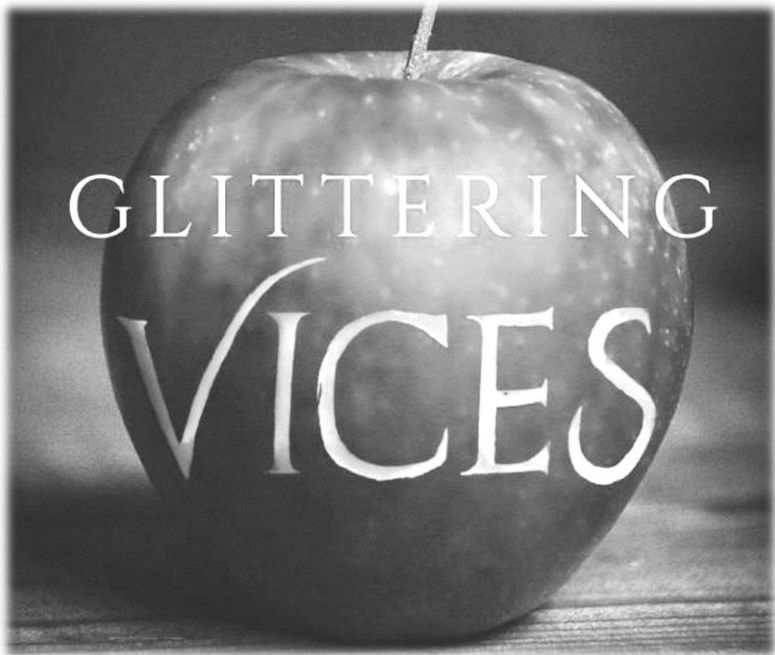


Midweek Lent 6
Anger and forgiveness

(Luke 23:32-43)



A Lenten Series on
Vice and Virtue in the Passion Story

*“Father, forgive them,
For they know not what they do.”
(Luke 23:34)*

Glittering Vices

A Series of Services
For the Season of Lent

Midweek Lent 6: Anger and Forgiveness

As We Gather: Today we continue our sermon series “Glittering Vices,” reflecting on the vice of anger, noting how the religious leaders carried out their vengeance against Jesus on the cross. We too often grow angry in our lives, and this emotion boils over into things we say and do that harm the lives of others. But, when we practice forgiveness in our life, extending forgiveness even to those we might hate, we follow the example of Jesus on the cross who prayed: “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.”

+ 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 continue 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: 610 Lord Jesus, Think on Me



1 Lord Je - sus, think on me And purge a - way my sin;
2 Lord Je - sus, think on me, By anx - ious thoughts op - pressed;
3 Lord Je - sus, think on me A - mid the bat - tle's strife;
4 Lord Je - sus, think on me Nor let me go a - stray;
5 Lord Je - sus, think on me That, when this life is past,



From world - ly pas - sions set me free And make me pure with - in.
Let me Your lov - ing ser - vant be And taste Your prom - ised rest.
In all my pain and mis - er - y, O be my health and life!
Through dark - ness and per - plex - i - ty Point out Your cho - sen way.
I may the e - ter - nal bright - ness see And share Your joy at last.

+ 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:

Psalm 51:1–12

- ¹Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy
blot out my transgressions.
- ²Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin!
- ³For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.
- ⁴Against you, you only, have I sinned
and done what is evil in your sight,
so that you may be justified in your words
and blameless in your judgment.
- ⁵Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity,
and in sin did my mother conceive me.
- ⁶Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being,
and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.
- ⁷Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
- ⁸Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones that you have broken rejoice.
- ⁹Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my iniquities.
- ¹⁰Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
- ¹¹Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
- ¹²Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and uphold me with a willing spirit.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading:

Ephesians 5:25–32

²⁵Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, ²⁶that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, ²⁷so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. ²⁸In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, ³⁰because we are members of his body. ³¹“Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” ³²This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading:

Luke 23:32–43

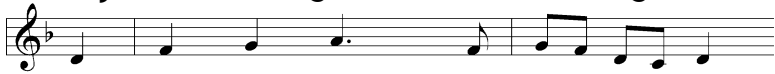
³²Two others, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. ³³And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁴And Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.” And they cast lots to divide his garments. ³⁵And the people stood by, watching, but the rulers scoffed at him, saying, “He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!” ³⁶The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine ³⁷and saying, “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!” ³⁸There was also an inscription over him, “This is the King of the Jews.”

³⁹One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, “Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!” ⁴⁰But the other rebuked him, saying, “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation?” ⁴¹And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong.” ⁴²And he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” ⁴³And he said to him, “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Hymn: 843 "Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive"



1 "For - give our sins as we for - give,"
2 How can Your par - don reach and bless
3 In blaz - ing light Your cross re - veals
4 Lord, cleanse the depths with - in our souls



You taught us, Lord, to pray; But You a - lone can
The un - for - giv - ing heart That broods on wrongs and
The truth we dim - ly knew: What triv - ial debts are
And bid re - sent - ment cease; Then, bound to all in



grant us grace To live the words we say,
will not let Old bit - ter - ness de - part?
owed to us, How great our debt to You!
bonds of love, Our lives will spread Your peace.

+ 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: 421 Jesus, Grant That Balm and Healing (vv. 1-3,5)



1 Je - sus, grant that balm and heal - ing In Your ho - ly
2 Should some lust or sharp temp - ta - tion Fas - ci - nate my
3 If the world my heart en - tic - es With the broad and
5 O my God, my rock and tow - er, Grant that in Your



wounds I find, Ev - 'ry hour that I am feel - ing Pains of
sin - ful mind, Draw me to Your cross and pas - sion, And new
eas - y road, With se - duc - tive, sin - ful vi - ces, Let me
death I trust, Know - ing death has lost its pow - er Since You



bod - y and of mind. Should some e - vil thought with - in
cour - age I shall find. Or should Sa - tan press me hard,
weigh the aw - ful load You were will - ing to en - dure.
crushed it in the dust. Sav - ior, let Your ag - o - ny



Tempt my treach - 'rous heart to sin, Show the per - il, and from
Let me then be on my guard, Say - ing, "Christ for me was
Help me flee all thoughts im - pure And to mas - ter each temp -
Ev - er help and com - fort me; When I die be my pro -



sin - ning Keep me from its first be - gin - ning.
wound - ed," That the tempt - er flee con - found - ed.
ta - tion, Calm in prayer and med - i - ta - tion.
tec - tion, Light and life and res - ur - rec - tion.