



# LORD, HAVE MERCY

**Our Savior Ev. Lutheran Church & School  
Grafton, WI  
April 10, 2025**

## LORD, HAVE MERCY

### FOR ABUSING YOUR COMMANDMENTS

How does one abuse God's Commandments? That seems like an easy question. You abuse God's Commandments by breaking them. However, there is another way to abuse God's Commandments—by striving to *not* break them in an effort to win God's favor and earn our place in heaven. The second abuse is infinitely worse than the first, as it sets aside God's perfect plan of salvation for a completely different plan that will never work.

Satan often works by turning a blessing into a curse. God intended for his law to serve as a mirror, enabling us to see our sin and thus our need for a Savior. Satan would have us believe the law is more like a ladder, and that with focused effort we can climb our way up to God. This misguided belief leaves us in one of two undesirable places. Either we are overwhelmed with guilt when we realize we cannot climb that ladder, or we are swelling with damnable pride because we think we are near the top rung. We conclude our Lenten series by calling out: "Lord, have mercy, for abusing your commandments!" We rest secure in the gospel truth that since Christ was lifted high on a cross, we don't need to try and lift ourselves up to God. God's favor, salvation, an eternity in heaven—these things are *already* ours! Our attempts to obey the Commandments can therefore flow from gratitude, not desperation.

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# The Law of God is Good and Wise

CW 637



1 The law of God is good and wise and sets his  
2 Its light of ho - li - ness im - parts the knowl - edge  
3 To those who help in Christ have found and would in  
4 But those who scorn - ful - ly dis - dain God's law shall



will be - fore our eyes, shows us the way of right - eous -  
of our sin - ful hearts that we may see our lost es -  
works of love a - bound it shows what deeds are his de -  
then in sin re - main; its ter - ror in their ear re -



ness, and dooms to death when we trans - gress.  
tate and turn from sin be - fore too late.  
light and should be done as good and right.  
sounds and keeps their wick - ed - ness in bounds.

5. The law is good, but since the fall  
its holiness condemns us all;  
it dooms us for our sin to die  
and has no pow'r to justify.

6. To Jesus we for refuge flee,  
who from the curse has set us free,  
and humbly worship at his throne,  
saved by his grace through faith alone.

*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.

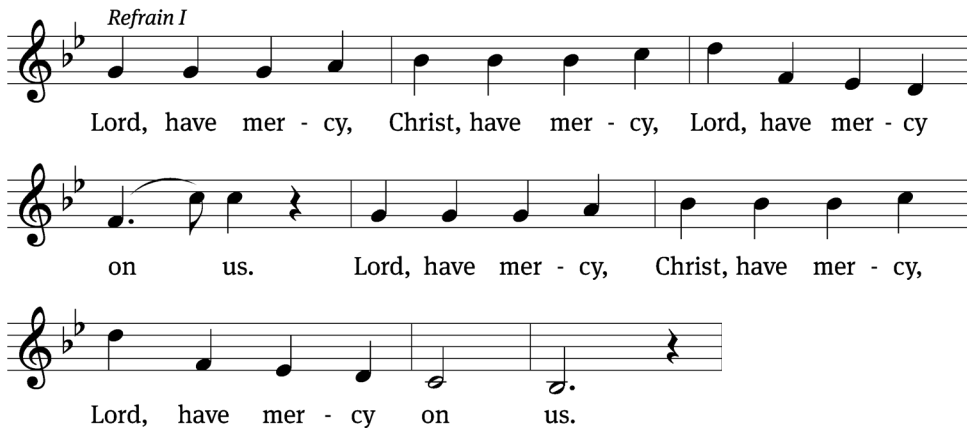
## Confession

CW 652: stanza 1



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.

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## 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.

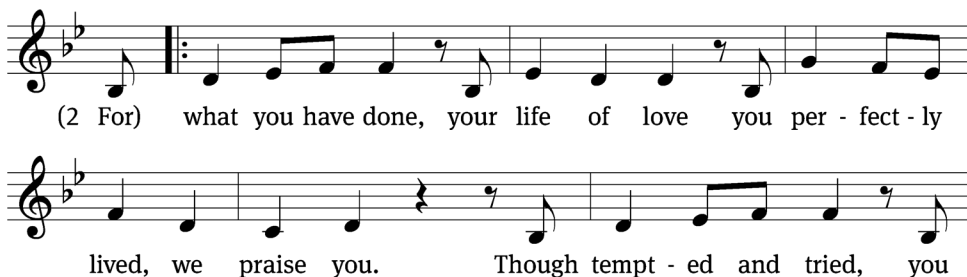
During these days of Lent, let us implore God to give us renewal and his Holy Spirit. May we continue to abide in the true faith and at the last be received by him through the merits of Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

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

## Lord, Have Mercy

*CW 652: stanza 2*



(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 finished the work God gave you.

And there on the tree, a King among thieves, you

bled for a world's betrayal. You

loved to the end, our merciful friend; how

pure and forever faithful. *Refrain II*

*Refrain I*

Lord, have mercy, Christ, have mercy, Lord, have mercy

on us. Lord, have mercy, Christ, have mercy,

Lord, have mercy 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 64:5-9*

You come to the help of those who gladly do right,  
who remember your ways.

But when we continued to sin against them,  
you were angry.

How then can we be saved?

All of us have become like one who is unclean,  
and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags;  
we all shrivel up like a leaf,  
and like the wind our sins sweep us away.

No one calls on your name  
or strives to lay hold of you;  
for you have hidden your face from us  
and have given us over to our sins.

Yet you, Lord, are our Father.  
We are the clay, you are the potter;  
we are all the work of your hand.  
Do not be angry beyond measure, Lord;  
do not remember our sins forever.  
Oh, look on us, we pray,  
for we are all your people.

## **Second Reading**

*Romans 3:19-25a*

Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God. Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God's sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin.

But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus

Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished.

## Passion Reading

*Luke 23:26-56*

As the soldiers led him away, they seized Simon from Cyrene, who was on his way in from the country, and put the cross on him and made him carry it behind Jesus. A large number of people followed him, including women who mourned and wailed for him. Jesus turned and said to them, “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep for yourselves and for your children. For the time will come when you will say, ‘Blessed are the childless women, the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!’

Then

“ ‘they will say to the mountains, “Fall on us!”  
and to the hills, “Cover us!” ’

For if people do these things when the tree is green, what will happen when it is dry?”

Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed. When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him there, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left. Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.” And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.

The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They said, “He saved others; let him save himself if he is God’s Messiah, the Chosen One.”

The soldiers also came up and mocked him. They offered him wine vinegar and said, “If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself.”

There was a written notice above him, which read: This is the King of the Jews.

One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: “Aren’t you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!”

But the other criminal rebuked him. “Don’t you fear God,” he said, “since you are under the same sentence? We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong.”

Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”

Jesus answered him, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.”



It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, for the sun stopped shining. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Jesus called out with a loud voice, “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.” When he had said this, he breathed his last.

The centurion, seeing what had happened, praised God and said, “Surely this was a righteous man.” When all the people who had gathered to witness this sight saw what took place, they beat their breasts and went away. But all those who knew him, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.

Now there was a man named Joseph, a member of the Council, a good and upright man, who had not consented to their decision and action. He came from the Judean town of Arimathea, and he himself was waiting for the kingdom of God. Going to Pilate, he asked for Jesus’ body. Then he took it down, wrapped it in linen cloth and placed it in a tomb cut in the rock, one in which no one had yet been laid. It was Preparation Day, and the Sabbath was about to begin.

The women who had come with Jesus from Galilee followed Joseph and saw the tomb and how his body was laid in it. Then they went home and prepared spices and perfumes. But they rested on the Sabbath in obedience to the commandment.

## **The Power of the Cross**

CW 423

### **Sermon**

#### **LORD, HAVE MERCY – For Abusing Your Commandments**

*Space is provided for you to take notes during the sermon.*

## Confession of Faith

from the Small Catechism

### The Conclusion

*What does God say about all these commandments?*

**He says, “I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers 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.”**


*What does this mean?*

God threatens to punish all who transgress these commandments. Therefore we should fear his anger and not disobey what he commands.

But he promises grace and every blessing to all who keep these commandments. Therefore we should love and trust in him and gladly obey what he commands.

### 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	<a href="https://oursaviorgraffon.org/give">Oursaviorgraffon.org/give</a> 

## 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.**

### **Blessings**

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

**Amen.**

**Abide with Me**

CW 783:1, 5, 6, 7