

Friday, 3/24

Read **Ephesians 6:10-20** and contrast God's army with the world's. Prepare yourself for spiritual battle today.

Consider fasting today as an aid to your prayers.

Pray, "Lord Jesus, You alone are Messiah, the all-powerful King. Lead us today to faithfully walk as You have called us to walk. You are the mighty One who refused to turn stones into bread. Save us from using our power, however little, to satisfy the demands of selfishness in the face of the greater needs of others. Jesus, You refused to leap from the temple top. Save us from displaying our skills, however modest, to win instant popularity in the face of nobler calls on our abilities. Jesus, You refused to bend the knee to a false god. Save us from our devotion, however weak, to cheap or easy religion in the face of the harder path on which You bid us to follow You. Jesus, give us wisdom to discern evil, and in the face of all that is deceptively attractive help us to choose the will of God. In Your name we pray, dear Lord. Amen"

Come to the weekly prayer meeting *this morning at 6:30.*

Saturday, 3/25

Read tomorrow's sermon passage **Matthew 26:57-68.**

Prepare today for the gathered worship service tomorrow.

Pray for God to direct you and us as a community of faith in real repentance.

Sing the song *I Will Glory in My Redeemer.*

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1. I will glory in my Redeemer
Whose priceless blood has ransomed me.
Mine was the sin that drove the bitter nails
And hung Him on that judgment tree.
I will glory in my Redeemer
Who crushed the power of sin and death;
My only Savior before the holy Judge,
The Lamb Who is my righteousness,
The Lamb Who is my righteousness.</p> | <p>3. I will glory in my Redeemer
Who carries me on eagle's wings.
He crowns my life with lovingkindness
His triumph song I'll ever sing.
I will glory in my Redeemer
Who waits for me at gates of gold
And when He calls me it will be paradise
His face forever to behold,
His face forever to behold.</p> |
| <p>2. I will glory in my Redeemer
My life He bought, my love He owns.
I have no longings for another
I'm satisfied in Him alone.
I will glory in my Redeemer
His faithfulness, my standing place
Though foes are mighty and rush upon me
My feet are firm, held by His grace,
My feet are firm, held by His grace.</p> | <p>Meditate on the matchless glory of our Redeemer. How is that glory manifested through His facing death for us? How is His humiliation and mock trial our glory and pedigree in standing before the Father?</p> |

Pray, "Lord, teach us to find our glory in nothing other than You. Pry our fingers from all other things to which we would cling. Change our hearts so that we will truly only be satisfied in You. Let us long to see You face-to-face."



CHRIST the REDEEMER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

FIGHTING DEATH WITH LIFE

Sermon notes from 3/19/06

Matthew 26:47-56

Rev. Douglas D. Warren

www.MainePCA.org

Text

While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, arrived. With him was a large crowd armed with swords and clubs, sent from the chief priests and the elders of the people. Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them: "The one I kiss is the man; arrest him."

Going at once to Jesus, Judas said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" and kissed him. Jesus replied, "Friend, do what you came for." Then the men stepped forward, seized Jesus and arrested him. With that, one of Jesus' companions reached for his sword, drew it out and struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his ear.

"Put your sword back in its place," Jesus said to him, "for all who draw the sword will die by the sword. Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels? But how then would the Scriptures be fulfilled that say it must happen in this way?"

At that time Jesus said to the crowd, "Am I leading a rebellion, that you have come out with swords and clubs to capture me? Every day I sat in the temple courts teaching, and you did not arrest me. But this has all taken place that the writings of the prophets might be fulfilled." Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.

I. The Sword of Violence Breeds Death.

II. The Sword of the Spirit Promises Life.

III. How Do We Fight Death with Life?

Message

"The only way to fight death is with life. The sword can only bring further death—theirs rather than yours for the time being perhaps, but it cannot escape death. In fact, it tends to breed death and bring about death to the sword holder too."

Please consider the following, asking the Holy Spirit to guide you:

Application

1. Why was Peter's response commendable? Why was it wrong?
2. How do we often respond in similar fashion as the Church? How do you?
3. How will this message change your response to the strongholds around you?

"The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds."

Second Corinthians 10:4

Taking Gathered Worship Home—Family and Individual Devotions

God Himself speaks to us in His Word, the Bible. If we believe that why wouldn't we want to read it, study it, memorize it, and live our lives by it?! A pattern of daily devotional time by ourselves and with our families help us to do just that. As we read, study, and meditate upon *Matthew* let us learn of our Savior.¹ He is the only true King of Kings and He reveals Himself to us in the Scriptures.

Please use the devotional material below each day this week to meet with Jesus. Please pray that we as a community of faith will learn His ways and walk in them to accomplish His purposes.

Sunday, 3/19

Read the context for today's sermon: **Matthew 26:31-75**.

Discuss the sermon. How do you appropriate the ways of the world? How would a gospel response differ? Specifically talk through at least one concrete example.

Sing *Lord, Have Mercy* from this morning's worship service.

1. Jesus, I've forgotten the words that You have spoken. (chorus)
Promises that burned within my heart have now grown dim. Lord have mercy;
With a doubting heart I follow the paths of earthly wisdom. Christ have mercy;
Forgive me for my unbelief, renew the fire again. (chorus) Lord have mercy on me.
2. I have built an altar where I worship things of man. Lord have mercy;
I have taken journeys that have drawn me far from You. Christ have mercy;
Now I am returning to Your mercies every flowing. Lord have mercy on me.
Pardon my transgressions; help me love You again. (chorus)
3. I have longed to know You And Your tender mercies,
Like a river of forgiveness ever flowing without end.
I bow my heart before You in the goodness of Your presence.
Your grace forever shining like a beacon in the night. (chorus)

Pray for wisdom for the congregation of CTR as we seek to celebrate Christ's grace and extend it using His means rather than the way of the sword.

Monday, 3/20

Read **Genesis 9:1-7**. Why God is so offended by murder?

Grieve the horror and death man has inflicted upon fellow man. Repent for ways that you have violated God's image in others.

Pray for your neighbors, coworkers, friends and family acknowledging that they have been made in the image of God. Ask the Lord to enable you to honor His image in them through your words and deeds.

Consider how you might specifically honor Christ today through the way that you treat the people around you.

¹ For more information on the observance of Lent, its history, and/or the practice of fasting as a devotional aid, please see the church website www.MainePCA.org or ask the pastor.

Tuesday, 3/21

Read **Matthew 6:5-15** and consider how Christ calls us to work towards extending His kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. What does it mean for us to be used so that His will may be done?

Meditate on the power of forgiveness in contrast to retaliation.

Consider fasting and praying during a mealtime today. *See article on-line.*

Pray for Christ to awaken people in Portland and in your neighborhood to sin.

Ask Him to bring conviction and repentance to our city and region.

Sing *Lord, Have Mercy*

Wednesday, 3/22

Read **First Corinthians 10:1-6**.

Meditate on the divine power Christ has given us.

Mourn for the ways we so often chose the weapons of the world instead.

Pray that God's victory over death would be more and more evident in Portland and the surrounding area as we use the Sword of the Spirit mightily.

Thursday, 3/23

Read **Psalms 119:9-16** and discuss how we are to keep our way pure.

Consider fasting and praying during a mealtime today.

Pray, "Almighty God, because of Christ's blood, do not hold against us, poor sinners that we are, the many sins we do or the evil that constantly clings to us. Forgive us just as we determine, as evidence of your grace within us, to forgive our neighbors. By

ourselves we are too weak to hold our own even for a moment. And our sworn enemies—the devil, the world, and the flesh—never stop attacking us. Lord, uphold us and make us strong with the strength of Your Holy Spirit, so that we may not go down to defeat in this spiritual struggle, but may firmly resist our enemies and know the victory You have won. Amen."

Historical Contrast

On October 16, 1555 two English reformers, Hugh Latimer and Nicholas Ridley were tied to the stake and set on fire. It is recorded that Latimer said, "Be of good comfort, Master Ridley, and play the man; we shall this day light such a candle, by God's grace, in England, as I trust shall never be put out."

Versus

Dietrich Bonhoeffer was a pastor and theologian in Germany who stood for Christ in the face of great opposition. But in the face of seeming impossible regime change he gave into the idea that the only option was the removal of Hitler. He participated in a plot to have the Fuehrer murdered, was discovered by the Gestapo, and sentenced to death.