

PARABLE OF THE
UNMERCIFUL
SERVANT

*The kingdom of heaven is like a king
who wanted to settle accounts with his servants.*

MATTHEW 18:21-35



Mach 7, 2021
9:00 / 10:30 a.m.

Lutheran Church of the Redeemer
1800 W. Maple
Birmingham, Michigan 48009

ORDER OF WORSHIP
March 7, 2021 – 9:00/10:30 a.m.
Third Sunday in Lent
Theme: Forgiveness

As We Gather

Forgiveness is not about finding excuses for someone's offensive behavior or pretending it didn't happen. Forgiveness is about goodness, and showing mercy to those who have hurt us, even when they don't "deserve" it. When God forgives us, does He expect us to forgive other? How do we cultivate a forgiving heart? How do we take advantage of our hurt and find purpose in it? That is our focus for today.

Lenten Observance

As part of our Lenten observance, we follow the old church custom of omitting the "Alleluias" from our worship, symbolizing our voluntary restraint of praise during the penitential season of Lent.

Prayer Before Worship

Dear Lord, I thank You for the power of forgiveness, and I choose to forgive everyone who has hurt me. Help me set [name anyone who has offended you] free and release them to You. Help me bless those who have hurt me. Help me walk in righteousness, peace, and joy, demonstrating Your life here on earth. I choose to be kind and compassionate, forgiving others, just as You forgave me. In Jesus' name, Amen.

If you share our beliefs regarding the Lord's Supper, we welcome you to our altar. If you would like to receive a gluten-free wafer or de-alcoholized wine, please let the Pastor or Elder know when you are at the table. Non-communing children and adults may receive a blessing from the Pastor, indicated by folding your arms across your chest as a sign you are not communing.

Prelude

Rick Helderop

Opening Hymn 376 Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me

1. Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in Thee;
Let the water and the blood from Thy riven side which flowed
Be of sin the double cure, cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.
2. Not the labors of my hands can fulfil Thy Law's demands;
Could my zeal no respite know, could my tears forever flow,
All for sin could not atone; Thou must save, and Thou alone.
3. 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!

Order of Service for Holy Communion

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

C: Amen.

P: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God, our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness. Our help is in the name of the Lord.

C: Who made heaven and earth.

P: I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord.

C: And Thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin.

P&C: O almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto Thee all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended Thee and justly deserved Thy temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray Thee of Thy boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Thy beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

P: Upon this your confession, I, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Exodus 20:1-17

(The Ten Commandments)

And God spoke all these words: "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. "You shall have no other gods before me. "You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments. "You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name. "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your male or female servant, nor your animals, nor any foreigner residing in your towns. For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy. "Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you. "You shall not murder. "You shall not commit adultery. "You shall not steal. "You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor. "You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male or female servant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor."

Verse

P: Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand,

C: that He may lift you up in due time. (1 Peter 5:6)

Anthem

It is Well With My Soul – Beck

Chancel Choir Quartet:

Michele Fredericks, Alison Ristovski, Max Trombley, Steve SeGraves

Gospel Announcement

Response: Glory be to Thee, O Lord!

Gospel Reading

Matthew 18:23-35

(The Unforgiving Servant)

“Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold was brought to him. Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt. “At this the servant fell on his knees before him. ‘Be patient with me,’ he begged, ‘and I will pay back everything.’ The servant’s master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go. “But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins. He grabbed him and began to choke him. ‘Pay back what you owe me!’ he demanded. “His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.’ “But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened. “Then the master called the servant in. ‘You wicked servant,’ he said, ‘I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. Shouldn’t you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?’ In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed. “This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

Response: Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Sermon Hymn

Softly and Tenderly, Jesus is Calling

1. Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling, calling for you and for me;
See, on the portals He’s waiting and watching,
Watching for you and for me.

Refrain:

Come home, come home, Ye who are weary, come home;
Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling, calling, O sinner, come home!

2. Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading, pleading for you and for me?

Why should we linger and heed not His mercies,
Mercies for you and for me? Refrain

3. Time is now fleeting, the moments are passing, passing from you and from me;

Shadows are gathering, deathbeds are coming,
Coming for you and for me. Refrain

Sermon

Text: Matthew 18:23-35

“Forgive us our Trespases,
As We Forgive Those Who Trespass Against Us”

Rev. Randall J. Schlak

Prayer of the Church

Communion Liturgy

The Lord’s Prayer

P: 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 trespases, as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil;

C: For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

The Words of Institution (spoken by the Pastor)

The Pax Domini

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always!

C: Amen.

The Agnus Dei

O Christ Thou Lamb of God,
that takest away the sin of the world,
have mercy upon us.

O Christ Thou Lamb of God,
that takest away the sin of the world,
have mercy upon us.

O Christ Thou Lamb of God,
that takest away the sin of the world,
grant us Thy peace. Amen.

The Distribution of Holy Communion

- ✠ The wafers are in plastic bags with 1 to 3 wafers in each bag.
- ✠ The wine is in individual plastic containers with lids.
- ✠ Each family unit will be invited forward by an usher to receive the elements after they are blessed.
- ✠ We will have two tables to serve two groups at a time.
- ✠ Pastor or Elder (masked) will bring the appropriate count of the elements to the table. If you would like to receive a gluten-free wafer or de-alcoholized wine, please let the Pastor or Elder know when you are at the table. You will then proceed to serve yourself the Body and Blood of Christ.
- ✠ Once done, you will take plastic bags and the containers with lids and place them in the receptacle that will be near the tables and you will go back to your seats.
- ✠ We will do this in a most reverent manner. I know it will seem strange to celebrate the Eucharist in such a different way than we are accustomed, but our goal is to be as safe as we can and not put anyone's health in jeopardy.
- ✠ If you do not feel comfortable receiving communion then please do not come forward. We want our worship environment to feel safe for all.

Benediction and Response: Amen! Amen! Amen!

Closing Hymn

Great is Thy Faithfulness

(Favorite hymn of Susan Dickey, Zella Honemann,
Linda Lewis, Sue Soltess, and Sharon Tylenda)

1. Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions they fail not;
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.

Refrain:

Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!

2. Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love. Refrain

Silent Prayer

Postlude

Rick Helderop



Chapel altar flowers were placed by Joan & Ron Beyer in thanksgiving for 58 years of marriage and our children, grandchildren and great-granddaughter and Redeemer.

Family of God Soup Kitchen sponsors for this month are: Lynn & Tim Duerr; the Rose family in celebration of Dan's birthday and thankfulness for our many blessings; Nancy Lesinski in gratefulness for health and family; the Raezler family; the Gordy family, and two anonymous donations.

Audio/Video Operators

9:00 - Greg Merryman, Don Meier and David Hardoin

10:30 - Don Meier

Acolyte

10:30 - Krysta O'Donnell

Ushers

9:00 - Mike Grattan, captain; Rick McDonald, Andrew Tafel,
Bob Smith, Eric Rolf, Ron Lalone

10:30 - Bob Meyer, captain; Bill Baldner, Norman Morrell,
Norman Martin, Terry Roberts, Matt Pedersen, Ron Curcio

Thank you to our altar guild team members, usher team members, AV team members, acolytes, musicians, and all those who work so hard behind the scenes each week to make our services happen.