

Saint Matthew's Lutheran Church Lenten Midweek Church Service

"Be Gracious to Me"

A Look at Psalm 41

Thursday, February 29, 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

"Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed" - Hymn 437

**Alas! And did my Savior bleed, And did my sov'reign die?
Would He devote that sacred head For such a worm as I?**

**Was it for crimes that I had done He groaned upon the tree?
Amazing pity, grace unknown, And love beyond decree!**

**Well might the sun in darkness hide And shut his glories in
When God, the mighty maker, died For His own creatures' sin**

**Thus might I hide my blushing face While His dear cross appears
Dissolve my heart in thankfulness, And melt mine eyes to tears.**

**But drops of grief can ne'er repay The debt of love I owe
Here, Lord, I give myself away: 'Tis all that I can do.**

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.

Tune: Hugh Wilson, 1764–1824; setting: *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941

Text and music: Public domain

Reading

2 Samuel 12:15b–23

P A reading from 2nd Samuel, Chapter 12::

And the Lord afflicted the child that Uriah's wife bore to David, and he became sick. David therefore sought God on behalf of the child. And David fasted and went in and lay all night on the ground. And the elders of his house stood beside him, to raise him from the ground, but he would not, nor did he eat food with them. On the seventh day the child died. And the servants of David were afraid to tell him that the child was dead, for they said, "Behold, while the child was yet alive, we spoke to him, and he did not listen to us. How then can we say to him the child is dead? He may do himself some harm." But when David saw that his servants were whispering together, David understood that the child was dead. And David said to his servants, "Is the child dead?" They said, "He is dead." Then David arose from the earth and washed and anointed himself and changed his clothes. And he went into the house of the Lord and worshiped. He then went to his own house. And when he asked, they set food before him, and he ate. Then his servants said to him, "What is this thing that you have done? You fasted and wept for the child while he was alive; but when the child died, you arose and ate food." He said, "While the child was still alive, I fasted and wept, for I said, 'Who knows whether the Lord will be gracious to me, that the child may live?' But now he is dead. Why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he will not return to me."

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Reading

1 Peter 2:19–25

P A reading from 1st Peter, Chapter 2.

For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Reading

John 1:29–32

P A reading from St. John, the 1st Chapter.

The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks before me, because he was before me.’ I myself did not know him, but for this purpose I came baptizing with water, that he might be revealed to Israel.” And John bore witness: “I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn

“Upon the Cross Extended” - Hymn 453

**Upon the cross extended See, world, your Lord suspended
Your Savior yields His breath. The Prince of Life from heaven
Himself has freely given To shame and blows and bitter death.**

**Come, see these things and ponder, Your soul will fill with wonder
As blood streams from each pore. Through grief beyond all knowing
From his great heart came flowing Sighs welling from its deepest core.**

**Who is it, Lord, that bruised You? Who has so sore abused You
And caused You all Your woe? We all must make confession
Of sin and dire transgression While You no ways of evil know.**

**I caused Your grief and sighing By evils multiplying
As countless as the sands. I caused the woes unnumbered
With which Your soul is cumbered, Your sorrows raised by wicked hands.**

**Your soul in griefs unbounded, Your head with thorns surrounded,
You died to ransom me. The cross for me enduring,
The crown for me securing, You healed my wounds and set me free.**

**Your cords of love, my Savior, Bind me to You forever,
I am no longer mine. To You I gladly tender
All that my life can render And all I have to You resign.**

**Your cross I place before me; Its saving pow'r restore me,
Sustain me in the test. It will, when life is ending,
Be guiding and attending My way to Your eternal rest.**

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–76; tr. John Kelly, 1833–90, alt.

Tune: Heinrich Isaac, c. 1450–1517; setting: *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941

Text and music: Public domain

Sermon

Psalm 41:3

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

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

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” - Hymn 425

**When I survey the wondrous cross On which the Prince of Glory died
My richest gain I count but loss And pour contempt on all my pride.**

**Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast Save in the death of Christ, my God
All the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to His blood.**

**See, from His head, His hands, His feet Sorrow and love flow mingled down!
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet Or thorns compose so rich a crown.**

**Were the whole realm of nature mine, That were a tribute far too small
Love so amazing so divine, Demands my soul, my life, my all!**

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

Music: Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

Text and music: Public domain