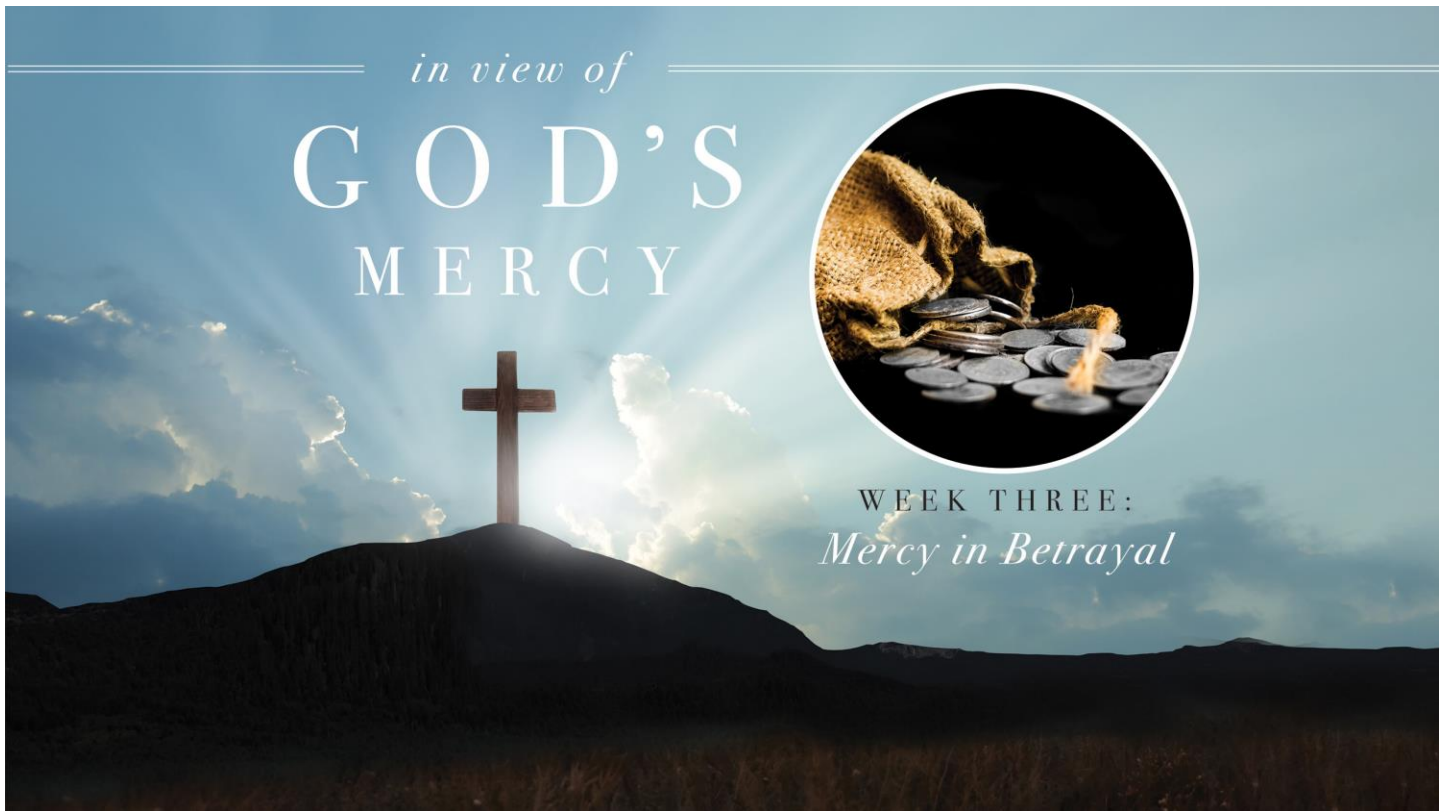


Lenten Midweek Service Series



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. 1 Peter 3:9

Lord of Love Lutheran Church (ELCA)

10405 Fort St., Omaha, NE 68134

**Wednesday, March 15, 2023
7:00 p.m.**

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 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.

C We are blessed to be a blessing.

P The eyes of the Lord are toward the righteous and his ears toward their cry.

C We are blessed to be a blessing.

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

C We are blessed to be a blessing.

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

C We are blessed to be a blessing.

P Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking deceit.

C We are blessed to be a blessing.

P Turn away from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it.

C We are blessed to be a blessing.

P The Lord redeems the life of his servants.

C We are blessed to be a blessing.

P None of those who take refuge in him will be condemned.

C Amen.

Confession and Forgiveness

P “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.

C 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.

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 “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.

C Amen.

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray.

C 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.

Scripture Readings

1 Peter 3:9-12

P 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."

Matthew 26:47-50

P 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.

Sermon

Hymn: "Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain" (See insert) LBW 301

Prayers

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

C Lord, have mercy.

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

C Lord, have mercy.

L When we are tempted to betray you at the price of ambition, point us to the cross

where we see the price of absolution.

C Lord, have mercy.

L 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.

C Lord, have mercy.

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

C Lord, have mercy.

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

C Lord, have mercy.

L 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.

C Lord, have mercy.

L Lead us away from temptation and deliver us from evil.

C Lord, grant me your grace both to will and to do what pleases you.

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

C Amen.

Lord's Prayer

L Let us pray together as Jesus taught us,

C Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Hymn: "There's a Wideness to God's Mercy" (See insert) ELW #588

Benediction

P 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 for-ever!

C Amen.

**Offering plates are not being passed, but we are collecting special lenten offerings to help support the good work of Heartland Family Service and Lutheran Disaster Response. You can go to lord-of-love.org/giving and click on Lent/Easter, to give online, or place a cash or check in the offering plate at the back of the sanctuary.*