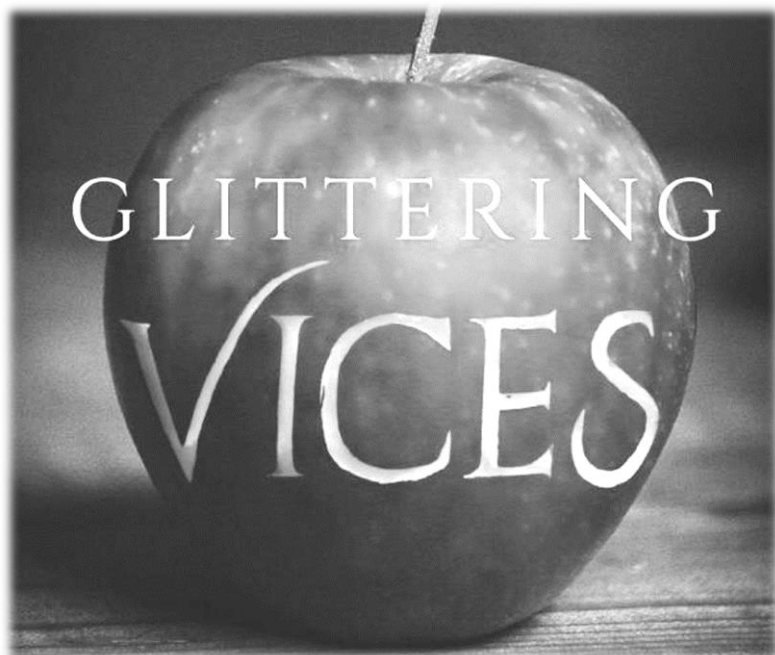


Midweek Lent 5

Envy and Kindness

(Matthew 27:15-28)



A Lenten Series on
Vice and Virtue in the Passion Story

*For he knew that it was out of envy
that they had delivered Him up.
(Matthew 27:18)*

Glittering Vices

A Series of Services
For the Season of Lent

Midweek Lent 5: Envy and Kindness

As We Gather: Today we continue our sermon series “Glittering Vices,” reflecting on the vice of envy, considering the reality that it was envy that drove the religious leaders of the day to deliver Jesus up for death. We too envy others in our lives whom we feel have more than we do, and we often secretly desire their downfall or rejoice in their sorrow. But, when we cultivate kindness in our lives, we learn to celebrate the success of others, seeing God at work through the gifts He has given.

+ 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: Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me (LSB 683)



1 Je - sus, Thybound - less love to me No thought can reach, no
 2 O grant that noth - ing in my soul Maydwell, but Thy pure
 3 This love un - wea - ried I pur - sue And daunt - less - ly to
 4 In suf - f'ring be Thy love my peace, In weak - ness be Thy



tongue de - clare; U - nite my thank - ful heart to Thee,
 love a - lone; Oh, may Thy love pos - sess me whole,
 Thee as - pire. Oh, may Thy love my hope re - new,
 love my pow'r; And when the storms of life shall cease,



And reign with-out a ri - val there! Thine whol - ly, Thine a -
 My joy, my trea - sure, and my crown! All cold - ness from my
 Burn in my soul like heav'n - ly fire! And day and night, be
 O Je - sus, in that fi - nal hour, Be Thou my rod and



lone I am; Be Thou a - lone my con - stant flame.
 heart re - move; My ev - 'ry act, word, thought be love.
 all my care To guard this sa - cred trea - sure there.
 staff and guide, And draw me safe - ly to Thy side!

+ 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:

Ecclesiastes 4:1–8

¹Again I saw all the oppressions that are done under the sun. And behold, the tears of the oppressed, and they had no one to comfort them! On the side of their oppressors there was power, and there was no one to comfort them. ²And I thought the dead who are already dead more fortunate than the living who are still alive. ³But better than both is he who has not yet been and has not seen the evil deeds that are done under the sun.

⁴Then I saw that all toil and all skill in work come from a man's envy of his neighbor. This also is vanity and a striving after wind.

⁵The fool folds his hands and eats his own flesh.

⁶Better is a handful of quietness than two hands full of toil and a striving after wind.

⁷Again, I saw vanity under the sun: ⁸one person who has no other, either son or brother, yet there is no end to all his toil, and his eyes are never satisfied with riches, so that he never asks, "For whom am I toiling and depriving myself of pleasure?" This also is vanity and an unhappy business.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading:

Titus 3:1–11

¹Remind them to be submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work, ²to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, to be gentle, and to show perfect courtesy toward all people. ³For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another.

⁴But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, ⁵he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, ⁶whom he poured out

on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. ⁸The saying is trustworthy, and I want you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to devote themselves to good works. These things are excellent and profitable for people. ⁹But avoid foolish controversies, genealogies, dissensions, and quarrels about the law, for they are unprofitable and worthless. ¹⁰As for a person who stirs up division, after warning him once and then twice, have nothing more to do with him, ¹¹knowing that such a person is warped and sinful; he is self-condemned.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading:

Matthew 27:15–28

¹⁵Now at the feast the governor was accustomed to release for the crowd any one prisoner whom they wanted. ¹⁶And they had then a notorious prisoner called Barabbas. ¹⁷So when they had gathered, Pilate said to them, “Whom do you want me to release for you: Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?” ¹⁸For he knew that it was out of envy that they had delivered him up. ¹⁹Besides, while he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him, “Have nothing to do with that righteous man, for I have suffered much because of him today in a dream.” ²⁰Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and destroy Jesus. ²¹The governor again said to them, “Which of the two do you want me to release for you?” And they said, “Barabbas.” ²²Pilate said to them, “Then what shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?” They all said, “Let him be crucified!” ²³And he said, “Why, what evil has he done?” But they shouted all the more, “Let him be crucified!”

²⁴So when Pilate saw that he was gaining nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, “I am innocent of this man’s blood; see to it yourselves.” ²⁵And all the people answered, “His blood be on us and on our children!” ²⁶Then he released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, delivered him to be crucified.

²⁷Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor’s headquarters, and they gathered the whole battalion before him.

²⁸And they stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him,

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Hymn: Where Charity and Love Prevail (LSB 845)



1 Where char - i - ty and love pre - vail There
2 With grate - ful joy and ho - ly fear His
4 Let strife a - mong us be un - known; Let
5 Let us re - call that in our midst Dwells



God is ev - er found; Brought here to - geth - er
char - i - ty we learn; Let us with heart and
all con - ten - tion cease; Be God's the glo - ry
Christ, His on - ly Son; As mem - bers of His



by Christ's love By love are we thus bound.
mind and soul Now love Him in re - turn.
that we seek; Be ours His ho - ly peace.
bod - y joined We are in Him made one.

+ 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: My Song is Love Unknown (LSB 430)



1 My song is love un - known, My Sav - ior's love to
 2 He came from His blest throne Sal - va - tion to be -
 3 Some - times they strew His way And His sweet prais - es
 4 Why, what hath my Lord done? What makes this rage and
 5 They rise and needs will have My dear Lord made a -



me, Love to the love - less shown That they might love - ly
 stow; But men made strange, and none The longed - for Christ would
 sing; Re - sound - ing all the day Ho - san - nas to their
 spite? He made the lame to run, He gave the blind their
 way; A mur - der - er they save, The Prince of Life they



be. Oh, who am I That for my sake
 know. But, oh, my friend, My friend in - deed,
 King. Then "Cru - ci - fy!" Is all their breath,
 sight. Sweet in - ju - ries! Yet they at these
 slay. Yet cheer - ful He To suf - f'ring goes



My Lord should take Frail flesh and die?
 Who at my need His life did spend!
 And for His death They thirst and cry.
 Them - selves dis - please And 'gainst Him rise.
 That He His foes From thence might free.

Announcement

The Marshall Philharmonic Orchestra invites you to its **60th Anniversary Celebration and Chamber Recital** to be held Saturday, March 25, at Covenant Presbyterian Church, 710 E. Yerby, in Marshall. This free musical evening will begin at 7:00 p.m. and will feature The Four Winds Brass Quartet. Nothing signifies celebration more than the sound of a brass band fanfare. Saturday's event will fill the sanctuary with the bright and bold colors of orchestral music, opera, blues, and circus tunes. Afterwards, a time of reminiscing and fellowship will be held for orchestra members past and present to meet, greet and mingle with the audience while enjoying a cake and punch reception. All are welcome! Please bring friends!