



GLITTERING VICES

A Series of Services for the Season of Lent

March 15, 2023
Sloth and Diligence
7:00 p.m.

As We Gather: Today we continue our sermon series “Glittering Vices,” reflecting on the vice of sloth, as we observe the disciples falling asleep in the garden of Gethsemane, unable to watch with our Lord even a single hour. We too are lazy in embracing the good work of the kingdom of God. But, when we develop diligence, we learn to zealously embrace all the tasks God sets before us, attentive to our calling to serve God and love our neighbors.

“Could you not watch with me one hour?”
(Matthew 26:40)

The Ringing of the Bell

The Prelude

The Words of Welcome

+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: TLH 394 "My Faith Looks Up To Thee"

**My faith looks up to Thee, Thou Lamb of Calvary, Savior divine.
Now hear me while I pray; Take all my guilt away;
Oh, let me from this day Be wholly Thine!**

**May Thy rich grace impart Strength to my fainting heart;
My zeal inspire!**

**As Thou hast died for me, Oh, may my love to Thee
Pure, warm, and changeless be, A living fire!**

**While life's dark maze I tread And griefs around me spread,
Be Thou my Guide.**

**Bid darkness turn to day, Wipe sorrow's tears away,
Nor let me ever stray From Thee aside.**

**When ends life's transient dream, When death's cold, sullen stream
Shall o'er me roll,
Blest Savior, then, in love, Fear and distrust remove;
Oh, bear me safe above, A ransomed soul! Amen.**

+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.**

(Matthew 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.** *(Matthew 20:26; Philipians 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.**
(Ephesians 2:10; Matthew 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.** *(Matthew 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.** *(Matthew 5:22; Romans 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. *(Romans 4:25; Ezekiel 36:26)*

+Prayer of the Day+

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

ALL: **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, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

+Scripture Readings+

Old Testament Reading: Deuteronomy 6:1-9

Epistle Reading: 2 Thessalonians 3:6-15

Gospel Reading: Matthew 26:36-46

Hymn: TLH 536, vs. 1-5 “Awake My Soul, And With The Sun”

**Awake, my soul, and with the sun Thy daily stage of duty run;
Shake off dull sloth and joyful rise To pay thy morning sacrifice.**

**Let all thy converse be sincere, Thy conscience as the noon-day clear;
Think how th' all-seeing God thy ways And all thy secret tho'ts
surveys.**

**All praise to Thee, who safe hast kept And hast refreshed me whilst I
slept.
Grant, Lord, when I from death shall wake, I may of endless light
partake.**

**Lord, I my vows to Thee renew; Disperse my sins as morning dew;
Guard my first springs of thought and will And with Thyself my spirit
fill.**

**Direct, control, suggest, this day, All I design or do or say
That all my powers, with all their might, In Thy sole glory may unite.**

+Sermon+

Hymn: TLH 147 “O Christ, Thou Lamb Of God”

**O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world,
have mercy upon us!**

**O Christ, Thou Lamb of God that takest away the sin of the world,
have mercy upon us!**

**O Christ, Thou Lamb of God that takest away the sin of the world,
Grant us Thy peace! Amen.**

+Offertory+

Confirmation / Week Day Classes Reading

The Offerings are brought forward.

+Prayers+

P: Let us pray for the Church, that the loving fruit of the Spirit might be manifest in our lives for the accomplishing of the good works which God has prepared in advance for us to do:

P: Spirit, grant us self-control, that we might shun the passions of the flesh which wage war against our soul and lead a sexually pure and decent life in all we say and do. Lord, in Your mercy:

C: **Hear our prayer.**

P: Spirit, grant us goodness, that we might generously give to our neighbors in need and help them improve and protect their possessions and income. Lord, in Your mercy:

C: **Hear our prayer.**

P: Spirit, grant us faithfulness, that in humility we might consider others better than ourselves and look not to our own interests, but to the interests of others, taking on the form of servants and not considering equality with God something to be grasped. May we have the mind of Christ. Lord, in Your mercy:

C: **Hear our prayer.**

P: Spirit, grant us joy in our callings, that we might diligently serve God and neighbor in love as we hold Your Word sacred and gladly hear and learn it. Lord, in Your mercy:

C: **Hear our prayer.**

P: Spirit, grant us kindness, that we might steadfastly uphold the reputation of others by defending them, speaking well of them, and explaining everything in the kindest way. Lord, in Your mercy:

C: **Hear our prayer.**

P: Spirit, grant us gentleness and peace, that we might help and support the needs of our neighbor and forgive others as You have forgiven us. Lord, in Your mercy:

C: **Hear our prayer.**

P: Into your hands, O Father we commend ourselves, that we might remain in and be nourished by the True Vine, Your Son Jesus Christ, and bear abundant fruit, empowered by the love which You abundantly pour into our hearts through the Holy Spirit Whom You have sent to us; the Christ our Lord,

C: **Amen.**

+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 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.**

+The Prayer+

+The Benediction+

P: The Lord bless you and keep you, The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

C: **Amen, Amen, Amen!**

Closing Hymn, TLH 552, vs. 1-3 "Abide With Me"

**Abide with me! Fast falls the eventide'
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, oh, abide with me!**

**Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away.
Change and decay in all around I see;
O Thou who changest not, abide with me!**

**Not a brief glance I beg, a passing word,
But as Thou dwelst with Thy disciples, Lord,
Familiar, condescending, patient, free.
Come, not to sojourn, but abide with me. Amen.**

Silent Prayer

TLH #394: Scripture: Ephesians 3:12; My Faith Looks Up To Thee; Author: Ray Palmer (1830); Tune: Olivet; Composer: Lowell Mason (1831).

TLH #536: Scripture: Psalm 108:2; Awake My Soul, And With The Sun; Author: Thomas Ken (1695, cento, alt.); Tune: Morning Hymn; Composer: Francois H. Barthelemmon (1785).

TLH #147: John 1:29; Christe, du Lamm Gottes; O Christ, Thou Lamb Of God; From the German (1528); Translator: Unknown; Tune: Christe, du Lamm Gottes; Source: Johann Bugenhagen's "Kirchenordnung", 1528.

TLH #552: Scripture: Luke 24:29; Abide With Me! Fast Falls The Eventide; Author: Henry F. Lyte (1847) (?) Tune: Eventide; Composer: William H. Monk (1861).

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