



Mercy forever.

## Lenten Devotion Six

### The Spirit Anointed Christ for Mercy – Lenten Worship Series

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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 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 Free the Bruised

**HYMN** “Just As I Am Without One Plea” [LSB 570]

#### INVOCATION

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

**People:** Amen.

**Pastor:** Christ Jesus was anointed as our Prophet who preached Good News and continues that preaching in the church; as Priest who became the sacrifice on the Cross; as King who rules in wisdom and grace. A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out,

**People:** He knows all about us and loves us anyway. In our brokenness He comes to heal and restore. Amen.

#### OLD TESTAMENT Isaiah 42

[After the reading]

**Pastor:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**People:** Thanks be to God.

**Pastor:** Rescue us from our blindness. Heal the bruised reed, and strengthen the smoldering wick.

**People:** Let us see Your great salvation.

#### CONFESSION (Ps. 51) read together

<sup>1</sup>Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions.

<sup>2</sup>Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.

<sup>3</sup>For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.

<sup>4</sup>Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are proved right when you speak and justified when you judge.

<sup>5</sup>Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.

<sup>6</sup>Surely you desire truth in the inner parts; you teach me wisdom in the inmost place.

<sup>7</sup>Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.

<sup>8</sup>Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice.

<sup>9</sup>Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity.

<sup>10</sup>Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

<sup>11</sup>Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me.

<sup>12</sup>Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

<sup>13</sup>Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will turn back to you.

<sup>14</sup>Save me from bloodguilt, O God, the God who saves me, and my tongue will sing of your righteousness.

<sup>15</sup>O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.

<sup>16</sup>You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.

<sup>17</sup>The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

<sup>18</sup>In your good pleasure make Zion prosper; build up the walls of Jerusalem.

<sup>19</sup>Then there will be righteous sacrifices, whole burnt offerings to delight you; then bulls will be offered on your altar

Pastor: In Psalm 51, we have nothing but a pure cry for mercy. It is from one who could truly say, “Nothing in my hand I bring, Simply to Thy cross I cling; Naked, come to Thee for dress; Helpless, look to Thee for grace; Foul, I to the fountain fly; Wash me, Savior, or I die.” This is they cry of someone who is an example of the “spoiled specimens of humanity” that we talked about on Ash Wednesday. It is our cry as well.

With those thoughts in mind, together we humbly make our confession.

*(Silence for reflection and personal confession)*

Pastor: It is true, Father in heaven,

**People: We are “spoiled specimens of humanity.” We have not lived our lives for You or others. We are so consumed with ourselves that our lives are selfish and self-centered. As we focus on ourselves, we are broken because we realize how shallow and silly we really are.**

Pastor: In our brokenness we forget where to go for help, and when made whole, we break ourselves again in seeking our way, our path, our Kingdom, and our glory,

**People: we turn ourselves into bruised reeds and smoldering wicks that are no good to anyone.**

Pastor: We have not always cried out to You for help,

**People: but we often complain to and about everyone else, and sometimes our complaint is that You have not done enough to cure us.**

Pastor: Father in heaven, we have sinned against You and have acted foolishly.

**People:** Father in heaven, we have sinned against You and our neighbor. We stand before You in need of forgiveness. We bruise ourselves and are bruised by others. The devil bruises us with his lies. Remind us of the one who was also bruised by the old evil foe, but who crushed that wily serpent's head.

Pastor: Forgive us for the sake of Jesus, the merciful anointed one.

**People:** Amen.

### ABSOLUTION *(based on Luke 4)*

Pastor: Jesus said, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised." Because our merciful Lord was anointed for mercy as Prophet who preaches liberty and healing to the bruised, as Priest who was bruised for our iniquity, and as King whose Kingdom is wholeness and health, and because of the death and resurrection of Jesus the Christ, by His authority, I, as a called and ordained minister of the Word, forgive you all your sin in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People:** Amen.

### HYMN "Rock of Ages" [LSB 761]

### EPISTLE 1 Cor. 11:23–26 (NKJV)

<sup>23</sup>For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the *same* night in which He was betrayed took bread; <sup>24</sup>and when He had given thanks, He broke *it* and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me." <sup>25</sup>In the same manner *He* also *took* the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink *it*, in remembrance of Me."

<sup>26</sup>For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People:** Thanks be to God.

### HOLY GOSPEL Matt. 12:9–21 and Luke 4:16–20

### MESSAGE

### OFFERING

Special offerings designated for LCMS World Relief and Human Care's Health Ministries.

### PRAYER

Pastor: Gracious Lord, You have blessed us richly with life and have provided all things needed to sustain it. You have healed the bruised and broken by bruising and breaking Your Son on a cross. You allowed the devil to bruise Him that He might crush the devil's head. Even though we are broken by sadness, by thinking too much of ourselves or not enough, by our sins of thoughts and desires and words and deeds, You haven't broken us or snuffed us out. Accept our gifts, and grant us humility to use our blessings wisely, honoring You and faithfully serving in Your kingdom. We pray in Your name, Lord Jesus, light of light.

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: Lord Jesus, we bring before You the foolishness and failures of our lives. When these keep us from honoring You, help us remember that,

**People: A bruised reed You will not break, and a smoldering wick You will not snuff out, till You lead justice to victory and in Your name the nations will put their hope.**

Pastor: When our own agendas lead us into depression and sorrow, when our self-centeredness bruises us and our consciences are broken, help us remember that,

**People: A bruised reed You will not break, and a smoldering wick You will not snuff out, till You lead justice to victory and in Your name the nations will put their hope.**

Pastor: When self-centeredness takes control of our hearts and instead of being a light to the world around us we smolder and stink, help us to remember that,

**People: A bruised reed You will not break, and a smoldering wick You will not snuff out, till You lead justice to victory and in Your name the nations will put their hope.**

Pastor: In Your wisdom, Lord Christ, guide our rulers in the way of justice and peace even though they may be broken and bruised as are we. Bless the broken and bruised with doctors and caregivers with insight into their needs. Give them visitors and pastors who comfort in Your name. Comfort those suffering from mental illness and depression, those battling addiction and abuse, and if it be Your will, free them from the tyranny of their ills. If not, give us the hearts and the means to help them in their trials. Give us servant hearts and the mind of Christ. In Your mercy grant healing to those who are sick, comfort to those who grieve, and rest to those who are weary.

**People: We pray all of this in Your name, Lord Jesus. Amen.**

Pastor: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

## LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor: The Lord Almighty — the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit — bless and preserve you.

**People: Amen.**

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