

Pray, "O King of nations, Your reign spreads through all the lands, You defend the cause of the poor and plead for the wretched of the earth. Fashion us into obedient people, that we may spread the good news of Your reign of perfect peace and justice, until all creation will finally rejoice in Your perfect will, until all bend the knee to the King of kings and Lord of lords, in whose name we pray, even Jesus Christ, Your Son and our Savior. Amen."

Sing *Ancient Words*.

Friday, 4/7

Read **Matthew 11:28-30**.

Meditate on the rest found in Christ.

Mourn for the ways we spurn that rest and continue in our sinfulness.

Consider fasting today as an aid to your prayers.

Pray, "O God, we long to be done with our sin. We are so weary. The very things that we don't want to do, the very things that are toxic to our souls and harmful to others, we continue to do. Have mercy upon us. Give us Your rest. Allow us to cease from our vain labors, trying to earn Your favor. Teach us to rest in You. Show us how to give up our worries and trust Your provision. Help us to not take back again, those worries we have brought to You. Have mercy upon us. Amen."

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

Saturday, 4/8

Read tomorrow's sermon passage **Matthew 27:11-61**.

Prepare today for the gathered worship service tomorrow.

Sing the song *Lord Have Mercy*.⁴

1. Jesus, I've forgotten the words that You have spoken.
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*)
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*)
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*)

Chorus
Lord have mercy;
Christ have mercy;
Lord have mercy on me.
Lord have mercy;
Christ have mercy;
Lord have mercy on me.

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

WHAT IS THAT TO US? RESPONDING TO JESUS

Sermon notes from 4/2/06

Matthew 26:69-27:10

Rev. Per Almqvist

Now Peter was sitting out in the courtyard, and a servant girl came to him. "You also were with Jesus of Galilee," she said. But he denied it before them all. "I don't know what you're talking about," he said. Then he went out to the gateway, where another girl saw him and said to the people there, "This fellow was with Jesus of Nazareth." He denied it again, with an oath: "I don't know the man!"

⁷³ After a little while, those standing there went up to Peter and said, "Surely you are one of them, for your accent gives you away." Then he began to call down curses on himself and he swore to them, "I don't know the man!" Immediately a rooster crowed. Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken: "Before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times." And he went outside and wept bitterly.

Early in the morning, all the chief priests and the elders of the people came to the decision to put Jesus to death. They bound him, led him away and handed him over to Pilate, the governor. When Judas, who had betrayed him, saw that Jesus was condemned, he was seized with remorse and returned the thirty silver coins to the chief priests and the elders.

"I have sinned," he said, "for I have betrayed innocent blood." "What is that to us?" they replied. "That's your responsibility." So Judas threw the money into the temple and left. Then he went away and hanged himself.

The chief priests picked up the coins and said, "It is against the law to put this into the treasury, since it is blood money." So they decided to use the money to buy the potter's field as a burial place for foreigners. That is why it has been called the Field of Blood to this day. Then what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled: "They took the thirty silver coins, the price set on him by the people of Israel, and they used them to buy the potter's field, as the Lord commanded me."

Text

Message

I. Our Response to Who Jesus Is

II. Our Response to Who We Are

III. God's Response to Us

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

1. Who do you say Jesus is?
2. In your life, what has been your natural response to who Jesus says he is?
3. What has characterized your response to your own sin and failings?
4. On what do you lean when all else fails?

Application

Taking Gathered Worship Home—Family and Individual Devotions

Matthew calls us to a decision about who Jesus is. We cannot remain neutral. We must decide if he is in fact the promised King who has come to redeem His people or just another disappointment ending in grief. While there is an ultimate sense in which we need to make that decision, there are a thousand times each day that we make that decision—am I going to trust His sovereignty in this particular reality? To do that in faith, drives us to His Word. Take up and read.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.

Sunday, 4/2

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

Discuss the sermon. What is one area of your sin that you now see more clearly? What aspect of Christ's lordship is that revealing?

Sing the song *At the Cross*.²

I know a place, a wonderful place	At the cross, (at the cross)
Where accused and condemned	He died for our sin.
Find mercy and grace,	At the cross, (at the cross)
Where the wrongs we have done	He gave us life again.
And the wrongs done to us	<i>(repeat)</i>
Were nailed there with Him,	<i>(repeat all)</i>
There on the cross.	I know a place, a wonderful place.

Pray for the people of CTR, that we might submit to Christ's lordship in repentance and faith to the glory of our King.

Monday, 4/3

Read **Deuteronomy 19:1-21.** What was the law for manslaughter? How was it different for murder?

Repent for ways that you have not loved your neighbor as yourself.

Pray for your neighbors, peers, friends & family asking God to save them.

Consider how to specifically honor Christ today through loving others.

Tuesday, 4/4

Read **Matthew 26:69-75, Mark 16:1-7, and John 21:15-19** and consider the grace of God to Peter.

Meditate on that same grace Christ has given all His people. Do you know it?

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

Pray for Christ to use His Word in the hearts of the people in Portland and in your neighborhood. Ask Him to use you to make that word known.

Sing *Ancient Words*.³

1 Holy words long preserved For our walk in this world, They resound with God's own heart. O, let the ancient words impart. Words of life, words of hope, Give us strength, help us cope. In this world where'er we roam, Ancient words will guide us home. <i>(refrain)</i>	2 Holy words of our faith Handed down to this age, Came to us through sacrifice. O, heed the faithful words of Christ. Holy words long preserved For our walk in this world, They resound with God's own heart O, let the ancient words impart. <i>(refrain)</i>
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**Refrain: Ancient words, ever true,
Changing me and changing you;**

**We have come with open hearts,
O, let the ancient words impart.**

Wednesday, 4/5

Read **Proverbs 6:1-19** and consider how the gospel frees us to obey God's law.

Discuss how the seven detestable things listed flow from a heart hardened against God and our neighbors.

Mourn for the ways we often delight in the very things our God hates.

Pray, "O Lord, merciful and mighty, I an unworthy sinner, come to You in humble repentance and confess my many transgressions of Your holy law. I am guilty by sins of omission and commission, evil thoughts, improper words, and wrong deeds. Forgive my iniquity and short-comings for the sake of the suffering and death of my Savior, Jesus Christ. Let His obedience cover my disobedience, let His righteousness atone for my unrighteousness Great God and helper, with all my heart I thank You for the forgiveness You have given me in Christ in Your boundless mercy. Grant that I may accept it in true faith. Let me live obediently and lovingly in the power of this redemption for I pray in the name of our Redeemer, Jesus Christ. Amen."

Sing *At the Cross*.

Thursday, 4/6

Read **Psalms 121:1-8** and discuss Christ's protection. If He always watches over us and protects us, what are we to make of great difficulties in our lives?

Consider fasting and praying during a mealtime today.

"There are six things the LORD hates, seven that are detestable to him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked schemes, feet that are quick to rush into evil, a false witness who pours out lies and a man who stirs up dissension among brothers." Prov. 6

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.

² *At the Cross* by Butler © 1993 Mercy/Vineyard Publishing (Admin by Music Services) CCLI License # 1958155

³ *Ancient Words* by Deshazo © 2001 Integrity's Hosanna? Music CCLI License # 1958155

⁴ *Lord, Hear My Prayer* Words and music by Steve Meskel © 2000 Integrity's Hosanna? Music CCLI license # 1958155