

Friday, 3/31

Read **Hebrews 10:1-10**.

Meditate on the sufficiency of Christ's sacrifice.

Mourn for the ways we so often think His sacrifice is not enough for ourselves or others.

Consider fasting today as an aid to your prayers.

Pray, "O God, our great shepherd, you tenderly gather us as lambs, carrying us with your all-embracing love. Yet, like sheep, we wander from You: following our own ways, ignoring your voice, distrusting your provisions. Forgive our stubborn rebellion, our hardened hearts, our lack of trust. Refresh us once again by Your quiet waters of mercy and restore our souls by your redeeming love. Guide our paths, that we might follow you more closely, through Jesus Christ, our good shepherd, we pray. Amen."

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

Sing *Before the Throne of God Above*.

Saturday, 4/1

Read tomorrow's sermon passage **Matthew 26:69-27:10**.

Prepare today for the gathered worship service tomorrow.

Sing the song *Lord Have Mercy*.

- 1. Jesus, I've forgotten the words that You have spoken. (chorus)
Promises that burned within my heart have now grown dim.
With a doubting heart I follow the paths of earthly wisdom
Forgive me for my unbelief, renew the fire again. (chorus)
Lord have mercy;
Christ have mercy;
Lord have mercy on me.
Lord have mercy;
- 2. I have built an altar where I worship things of man.
I have taken journeys that have drawn me far from You.
Now I am returning to Your mercies every flowing.
Pardon my transgressions; help me love You again. (chorus)
Lord have mercy;
Christ have mercy;
Lord have mercy on me.
- 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, "Lord, You are the King of Glory. Holy Father, we worship and adore You. All-powerful Son, we honor You who have obeyed the Father perfectly. Holy Spirit, we delight in You as You give us voice to sing Christ's praises. We confess that we are disobedient so often. We neglect what You would have us to do as Your heirs and witnesses to the watching world. Forgive us and transform us. Give us willing hearts with which to serve You. Enable us to turn from our sin and cling to You. Win our neighbors, friends, and co-workers through the power of Christ's resurrection. Let us see You and delight in You always."



CHRIST the REDEEMER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WORTHY OF DEATH

Sermon notes from 3/26/06

Matthew 26:57-68

Rev. Douglas D. Warren

www.MainePCA.org

Text

Those who had arrested Jesus took him to Caiaphas, the high priest, where the teachers of the law and the elders had assembled. ⁵⁸ But Peter followed him at a distance, right up to the courtyard of the high priest. He entered and sat down with the guards to see the outcome.

⁵⁹ The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for false evidence against Jesus so that they could put him to death. ⁶⁰ But they did not find any, though many false witnesses came forward. Finally two came forward ⁶¹ and declared, "This fellow said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God and rebuild it in three days.'"

⁶² Then the high priest stood up and said to Jesus, "Are you not going to answer? What is this testimony that these men are bringing against you?"

⁶³ But Jesus remained silent. The high priest said to him, "I charge you under oath by the living God: Tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God."

⁶⁴ "Yes, it is as you say," Jesus replied. "But I say to all of you: In the future you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven."

⁶⁵ Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, "He has spoken blasphemy! Why do we need any more witnesses? Look, now you have heard the blasphemy. ⁶⁶ What do you think?"

"He is worthy of death," they answered. ⁶⁷ Then they spit in his face and struck him with their fists. Others slapped him ⁶⁸ and said, "Prophecy to us, Christ. Who hit you?"

I. Who Is On Trial?

II. God's Declaration

III. How Do We Love Neighbors Worthy of Death?

Message

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

Application

1. Why do we deserve death?
2. How do you witness to Christ's authority?
3. How will you choose to die to your own desires today to live for Christ?

"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 6:23

Taking Gathered Worship Home—Family and Individual Devotions

Matthew has been showing us that Jesus is the long-promised Messiah. Now before the court of Israel we find it put straight forward, “Tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God.” *Collectively, we hold our breath.* “Yes, it is as you say,” Jesus replied. Let us worship the only true King of Kings as He reveals Himself to us in the Scriptures.¹

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.

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

Sunday, 3/26

Discuss the sermon. How was the justice of God served by the injustice of this trial?

Sing the song *Before the Throne of God Above.*

1. Before the throne of God above
I have a strong, a perfect plea,
A great high priest whose name is Love
Who ever lives and pleads for me.
My name is graven on His hands.
My name is written on His heart.
I know that while in heav’n He stands
No tongue can bid me thence depart,
No tongue can bid me thence depart.
2. When Satan tempts me to despair
And tells me of the guilt within,
Upward I look and see Him there
Who made an end of all my sin.
Because the sinless Savior died
My sinful soul is counted free.
For God the just is satisfied
To look at Him and pardon me,
To look at Him and pardon me.
3. Behold Him there the risen Lamb,
My perfect spotless righteousness,
The great unchangeable I AM,
The King of glory and of grace.
One with Himself I cannot die.

Pray for wisdom for the congregation of CTR as we seek to celebrate Christ’s grace and extend it to the praise and glory of our King.

Read **Philippians 2:1-11.** What was the attitude of Jesus?

Monday, 3/27

Discuss what our attitude should be as we obey our King.

Repent for ways that you have accused God of shameful wrong instead of confessing your own sinfulness.

Pray for your neighbors, coworkers, friends and family acknowledging that God would humble them and us to joyfully obey Him.

Consider how to specifically honor Christ today through humbling yourself and serving others in obedience to our King.

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, 3/28

Read **Daniel 7:1-14** and consider the authority ascribed to the “Son of Man.” How does Jesus’ use of this title challenge the way we tend to see Him?

Meditate on the supremacy of Christ’s authority and the certainty of His return “coming with the clouds of heaven.”

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 His authority and to make their hearts respond in joy instead of antagonism.

Sing *Lord, Have Mercy* (words on the back).

Wednesday, 3/29

Read **Acts 4:24-30** and **Hebrews 2:8** below.

“Sovereign Lord,” they said, “you made the heaven and the earth and the sea, and everything in them. You spoke by the Holy Spirit through the mouth of your servant, our father David: ‘Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers gather together against the Lord and against his Anointed One.’ Indeed Herod and Pontius Pilate met together with the Gentiles and the people of Israel in this city to conspire against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed. They did what your power and will had decided beforehand should happen. Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. Stretch out your hand to heal and perform miraculous signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus.”

“In putting everything under Jesus, God left nothing that is not subject to Him. Yet a present we do not see everything subject to Him.” **Hebrews 2:**

Discuss how His kingship empowers us to speak with boldness. Why do we often not speak boldly? How do we often mistake brashness with boldness?

Mourn for the ways we fail to live in faith of His sovereignty.

Pray that God victory over death would be more and more evident in Portland and the surrounding area as we trust Him to be faithful.

Sing *Before the Throne of God Above.*

Thursday, 3/30

Read **Psalms 110:1-7** and discuss Christ’s position of honor at the Father’s right hand. How does this give you confidence as you obey Christ in difficult situations?

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.”