

Saint Matthew's Lutheran Church Lenten Midweek Church Service

"Be Gracious to Me"

A Look at Psalm 41

Thursday, March 21, 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

"Drawn to the Cross, Which Thou Hast Blessed" - Hymn 560

**Drawn to the cross, which Thou hast blessed With healing gifts for souls
distressed**

To find in Thee my life, my rest, Christ crucified, I come

**Thou knowest all my griefs and fears, Thy grace abused, my misspent years
Yet now to Thee with contrite tears, Christ crucified, I come**

**Wash me and take away each stain, Let nothing of my sin remain
For cleansing, though it be through pain, Christ crucified, I come**

**And then for work to do for Thee, Which shall no sweet a service be
That angels all might envy me, Christ crucified, I come**

Text: Genevieve M. Irons, 1855–1928

Music: Joseph Barnby, 1838–96

Text and music: Public domain

Reading

Jeremiah 9:12–16

P A reading from Jeremiah, Chapter 9:

Who is the man so wise that he can understand this? To whom has the mouth of the Lord spoken, that he may declare it? Why is the land ruined and laid waste like a wilderness, so that no one passes through? And the Lord says: “Because they have forsaken my law that I set before them, and have not obeyed my voice or walked in accord with it, but have stubbornly followed their own hearts and have gone after the Baals, as their fathers taught them. Therefore thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: Behold, I will feed this people with bitter food, and give them poisonous water to drink. I will scatter them among the nations whom neither they nor their fathers have known, and I will send the sword after them, until I have consumed them.”

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Reading

2 Timothy 3:1–9

P A reading from 2nd Timothy, Chapter 3:

But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people. For among them are those who creep into households and capture weak women, burdened with sins and led astray by various passions, always learning and never able to arrive at a knowledge of the truth. Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so these men also oppose the truth, men corrupted in mind and disqualified regarding the faith. But they will not get very far, for their folly will be plain to all, as was that of those two men.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Reading

Matthew 26:1–5

P A reading from St. Matthew, the 26th Chapter.

When Jesus had finished all these sayings, he said to his disciples, “You know that after two days the Passover is coming, and the Son of Man will be delivered up to be crucified.”

Then the chief priests and the elders of the people gathered in the palace of the high priest, whose name was Caiaphas, and plotted together in order to arrest Jesus by stealth and kill him. But they said, “Not during the feast, lest there be an uproar among the people.”

P O Lord, have mercy on us.
C **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn

“Cross of Jesus, Cross of Sorrow” - Hymn 428

**Cross of Jesus, cross of sorrow
Where the blood of Christ was shed
Perfect man on thee did suffer
Perfect God on thee has bled!**

**Here the King of all the ages
Throne in light ere worlds could be
Robed in mortal flesh is dying
Crucified by sin for me.**

**O mysterious condescending!
O abandonment sublime!
Very God Himself is bearing.
All the sufferings of time!**

**Cross of Jesus, cross of sorrow
Where the blood of Christ was shed
Perfect man on thee did suffer
Perfect God on thee has bled!**

Text: William J. Sparrow Simpson, 1860–1952

Music: John Stainer, 1840–1901

Text and music: Public domain

Sermon

Psalm 41:7–8

All who hate me whisper together about me; they imagine the worst for me.
They say, “A deadly thing is poured out on him; he will not rise again from where he lies.”

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 and great High Priest, who suffered for us in order to make us perfect.

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, our great High Priest, we beg You, O Lord, to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, who came to serve and give His life for us. 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. We ask that You would strengthen us as we journey toward Holy Week, trusting in Jesus, the source of eternal salvation; 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.

A Moment of Private Prayer