



LORD, HAVE MERCY

**Our Savior Ev. Lutheran Church & School
Grafton, WI
March 13, 2025**

**LORD, HAVE MERCY
FOR OUR INCESSANT IDOLATRY**

When God tells us not to have any other gods, our sinful nature's first inclination is to think it is because God is a narcissist who craves the attention. That is projecting what we are often like onto *him*. But God commands us to have no other gods, not because he seeks attention, but because he knows there is no one who loves us as much as he does. . . no one who can care for us anywhere close to as well as he can. It is he, by an infinite margin, who can best care for us. Therefore, when we love or trust anyone or anything else more than God, the sin doesn't simply offend him. It is incredibly self-destructive. As we begin our worship series on the Ten Commandments, by the Spirit teach us to say, "Lord, have mercy, for our incessant idolatry."

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Presiding:	Peter Christie
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From High Atop the Mount

CW 635:1, 4, 3



From high a - top the mount where Mo - ses stands,
Your high - est love and trust be - long to me;
Your life, O Christ, is count - ed as our own;



thro' cloud and storm the voice of God is heard:
to these no oth - er god has an - y right.
our guilt was cru - ci - fied in none but you.



"I am the LORD, and these are my com - mands.
Not health or wealth or self or fam - i - ly
In keep - ing your com - mands our love is shown—



In all you do, o - bey my ev - 'ry word."
but I a - lone shall be your chief de - light.
now work with - in us both to will and do.

Stand

Our help is in the name of the Lord.

Who made heaven and earth.

Brothers and sisters in Christ, during the days of Lent, we fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of God.

The time of Lent reminds us that to know Christ and the power of his resurrection, we must also know the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death.

As disciples of the Lord Jesus, we are called to struggle against everything that leads us away from love of God and neighbor. I invite you, therefore, to confess your sins, ask our Father for forgiveness, and commit yourselves to this struggle.

Confession

CW 652: stanza 1

Sung by the soloist; congregation may join in the refrain.

1 For what we have done and left un - done we fall on your
count - less mer - cies. For sins that are known and
those un - known we call on your name so ho - ly.
For en - vy and pride, for clos - ing our eyes; for
scorn - ing our ver - y neigh - bor. In
thought, word, and deed we've failed you, our King; how
deep - ly we need a Sav - ior. *Refrain I*

Refrain I

Lord, have mer - cy, Christ, have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy

on us. Lord, have mer - cy, Christ, have mer - cy,

Lord, have mer - cy on us.

Absolution

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, does not desire the death of sinners but rather that they turn from their wickedness and live. Therefore, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

During these days of Lent, let us implore God to give us renewal and his Holy Spirit. May we continue to abide in the true faith and at the last be received by him through the merits of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

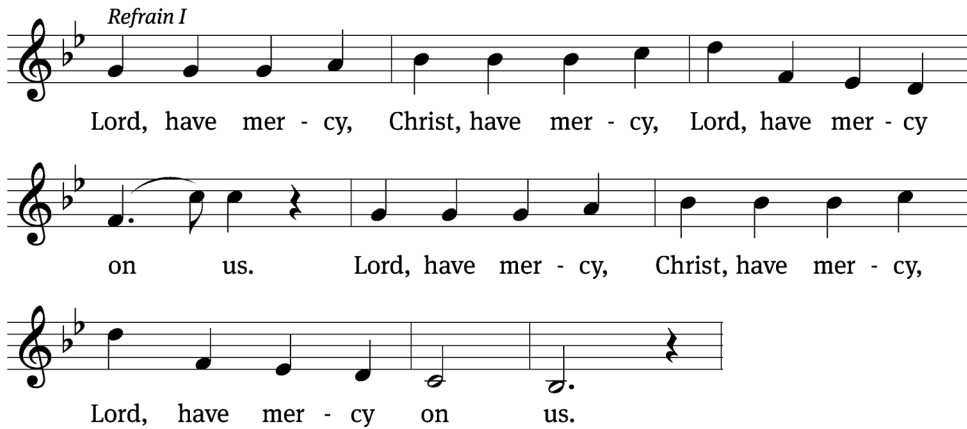
Lord, Have Mercy

CW 652: stanza 2

Please join the soloist in singing the stanza and refrain.

(2 For) what you have done, your life of love you per - fect - ly
lived, we praise you. Though tempt - ed and tried, you
fixed your eyes; you fin - ished the work God gave you.
And there on the tree, a King a - mong thieves, you
bled for a world's be - tray - al. You
loved to the end, our mer - ci - ful friend; how
pure and for - ev - er faith - ful.

Refrain I



Lord, have mer - cy, Christ, have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy
 on us. Lord, have mer - cy, Christ, have mer - cy,
 Lord, have mer - cy on us.

Prayer

Lord God, we thank you for this day of grace now drawing to a close. Stay with us, and warm our hearts with your forgiving love in Christ. By your Word keep our faith burning brightly, that we may walk in the light of your presence through the darkness of this world. Come and bless us as we worship you – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Be seated

First Reading

Isaiah 44:6-11

“This is what the LORD says—

Israel’s King and Redeemer, the LORD Almighty:

I am the first and I am the last;

apart from me there is no God.

Who then is like me? Let him proclaim it.

Let him declare and lay out before me

what has happened since I established my ancient people,

and what is yet to come—

yes, let them foretell what will come.

Do not tremble, do not be afraid.

Did I not proclaim this and foretell it long ago?

You are my witnesses. Is there any God besides me?

No, there is no other Rock; I know not one.”

All who make idols are nothing,
and the things they treasure are worthless.
Those who would speak up for them are blind;
they are ignorant, to their own shame.
Who shapes a god and casts an idol,
which can profit nothing?
People who do that will be put to shame;
such craftsmen are only human beings.
Let them all come together and take their stand;
they will be brought down to terror and shame.

Second Reading

Colossians 3:1-6

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. Because of these, the wrath of God is coming.

Passion Reading

Luke 22:1-38

Now the Festival of Unleavened Bread, called the Passover, was approaching, and the chief priests and the teachers of the law were looking for some way to get rid of Jesus, for they were afraid of the people. Then Satan entered Judas, called Iscariot, one of the Twelve. And Judas went to the chief priests and the officers of the temple guard and discussed with them how he might betray Jesus. They were delighted and agreed to give him money. He consented, and watched for an opportunity to hand Jesus over to them when no crowd was present.

Then came the day of Unleavened Bread on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, "Go and make preparations for us to eat the Passover."

"Where do you want us to prepare for it?" they asked.

He replied, "As you enter the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him to the house that he enters, and say to the owner of the house, 'The Teacher asks: Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' He will show you a large room upstairs, all furnished. Make preparations there."

They left and found things just as Jesus had told them. So they prepared the Passover.

When the hour came, Jesus and his apostles reclined at the table. And he said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God."

After taking the cup, he gave thanks and said, "Take this and divide it among you. For I tell you I will not drink again from the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes."

And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me."

In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you. But the hand of him who is going to betray me is with mine on the table. The Son of Man will go as it has been decreed. But woe to that man who betrays him!" They began to question among themselves which of them it might be who would do this.

A dispute also arose among them as to which of them was considered to be greatest. Jesus said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those who exercise authority over them call themselves Benefactors. But you are not to be like that. Instead, the greatest among you should be like the youngest, and the one who rules like the one who serves. For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who is at the table? But I am among you as one who serves. You are those who have stood by me in my trials. And I confer on you a kingdom, just as my Father conferred one on me, so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom and sit on thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

"Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift all of you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers."

But he replied, "Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison and to death."

Jesus answered, "I tell you, Peter, before the rooster crows today, you will deny three times that you know me."

Then Jesus asked them, "When I sent you without purse, bag or sandals, did you lack anything?"

"Nothing," they answered.

He said to them, "But now if you have a purse, take it, and also a bag; and if you don't have a sword, sell your cloak and buy one. It is written: 'And he was numbered with the transgressors'; and I tell you that this must be fulfilled in me. Yes, what is written about me is reaching its fulfillment."

The disciples said, "See, Lord, here are two swords."

"That's enough!" he replied.

Sermon

LORD, HAVE MERCY – For Our Incessant Idolatry

Confession of Faith

from the Small Catechism

The Second Commandment: You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God that we do not use his name to curse, swear, lie, or deceive, or use witchcraft, but call upon God’s name in every trouble, pray, praise, and give thanks.


The Third Commandment: Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God that we do not despise preaching and his Word, but regard it as holy and gladly hear and learn it.

Offering

Our Savior's ministries are supported by the joyful and generous gifts of her members. If you are not a member of Our Savior, please do not feel obligated to give an offering. It is our privilege and pleasure to serve you with God's Word today. You may make your gift in the following ways:

Give In person	The offering is collected during each service.
Give with the App	Download the <i>Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement</i> app. Search near me and select "Our Savior Evangelical Lutheran".
Give Online	Oursaviorgrifton.org/give 

Prayers

In peace let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

For the leaders of our synod and district, for all pastors in Christ, for all who are servants of the Church, and for all the people of God, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

For all who govern our nation and for all public servants, that they may be upheld and strengthened for every good deed, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

For those who work to bring peace, justice, health, and protection in this and every place, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

For those who bring offerings, those who do good works in this congregation, those who toil, those who sing, and all who await from the Lord great and abundant mercy, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and need, let us pray to the Lord:
Lord, have mercy.

For the faithful who have gone before us and are with Christ, let us give thanks to the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Lord's Prayer

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.

Blessing

The grace of our Lord + Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Amen.

All Praise to God Who Reigns Above

CW 603: stanzas 1, 5

Acknowledgments

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