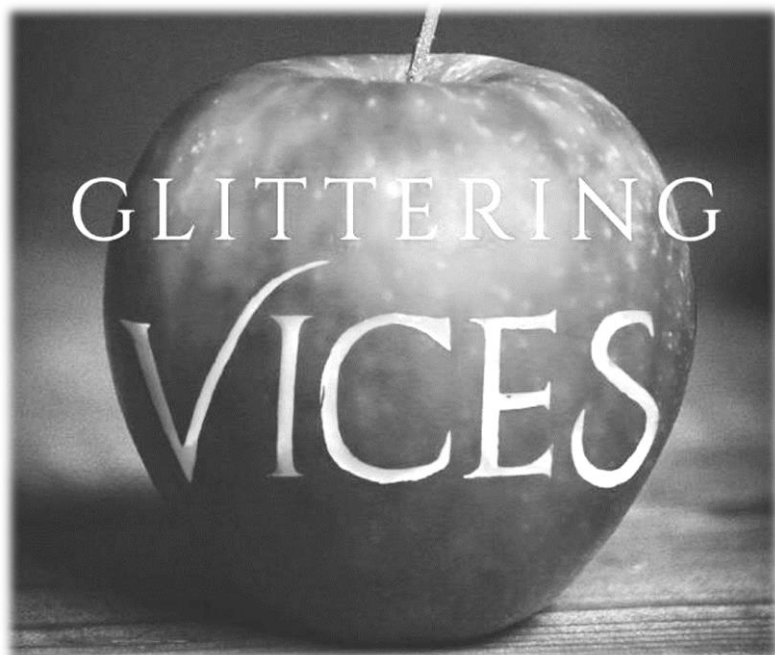


Midweek Lent 4

Sloth and Diligence

(Matthew 26:36-46)



A Lenten Series on
Vice and Virtue in the Passion Story

“Could you not watch with me one hour?”
(Matthew 26:40)

Glittering Vices

A Series of Services
For the Season of Lent

Midweek Lent 3: Sloth and Diligence

As We Gather: Today we continue our sermon series “Glittering Vices,” reflecting on the vice of sloth, as we observe the disciples falling asleep in the garden of Gethsemane, unable to watch with our Lord even a single hour. We too are lazy in embracing the good work of the kingdom of God. But, when we develop diligence, we learn to passionately embrace the tasks which God sets before us.

+ Invocation and Call to Worship +

P In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Lord, as we begin this Lenten journey together,

C Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the Founder and Perfecter of our faith.

P Who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross

C and scorning its shame, is now seated at the right hand of the Father.

P As we reflect on your life, passion, and death

C Let your virtuous example be cultivated within us.

P Send the power of your spirit into our hearts

C That we might joyfully live out your commands in every aspect of our lives.

Hymn: My Faith Looks Up to Thee (LSB 702)



1 My faith looks up to Thee, Thou Lamb of Cal - va - ry,
2 May Thy rich grace im - part Strength to my faint - ing heart;
3 While life's dark maze I tread And griefs a - round me spread,
4 When ends life's tran - sient dream, When death's cold, sul - len stream



Sav - ior di - vine. Now hear me while I pray; Take all my
My zeal in - spire! As Thou hast died for me, Oh, may my
Be Thou my guide; Bid dark - ness turn to day, Wipe sor - row's
Shall o'er me roll, Blest Sav - ior, then, in love, Fear and dis -



guilt a - way; O let me from this day Be whol - ly Thine!
love to Thee Pure, warm, and change - less be, A liv - ing fire!
tears a - way, Nor let me ev - er stray From Thee a - side,
trust re - move; O bear me safe a - bove, A ran - somed soul!

+ Confession and Forgiveness +

P Let us confess our sin to God our Father in heaven, pleading for His mercy for the sake of His Son, Jesus Christ:

C Father, forgive me for evil thoughts that come from within me, out of my unclean heart. (*Mark 7:21-22*)

P Lord have mercy.

C Father, forgive my gluttonous heart, which attempts to live by bread alone and not by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God. (*Matt. 4:4*)

P Lord have mercy.

C Father, forgive my greedy heart, which seeks security in the abundance of possessions at the expense of my neighbor in need. (*Luke 12:15*)

P Lord have mercy.

C Father, forgive my prideful heart, which displaces You as rightful Lord instead of being Your humble servant. (*Matt. 20:26, Phil. 2:3-7, James 6:4-10*)

P Lord have mercy.

C Father, forgive my slothful heart, which is indifferent to Your Word and disregards the good works You have prepared for me to walk in. (*Eph. 2:10, Matt. 25:31-46*)

P Lord have mercy.

C Father, forgive my envious heart, which begrudges Your generosity to others and finds joy in their sorrow. (*Matt. 20:15*)

P Lord have mercy.

C Father, forgive my angry heart, which does not produce the righteousness You desire but avenges injustice through hatred of my enemies. (*Matt. 5:22, Rom. 12:19, James 1:20*)

P Lord have mercy.

C Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

P Jesus Christ was delivered over to death for your trespasses and raised for your justification. He gives you a new heart and puts a new Spirit within you. He removes your heart of stone and gives you a heart of flesh. Your sins are forgiven, go in peace. Amen. (*Rom. 4:25, Ezek. 36:26*)

+ Prayer of the Day +

P Let us pray.

O God, whose strength is made perfect in weakness, mortify and kill all vices in us and so strengthen us by your grace that by the innocence of our lives and the constancy of our faith, even unto death, we may glorify your holy name; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

C Amen.

+ Scripture Readings +

Old Testament Reading:

Deuteronomy 6:1–9

¹“Now this is the commandment, the statutes and the just decrees that the LORD your God commanded me to teach you, that you may do them in the land to which you are going over, to possess it, ²that you may fear the LORD your God, you and your son and your son’s son, by keeping all his statutes and his commandments, which I command you, all the days of your life, and that your days may be long. ³Hear therefore, O Israel, and be careful to do them, that it may go well with you, and that you may multiply greatly, as the LORD, the God of your fathers, has promised you, in a land flowing with milk and honey.

⁴“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. ⁵You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. ⁶And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. ⁷You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. ⁸You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. ⁹You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading:

2 Thessalonians 3:6–15

⁶Now we command you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from any brother who is walking in idleness and not in accord with the tradition that you received from us. ⁷For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us, because we were not idle when we were with you, ⁸nor did we eat anyone’s bread without paying for it, but with toil and labor we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you. ⁹It was not because we do not have that right, but to give you in ourselves an

example to imitate. ¹⁰For even when we were with you, we would give you this command: If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat. ¹¹For we hear that some among you walk in idleness, not busy at work, but busybodies. ¹²Now such persons we command and encourage in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living.

¹³As for you, brothers, do not grow weary in doing good. ¹⁴If anyone does not obey what we say in this letter, take note of that person, and have nothing to do with him, that he may be ashamed. ¹⁵Do not regard him as an enemy, but warn him as a brother.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading:

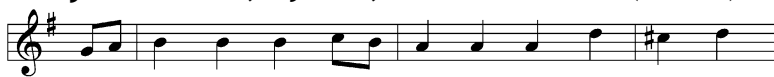
Matthew 26:36–46

³⁶Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, “Sit here, while I go over there and pray.” ³⁷And taking with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, he began to be sorrowful and troubled. ³⁸Then he said to them, “My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with me.” ³⁹And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, “My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will.” ⁴⁰And he came to the disciples and found them sleeping. And he said to Peter, “So, could you not watch with me one hour? ⁴¹Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.” ⁴²Again, for the second time, he went away and prayed, “My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done.” ⁴³And again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. ⁴⁴So, leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words again. ⁴⁵Then he came to the disciples and said to them, “Sleep and take your rest later on. See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. ⁴⁶Rise, let us be going; see, my betrayer is at hand.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Hymn: Awake, My Soul, and with the Sun (LSB 868)



1 A - wake, my soul, and with the sun Thy dai - ly
2 In con - ver - sa - tion be sin - cere, Thy con - science
4 Lord, I my vows to Thee re - new; Dis - perse my
5 Di - rect, con - trol, sug - gest this day All I de -



stage of du - ty run; Shake off dull sloth and
as the noon - day clear; Think how the all - see - ing
sins as morn - ing dew; Guard my first springs of
sign or do or say That all my pow'rs with



joy - ful rise To pay thy morn - ing sac - ri - fice.
God thy ways And all thy se - cret thoughts sur - veys.
thought and will And with Thy - self my spir - it fill.
all their might In Thy sole glo - ry may u - nite.

+ Sermon +

+ Prayers +

+ Lord's Prayer +

P Taught by our Lord, and trusting His promise, we are bold to pray:

C **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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. 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**

+ Benediction +

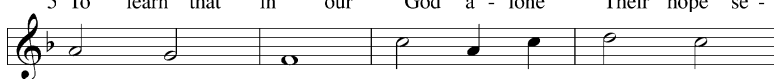
P The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless you and preserve you.

C Amen.

Hymn: Let Children Hear the Mighty Deeds (LSB 867)



1 Let chil - dren hear the might - y deeds Which God per -
 2 So make to them His glo - ries known, His works of
 3 Our sons and daugh - ters we shall tell And they a -
 4 O teach them with all dil - i - gence The truths of
 5 To learn that in our God a - lone Their hope se -



formed of old, Which in our youn - ger
 pow'r and grace; And we'll con - vey His
 gain to theirs That gen - er - a - tions
 God's own Word, To place in Him their
 cure - ly stands, That they may nev - er



days we saw, And which our par - ents told.
 won - ders down Through ev - 'ry ris - ing race.
 yet un - born May teach them to their heirs.
 con - fi - dence, To fear and trust their Lord,
 doubt His love But walk in His com - mands.