



Mercy forever.

Lenten Devotion Three

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 knowing 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 Heal the Broken Hearted

HYMN “Cross of Jesus, Cross of Sorrow” [LSB 428]

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. Sometimes our hearts believe upon Him so we can confess Him with our lips when we are broken and feel abandoned and separated from Him. 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 as we focus on His “healing the broken hearted,” 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 its disaster response programs. 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. The broken hearted will rejoice in His mercy.

People: **For He will deliver the broken hearted, a bruised reed He will not break and a smoldering wick of faith He will not snuff out.**

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 have broken hearts 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 broken hearted 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 often our broken hearts keep us from doing the good things we can and should do for others.

People: We who are broken hearted 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 heal broken hearts, our Priest died to bring us into His kingdom, and our King will give us new hearts of flesh and not of stone. 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 healing to broken hearts, 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 broken hearts that afflict Your people and those who do not yet know You. 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, even when our hearts are breaking or are broken, to work while it is day before the night comes when no one can work and give us Your strength and mercy until You have worked our work of compassion, that generations yet unborn may praise Your name. We ask this for Jesus Christ's sake.

People: Amen

HYMN "Jesus, Grant That Balm and Healing" [LSB 421]

OLD TESTAMENT Psalm 34

EPISTLE 2 Cor. 4:7–18

HOLY GOSPEL Matt. 27: 45–50, Luke 4:16–21

THE SERMON

OFFERING Special offerings designated for LCMS World Relief and Human Care’s disaster response ministry.

PRAYER The Litany [LSB 288]

LORD’S PRAYER

HYMN “When to Our World the Savior Came” [LSB 551]