lenten season we will remember Jesus’ Baptism, His anointing with the Holy Spirit, and His words in Luke 4 – that He was anointed to show, and to be, mercy. As His people – hearing Him proclaim God’s Word and being God’s Word as Prophet; seeing Him sacrifice Himself on a cross and know that He intercedes for us as Priest; and knowing that we live under Him as King in righteousness and purity – we will be reminded of our work of mercy. *(Each service will present an opportunity to give of our treasures to the church’s corporate mercy work through LCMS World Relief and Human Care.)*

The Spirit Anointed Christ ... to Preach Good News to the Poor.

HYMN “Come to Calvary’s Holy Mountain” [LSB 435]

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: Brothers and sisters of our Lord Jesus Christ, the 40 days of Lent are set aside as a time to take a look at our walk with God. Our attention is especially directed to the holy sufferings and death of our Lord Jesus Christ. From ancient times the season of Lent has been kept as a time of special devotion, self-denial, instruction, and humble repentance born of a faithful heart that dwells confidently on His Word and draws life and hope from it. In our service tonight we continue to focus on God’s mercy in Christ, who was anointed as our Prophet Priest and King and who proclaims the mercy of God in Word and deed. We take this time to remind ourselves that as Christ has given us mercy we are to be merciful. Tonight we focus on his “Gospelizing the poor” or preaching good news to the poor, and we will take a special offering for our church’s mercy arm. We will give a special offering to LCMS World Relief and Human Care and their Veterans and Soldiers of the Cross programs, benefiting those who have spent their lives “preaching Good News to the poor.” Let us pray that our dear Father in heaven, for the sake of His beloved Son and in the power of His Holy Spirit, might richly bless this Lenten season for us, that we may come to Easter with glad hearts and keep the feast in sincerity and truth. Because God anointed Him with the Holy Spirit and with power as Prophet Priest and King, all kings will bow down to Jesus the Christ and all the nations will serve Him.

People: **For He will deliver the poor and the needy who cry out, the afflicted who have no one to help.**

Pastor: Praise be to the LORD God, the God of Israel, who alone does marvelous deeds.

People: **Praise be to His glorious name forever.**

Pastor: May the whole earth be filled with His glory.

People: Amen.

CONFESSION

Pastor: Praise be to Your name, O Jesus, Prophet, Priest and King of all kings, forever and ever. The marvelous things of Your mercy include Your sinless life, Your death in our place, and Your spectacular resurrection from the dead.

People: We who are beggardly poor and needy cry out to You.

Pastor: We, like all people since Adam and Eve, have fallen into sin and stand in need of Your forgiveness.

People: We who are beggardly poor and needy cry out to You.

Pastor: O Christ, our King, we confess to You that we have not done the right things You want us to do. We confess that the poor have been forsaken by us and the good things we can and should do for others remain undone.

People: We who are beggardly poor and needy cry out to You.

Pastor: Forgive us, Lord.

People: For Your sake, O Christ, forgive us.

Pastor: Lord, in Your mercy, give us Your peace.

People: Amen.

ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Our Prophet came to preach Good News to the poor; our Priest died to bring them into His kingdom, and our King will take pity on the weak and the needy. In the name of Jesus and by the power of His cross and His authority, I, as a called and ordained pastor, ordained to preach Good News to the poor, forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Let us pray. O God our King, who has called us through your anointed one Jesus Christ to be kings and priests unto you: teach us to bear one another's burdens and the burdens of our country and the poor around the world. Open our eyes to see the woes of our land, the despair in the lives of many, and the deep and shameful wrongs that cry to be put right. Give to us also a vision of our world as you would have it be, and as You alone can fashion it. Make us your servants, giving us no rest or discharge until You have worked this work of compassion, that generations yet unborn may praise your name. We ask this for Jesus Christ's sake.

People: Amen

HYMN "Lord of Glory You Have Bought Us" [LSB 851]

OLD TESTAMENT Deut. 15:7-11

EPISTLE Gal. 2:1-10

HOLY GOSPEL Luke 12:32-34, Luke 4:16-21

THE SERMON

OFFERING Special offerings designated for LCMS World Relief and Human Care's "Veterans of the Cross" and "Soldiers of the Cross" to help those who dedicated their lives preaching Good News to the poor.

PRAYER

Pastor: Lord, our heavenly Father, whose blessed Son came not to be ministered unto, but to minister: We beseech you to bless all who, following in His steps, give themselves to the service of their fellow men. Endue them with wisdom, patience, and courage to strengthen the weak and raise up those who fall; that, being inspired by thy love, they may worthily minister in your Name to the suffering, the friendless, and the needy. Make us signs of your kingdom as we seek to give back the mercy that You have bestowed upon us. Make us kind and compassionate for the sake of Him who laid down His life for us, your Son our Savior, Jesus Christ.

People: In your mercy hear our prayer.

Pastor: O God, the King of righteousness, lead us, we pray, in the ways of justice and of peace; inspire us to break down all oppression and wrong, to gain for every man his due reward, and from every man his due service; that each may live for all, and all may care for each other; in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: In your mercy hear our prayer.

Pastor: Eternal Father, who in the sending your Son spoke peace to the world, and in the blood of His Cross opened to all mankind the way to peace with You: turn all men to the cross, that, following His holy example and burning with His zeal of service, they may become one brotherhood in Christ, and your peace possess every heart and rule in all nations of the world; bless those who are, or who have been, prophets in your church, proclaiming the Gospel of peace and Good News to the poor. Bless those who through illness or old age can no longer serve as pastors but who like Simeon wait for the final consummation of their service and proclamation through the same Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

People: In your mercy hear our prayer.

LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN "Cross of Jesus, Cross of Sorrow" [LSB 428]