

He has remembered His mercy and His faithfulness...



Psalm 98:3



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As We Gather

There is something powerful about being remembered—especially when love is behind it. A friend who calls on a hard day. A promise kept. A name not forgotten. Today, we are reminded that our God is not distant or forgetful. He remembers His mercy. He remembers His promises. And He remembers His people. Psalm 98 calls us to sing a new song because God's salvation has been revealed—not just for a few, but for *all the ends of the earth*. As we gather in His name, we rejoice that His steadfast love endures, His Word still speaks, and His faithfulness never fails.

✠ Preparation for Worship ✠

Hymn

349 (1-2, 4, 7) – Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me

Invocation

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

C Amen.

Confession and Absolution

P Beloved in the Lord, Our God is faithful and full of mercy. He has remembered His covenant and revealed His salvation to the ends of the earth. Yet we confess that we often forget His goodness, neglect His Word, and turn from His steadfast love. Let us therefore humble ourselves before God and confess our sins, trusting in His mercy for Christ's sake.

C **Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed. We have not remembered Your steadfast love as we should. We have trusted in our own strength, neglected Your Word, and taken Your mercy for granted. For the sake of Jesus Christ, who bore our sin and remembered us in His mercy, forgive us, renew us, and lead us, that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

P Almighty God, in His mercy, has remembered you. He sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to bear your sins on the cross and to rise again for your justification. As a called servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

✠ The Service of the Word ✠

Salutation

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray...

... who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Old Testament Reading

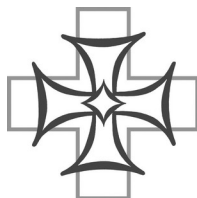
Zephaniah 3:14-17

¹⁴ Sing, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O Israel! Be glad and rejoice with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! ¹⁵ The LORD has taken away your judgments, He has cast out your enemy. The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; You shall see disaster no more. ¹⁶ In that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: "Do not fear; Zion, let not your hands be weak. ¹⁷ The LORD your God in your midst, The Mighty One, will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will quiet you with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing."

Epistle Reading

Titus 3:4-7

⁴ But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, ⁵ not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷ that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.



Then they crucified Him there, and two others with Him, robbers and criminals, one on the right hand, and the other on the left, and Jesus in the center. So the Scripture was fulfilled which says, “And He was numbered with the transgressors.” Now it was the third hour when they crucified Him. Then Jesus said, “Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they do.”

The soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took His garments and divided them up among themselves into four parts, to each soldier a part, casting lots for them to determine what every man should take. Now the tunic was without seam, woven from the top in one piece. They said therefore among themselves, “Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it, whose it shall be;” that the Scripture might be fulfilled, which says, “They divided My garments among them, and for My clothing they cast lots.” Sitting down, they kept watch over Him there.

Now Pilate wrote a title an inscription of His accusation over Him. And the soldiers put it above His head on the cross. It was written: “THIS IS JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS.” Many of the Jews read this title, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in letters of Hebrew, Greek, and Latin. Then the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, “Do not write ‘The King of the Jews’, but ‘He said, ‘I am the King of the Jews’.’” Pilate answered, “What I have written, I have written.”

And the people stood, looking on, and those who passed by blasphemed Him, wagging their heads, and saying, “Aha! You who destroy the temple and build it in three days, save Yourself! If You are the Son of God, come down from the cross.” Likewise even the rulers, the chief priests, together with the scribes, the Pharisees, and the elders, sneered at Him and mocked Him, saying, “He saved others; Himself He cannot save. If He is the King of Israel, let Him now come down from the cross, that we may see and believe in Him. He trusted in God; let Him deliver Him now, if He will have Him; for He said, ‘I am the Son of God’.” And the soldiers also mocked Him, coming and offering Him sour wine, and saying, “If You are the King of the Jews, save Yourself!”

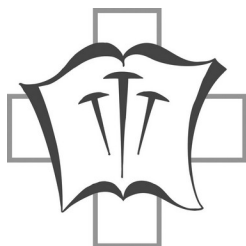
Even the robbers who were crucified with Him reviled Him with the same thing. One of the criminals who were hanged blasphemed Him, saying, “If You are the Christ, save Yourself and us!” But the other answering rebuked him, saying, “Do you not even fear God, seeing you are under the same condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we receive the due reward of our deeds; but this Man has done nothing wrong.” Then he said to Jesus, “Lord,

remember me when You come into Your kingdom!” And Jesus said to him, “Truly I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise.”

Now there stood by the cross of Jesus His mother, and His mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus therefore saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing by, He said to His mother, “Woman, behold your son!” Then He said to the disciple, “Behold your mother!” And from that hour that disciple took her to his own home.

And it was about the sixth hour, and the sun was darkened. There was darkness over all the earth until the ninth hour. And at the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, “Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani!” Which is translated, “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?” And when some of those who stood by heard that, they said, “Look! This Man is calling for Elijah.” After this, Jesus, seeing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, “I thirst.” Now a vessel full of sour wine was sitting there. Then immediately someone ran, and took a sponge, filled it with sour wine, and put it on a reed, and offered it to Him to drink. He and the others said, “Let Him alone! Let us see if Elijah will come to save Him and take Him down.” So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, “It is finished!” Jesus then cried out with a loud voice, saying “Father, into Your hand I commend My spirit.” Then, He bowed His head, gave up His spirit, and breathed His last.

Then, behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom, and the earth quaked; and the rocks were split, and the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised; and coming out of the graves after His resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many. Now when the centurion, who stood opposite Jesus, and those with him who were guarding Jesus, saw the earthquake and the things that had happened, and that He cried out like this, they feared greatly, saying, “Truly this Man was the Son of God.”



Confession of Faith

Luther's Explanation of the Second Article

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord.

He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sin, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and His innocent suffering and death.

He did this that I should be His very own, live under Him in His kingdom, and serve Him in eternal righteousness, innocence, and joy; just as He is risen from death, lives and reigns in eternity.

This is most certainly true.

Hymn

153 – Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted

Sermon Text

Psalm 98:3

He has remembered His mercy and His faithfulness to the house of Israel; All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.



Sermon

Remember Steadfast Love

Offertory

TLH 179 – On My Heart Imprint Thine Image

On my heart im - print Thine im - age, Bless-ed Je - sus,
King of Grace, That life's rich - es, cares, and plea-sures
Have no pow'r Thee to ef - face. This the su - per -
scrip-tion be: Je - sus, cru - ci - fied for me, Is my Life, my



General Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

C 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.

Benediction

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.
C Amen.

Hymn

371 – Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness

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