

Saint Matthew's Lutheran Church Lenten Midweek Church Service



“Be Gracious to Me”

A Look at Psalm 41

Thursday, February 22, 2024

Invocation

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

C: **Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

P: Our hope in Christ is strong and living, yet we have often taken for granted the profound reality of Christ's death for us. We have ignored how weak and ungodly we have been. Still, our heavenly Father grants us access to His throne of grace, to ask for His forgiveness.

Silence for reflection.

P: Heavenly Father,

C: **we have not rejoiced in suffering but have given up easily. We have lacked integrity and acted shamefully. And we have even despaired of life itself. Have mercy upon us, and reconcile us back to You, so that we may rejoice once more, on account of Jesus. Amen.**

P: At just the right time, while we were still weak and ungodly, Jesus Christ died for us and reconciled us to God. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen. We are forgiven and are at peace with God.**

Psalm

Psalm 41

P Blessed is the one who considers the poor!

C **In the day of trouble the Lord delivers him;**

P the Lord protects him and keeps him alive; he is called blessed in the land;

C **You do not give him up to the will of his enemies.**

P The Lord sustains him on his sickbed; in his illness You restore him to full health.

C **As for me, I said, “O Lord, be gracious to me; heal me, for I have sinned against You!”**

P My enemies say of me in malice, "When will he die and his name perish?"
C **And when one comes to see me, he utters empty words, while his heart gathers iniquity; when he goes out, he tells it abroad.**
P All who hate me whisper together about me; they imagine the worst for me.
C **They say, "A deadly thing is poured out on him; he will not rise again from where he lies."**
P Even my close friend in whom I trusted, who ate my bread, has lifted his heel against me.
C **But You, O Lord, be gracious to me, and raise me up, that I may repay them!**
P By this I know that You delight in me: my enemy will not shout in triumph over me.
C **But You have upheld me because of my integrity, and set me in Your presence forever.**

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting! Amen and Amen.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Hymn

"Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain" - Hymn 435

**Come to Calv'ry's holy mountain, Sinners, ruined by the fall
Here a pure and healing fountain Flows for you, for me, for all
In a full, perpetual tide, Opened when our our Savior died.**

**Come in poverty and meanness, Come defiled, without, within
From infection and uncleanness, From the leprosy of sin
Wash your robes and make them white; Ye shall walk with God in light.**

**Come in sorry and contrition, Wounded, impotent, and blind
Here the guilty free remission, Here the troubled, peace may find
Health this fountain will restore; They that drink shall thirst no more.**

**They that drink shall live forever; 'Tis a soul renewing flood
God is faithful; God will never Break His covenant of blood
Signed when our Redeemer died, Sealed when He was glorified.**

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt.

Tune: Ludvig M. Lindeman, 1812–87; setting: *Lutheran Book of Worship*, 1978

Text and music: Public domain

Reading

Psalm 103:1–14

P A reading from the Psalms, Chapter 103:

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and all that is within me,
bless his holy name!
Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and forget not all his benefits,
who forgives all your iniquity,
who heals all your diseases,
who redeems your life from the pit,
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,
who satisfies you with good
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.
The Lord works righteousness
and justice for all who are oppressed.
He made known his ways to Moses,
his acts to the people of Israel.
The Lord is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
He will not always chide,
nor will he keep his anger forever.
He does not deal with us according to our sins,
nor repay us according to our iniquities.
For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;
as far as the east is from the west,
so far does he remove our transgressions from us.
As a father shows compassion to his children,
so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear him.
For he knows our frame;
he remembers that we are dust.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Reading

James 5:7–18

P A reading from James, the 5th chapter.

Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

But above all, my brothers, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or by any other oath, but let your “yes” be yes and your “no” be no, so that you may not fall under condemnation.

Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise. Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working. Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. Then he prayed again, and heaven gave rain, and the earth bore its fruit.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Reading

Matthew 8:14–17

P A reading from St. Matthew, the eighth chapter.

And when Jesus entered Peter's house, he saw his mother-in-law lying sick with a fever. He touched her hand, and the fever left her, and she rose and began to serve him. That evening they brought to him many who were oppressed by demons, and he cast out the spirits with a word and healed all who were sick. This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah: “He took our illnesses and bore our diseases.”

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Hymn

“Jesus, Grant That Balm and Healing” - Hymn 421

Jesus, grant that balm and healing In Your holy wounds I find
Ev'ry hour that I am feeling Pains of body and of mind
Should some evil thought within Tempt my treach'rous heart to sin
Show the peril, and from sinning Keep me from its first beginning.

Should some lust or sharp temptation Fascinate my sinful mind
Draw me to Your cross and passion, And new courage I shall find
Or should Satan press me hard, Let me then be on my guard
Saying, “Christ for me was wounded,” That the tempter flee confounded.

If the world my heart entices With the broad and easy road
With seductive, sinful vices, Let me weigh the awful load
You were willing to endure Help me flee all thoughts impure
And to master each temptation, Calm in prayer and meditation.

Ev'ry wound that pains or grieve me By Your wound, Lord, is made whole
When I'm faint, Your cross revives me, Granting new life to my soul.
Yes, Your comfort renders sweet Every bitter cup I meet
For Your all atoning passion Has procured my soul's salvation.

O my God, my rock and tower, Grant that in Your death I trust,
Knowing death has lost its power Since You crushed it in the dust.
Savior, let Your agony Ever help and comfort me;
When I die be my protection, Light and life and resurrection.

Text: Johann Heermann, 1585–1647; tr. composite, alt.

Tune: Johann Balthasar König, 1691–1758; setting: *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941

Text and music: Public domain

Sermon

Psalm 41:3

Prayer of the Church

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who died for us, the ungodly and weak, so that we might be justified and have peace with God.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

P: Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

The Words of Our Lord

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My \mp body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My \mp blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

P: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P: O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension

into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

The Lord's Prayer

A: 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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Pax Domini

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

C: Amen.

Distribution

Post-Communion Prayer

P: We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this Meal. Continually bring to our minds the profound reality that Jesus died for us, the ungodly, through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Benedicamus and Benediction

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C: Amen.

Closing Hymn

"Lamb of God, Pure and Holy" - Hymn 434

**Lamb of God, pure and holy, Who on the cross didst suffer
Ever patient and lowly, Thyself to scorn didst offer.
All sins Thou borest for us, Else had despair reigned o'er us:
Have mercy on us, O Jesus! O Jesus!**

**Lamb of God, pure and holy, Who on the cross didst suffer
Ever patient and lowly, Thyself to scorn didst offer.**

**All sins Thou borest for us, Else had despair reigned o'er us:
Have mercy on us, O Jesus! O Jesus!**

**Lamb of God, pure and holy, Who on the cross didst suffer
Ever patient and lowly, Thyself to scorn didst offer.
All sins Thou borest for us, Else had despair reigned o'er us:
Thy peace be with us, O Jesus! O Jesus!**

Text: Nicolaus Decius, c. 1485–after 1546; tr. *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941

Tune: Nicolaus Decius, c. 1485–after 1546; setting: *Lutheran Service Book*, 2006

Text and music: Public domain