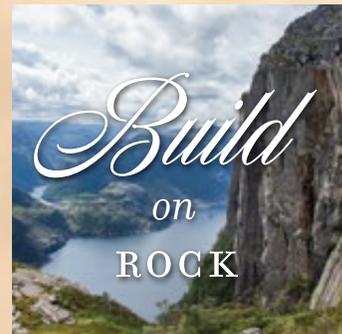
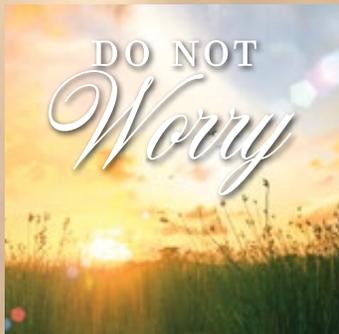
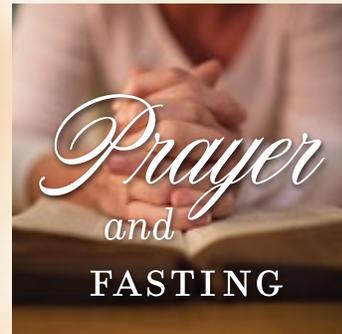
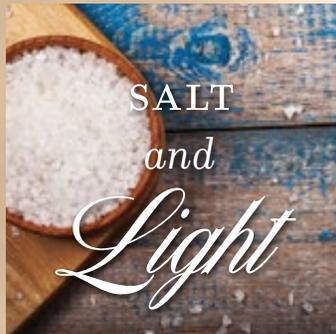


SERMON *on the* MOUNT

A SERIES of SERVICES for the SEASON of LENT



WORSHIP KIT

SERMON *on the* MOUNT

A SERIES of SERVICES *for the* SEASON of LENT

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PREVIEW SAMPLE

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S E R M O N *on the* M O U N T

A S E R I E S *of* S E R V I C E S *for the* S E A S O N *of* L E N T

ABOUT “SERMON ON THE MOUNT”

This series for Lent takes parishioners through some of the most familiar teachings of Jesus from his Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5-7 and relates them to the events surrounding Christ’s life, death and resurrection. In the process, the services will powerfully reveal that the cross itself is the ultimate sermon on the mount for our journey of faith in this sacred season.

For each service the kit contains • sample bulletins with complete orders of service • sermon • children’s message • prayers • music for the accompanist

ORDERING INFORMATION

Additional resources are available from Creative Communications for the Parish. Contact us for current pricing and availability. Call us at 1-800-325-9414. Or visit our website:
www.creativecommunications.com.

Bulletins For The Six-Week Kit:

Code **SMMP** • Pre-printed bulletins • 8.5” x 11”

Code **SMMS** • Blank bulletins • 8.5” x 11”

Code **SMMR** • Blank bulletins • 8.5” x 14”

Holy Week Services To Complete The Series:

Those who desire may supplement this series with other services that continue the series format and theme. Each is ordered separately and includes all the Worship Kit features described above, except the CD.

Or, order all four service kits together. As a bonus, orders for all four kits include a CD-ROM (Mac/PC) with text of services and of bulletins in .rtf (rich text format). All four kits • Code **SMM9**

Palm Sunday

Ask, Seek, Knock • Matthew 7:7-11

When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the people asked, “Who is this King of Glory?” They were seeking one who saves when they shouted, “Hosanna!” They were knocking on the door for a new future. What they did not know was that Jesus was opening the door to new life through the cross.

Code **SMMZ • Kit**

Code **SMMT** (printed) • 8.5” x 11” bulletins

Code **SMMW** (blank) • 8.5” x 11” bulletins

Code **SMMX** (blank) • 8.5” x 14” bulletins

Maundy Thursday

The Golden Rule • Matthew 7:12

Jesus lived out the Golden Rule the night he was betrayed, but with a twist. He taught his disciples to do to others as he had done to them: washing their feet, forgiving their sins and loving them unconditionally.

Code **SMM4 • Kit**

Code **SMMC** (printed) • 8.5” x 11” bulletins

Code **SMMG** (blank) • 8.5” x 11” bulletins

Code **SMML** (blank) • 8.5” x 14” bulletins

Good Friday

The Tree and Its Fruit • Matthew 7:15-20

Jesus preached that good trees can be recognized by their fruits. Despite its appearance, the tree of the cross on Good Friday proved to be the best tree of all, because by Christ's death upon it came the fruit of everlasting life.

Code SMM5 • Kit

Code **SMMD** (printed) • 8.5" x 11" bulletins

Code **SMMH** (blank) • 8.5" x 11" bulletins

Code **SMMM** (blank) • 8.5" x 14" bulletins

Easter Sunday

Treasures in Heaven • Matthew 6:19-21

Easter reminds us that Jesus taught to lay up treasures in heaven and not on earth. His resurrection is a wake-up call to us all that while the things of this earth are temporary, we have the precious gift of life with him forever awaiting us.

Code SMM6 • Kit

Code **SMME** (printed) • 8.5" x 11" bulletins

Code **SMMJ** (blank) • 8.5" x 11" bulletins

Code **SMMN** (blank) • 8.5" x 14" bulletins

Other Resources:

Code **SMM1** • Bookmark • 7" x 2 1/2"

Code **SMM7** • Promotional Bulletin Insert

Code **SMM8** • Display Posters • 11" x 17"

Code **PHSMM** • Cloth Banner Suitable For Worship

Bible Study Resources:

Code **SMMSG** • Sermon on the Mount Student Guide

Code **SMMLG** • Sermon on the Mount Leader's Guide

SERMON *on the* MOUNT

A SERIES of SERVICES *for the* SEASON of LENT

ASH WEDNESDAY: BLESSED ARE YOU

NEWSLETTER NOTICE

Join us for the Sermon on the Mount special service for Ash Wednesday. In this service we remember that we who are poor in spirit, who mourn, and who hunger and thirst for righteousness are called blessed by our Savior. Ash Wednesday reminds us that though we have been brought low by sin, our Lord will bless us with new life in him through the cross.

BULLETIN NOTICE

In this service for Ash Wednesday, we remember that we who are poor in spirit, who mourn, and who hunger and thirst for righteousness are called blessed by our Savior. Ash Wednesday reminds us that though we have been brought low by sin, our Lord will bless us with new life in him through the cross.

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SERMON *on the* MOUNT

A SERIES of SERVICES *for the* SEASON of LENT

WEEK 1: SALT AND LIGHT

NEWSLETTER NOTICE

Join us for the Sermon on the Mount special service for Week 1 of Lent. In this service we remember that Christ calls us to be salt and light in this world of sin. We who have tasted and seen his great love for us on the cross can spend our Lent savoring his salvation and shining with his glory and grace in the places where he has put us.

BULLETIN NOTICE

In this service for Week 1 of Lent, we remember that Christ calls us to be salt and light in this world of sin. We who have tasted and seen his great love for us on the cross can spend our Lent savoring his salvation and shining with his glory and grace in the places where he has put us.

SERMON *on the* MOUNT

A SERIES of SERVICES *for the* SEASON of LENT

WEEK 2: PRAYER AND FASTING

NEWSLETTER NOTICE

Join us for the Sermon on the Mount special service for Week 2 of Lent. In this service we remember that Lent is a season of prayer and fasting. We grow in our relationship with Christ by communicating with him, and we learn more about him and ourselves by giving up those things that can distract us from our connection to him.

BULLETIN NOTICE

In this service for Week 2 of Lent, we remember that Lent is a season of prayer and fasting. We grow in our relationship with Christ by communicating with him, and we learn more about him and ourselves by giving up those things that can distract us from our connection to him.

SERMON *on the* MOUNT

A SERIES of SERVICES *for the* SEASON of LENT

WEEK 3: DO NOT WORRY

NEWSLETTER NOTICE

Join us for the Sermon on the Mount special service for Week 3 of Lent. In this service we recognize that so much of our lives, even in Lent, is spent worrying about what might happen or what has happened. Christ teaches us to stop being anxious, but simply to trust that he knows what is best and will take care of us to the very end.

BULLETIN NOTICE

In this service for Week 3 of Lent, we recognize that so much of our lives, even in Lent, is spent worrying about what might happen or what has happened. Christ teaches us to stop being anxious, but simply to trust that he knows what is best and will take care of us to the very end.

SERMON *on the* MOUNT

A SERIES of SERVICES *for the* SEASON of LENT

WEEK 4: JUDGE NOT

NEWSLETTER NOTICE

Join us for the Sermon on the Mount special service for Week 4 of Lent. In this service we recognize that we live in a very judgmental world, so Jesus' advice not to judge sounds radical to our modern ears. When we leave all judgment up to God, we free ourselves to look at one another through fresh and forgiving eyes.

BULLETIN NOTICE

In this service for Week 4 of Lent, we recognize that we live in a very judgmental world, so Jesus' advice not to judge sounds radical to our modern ears. When we leave all judgment up to God, we free ourselves to look at one another through fresh and forgiving eyes.

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SERMON *on the* MOUNT

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WEEK 5: BUILD ON ROCK

NEWSLETTER NOTICE

Join us for the Sermon on the Mount special service for Week 5 of Lent. In this service we recognize that we build our lives on very shaky foundations, and then we are surprised when things start collapsing. Jesus reminds us in his teachings that the only solid foundation is himself, the Rock of our salvation. On him alone we build.

BULLETIN NOTICE

In this service for Week 5 of Lent, we recognize that we build our lives on very shaky foundations, and then we are surprised when things start collapsing. Jesus reminds us in his teachings that the only solid foundation is himself, the Rock of our salvation. On him alone we build.

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SERMON *on the* MOUNT

A SERIES of SERVICES *for the* SEASON of LENT

ASH WEDNESDAY: BLESSED ARE YOU

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SERMON *on the* MOUNT

A SERIES of SERVICES *for the* SEASON of LENT

ASH WEDNESDAY: BLESSED ARE YOU

ORDER OF SERVICE

Opening Hymn and ResponseLord Jesus, Think on Me

Lord Jesus, think on me and purge away my sin;
From worldly passions set me free and make me pure within.

Lord Jesus, think on me, by anxious thoughts oppressed;
Let me your loving servant be and taste your promised rest.

Lord Jesus, think on me amid the battle's strife;
In all my pain and misery, O be my health and life!

Lord Jesus, think on me nor let me go astray;
Through darkness and perplexity point out your chosen way.

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

C Amen.

P Blessed are the poor in spirit,

C for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

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P Blessed are those who mourn,

C for they shall be comforted.

P Blessed are the meek,

C for they shall inherit the earth.

P Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,

C for they shall be satisfied.

P Blessed are the merciful,

C for they shall receive mercy.

P Blessed are the pure in heart,

C for they shall see God.

P Blessed are the peacemakers,

C for they shall be called sons of God.

P Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake,

C for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

P Blessed are you

C when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

Lord Jesus, think on me that, when this life is past,
I may the eternal brightness see and share your joy at last.

Imposition of Ashes

Confession and Absolution

P We are dust, and to dust we shall return. But our God is faithful and just. When we confess our sins, he covers us in his righteousness and gives us new hope.

C Most merciful God, dust is our destiny. We are impure. We are at war against you and our fellow human beings in what we say, in what we think, and in what we do. We have even left undone the good things you have commanded us to do. We do not deserve the

kingdom of heaven. Out of the depths of your perfect grace, please forgive us for the sins we have committed against you and against one another. Wash us clean and turn our rags into white robes so that we will rise from the dust of ashes to the glory of your grace.

P Our merciful heavenly Father sent his Son Jesus, who is righteous, merciful and pure in heart. He is the one who has, by his cross, made peace between evil sinners and a righteous God. Jesus Christ rose from the dust of death to life again so that we are made to live before God in righteousness and purity. It is by his grace that I announce to you the forgiveness of all of your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Hymn of Response Today Your Mercy Calls Us

Today your gate is open, and all who enter in
Shall find a Father's welcome and pardon for their sin.
The past shall be forgotten, a present joy be giv'n,
A future grace be promised, a glorious crown in heav'n.

O all-embracing Mercy, O ever-open Door,
What should we do without you when heart and eye run o'er?
When all things seem against us, to drive us to despair,
We know one gate is open, one ear will hear our prayer.

Old Testament Reading Joel 2:12-19

Epistle Reading 1 Peter 2:1-10

Gospel Reading Matthew 5:1-11

Children's Message

Sermon Hymn Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise,
The glories of my God and King, the triumphs of his grace!

Jesus! The name that charms our fears, that bids our sorrows cease;
'Tis music in the sinner's ears, 'tis life and health and peace.

He breaks the pow'r of canceled sin; he sets the pris'ner free.
His blood can make the foulest clean; his blood avails for me.

See all your sins on Jesus laid; the Lamb of God was slain.
His soul was once an off'ring made for ev'ry soul of man.

To God all glory, praise and love be now and ever giv'n
By saints below and saints above, the Church in earth and heav'n.

Sermon

Offering

Prayers

Each petition ends with the following response:

P Lord, because of your mercy,

C Blessed are we.

Lord's Prayer

Benediction

Closing Hymn The Church's One Foundation

The Church's one foundation is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
She is his new creation by water and the Word.
From heav'n he came and sought her to be his holy bride;
With his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.

Though with a scornful wonder the world sees her oppressed,
By schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed,
Yet saints their watch are keeping; their cry goes up, "How long?"
And soon the night of weeping shall be the morn of song.

Through toil and tribulation and tumult of her war
She waits the consummation of peace forevermore
Till with the vision glorious her longing eyes are blest,
And the great Church victorious shall be the Church at rest.

Yet she on earth has union with God, the Three in One,
And mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won.
O blessèd heav'nly chorus! Lord, save us by your grace
That we, like saints before us, may see you face to face.

SERMON *on the* MOUNT

A SERIES of SERVICES *for the* SEASON of LENT

ASH WEDNESDAY: BLESSED ARE YOU

COMPLETE SCRIPT FOR WORSHIP LEADERS

- If desired, an **Environmental Projection** is shown on a screen or on the walls of your worship space to set the tone for the service before the service begins or throughout the service at various points:

<https://www.shutterstock.com/image-photo/ramadan-kareem-concept-silhouette-hands-god-367162847?src=s1zCWCOHObambZy5xdhTBA-1-2>

- The **Opening Hymn and Response** is sung by the congregation to the tune Southwell SM, or a selection from the contemporary music song suggestions list at the end of the music guide for this service can be sung instead, with the pastor and congregation reading the lines of the text after the fourth verse responsively:

Lord Jesus, think on me and purge away my sin;
From worldly passions set me free and make me pure within.

Lord Jesus, think on me, by anxious thoughts oppressed;
Let me your loving servant be and taste your promised rest.

Lord Jesus, think on me amid the battle's strife;
In all my pain and misery, O be my health and life!

Lord Jesus, think on me nor let me go astray;
Through darkness and perplexity point out your chosen way.

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

C Amen.

P Blessed are the poor in spirit,

C for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

P Blessed are those who mourn,

C for they shall be comforted.

P Blessed are the meek,

C for they shall inherit the earth.

P Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,

C for they shall be satisfied.

P Blessed are the merciful,

C for they shall receive mercy.

P Blessed are the pure in heart,

C for they shall see God.

P Blessed are the peacemakers,

C for they shall be called sons of God.

P Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake,

C for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

P Blessed are you

C when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

Lord Jesus, think on me that, when this life is past,
I may the eternal brightness see and share your joy at last.

- The **Imposition of Ashes** take place at this time. Participants may come forward and receive the sign of the cross on their forehead, traditionally made with ashes from the burnt palms of Palm Sunday. Those imposing the ashes may say “Remember that you are dust and to dust you will return” or another appropriate phrase.
- The **Confession and Absolution** is spoken responsively by the pastor and the congregation:

P We are dust, and to dust we shall return. But our God is faithful and just. When we confess our sins, he covers us in his righteousness and gives us new hope.

C Most merciful God, dust is our destiny. We are impure. We are at war against you and our fellow human beings in what we say, in what we think, and in what we do. We have even left undone the good things you have commanded us to do. We do not deserve the kingdom of heaven. Out of the depths of your perfect grace, please forgive us for the sins we have committed against you and against one another. Wash us clean and turn our rags into white robes so that we will rise from the dust of ashes to the glory of your grace.

P Our merciful heavenly Father sent his Son Jesus, who is righteous, merciful and pure in heart. He is the one who has, by his cross, made peace between evil sinners and a righteous God. Jesus Christ rose from the dust of death to life again so that we are made to live before God in righteousness and purity. It is by his grace that I announce to you the forgiveness of all of your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

- The **Hymn of Response** is sung by the congregation to the tune Anthes 76 76 D:

Today your gate is open, and all who enter in
 Shall find a Father's welcome and pardon for their sin.
 The past shall be forgotten, a present joy be giv'n,
 A future grace be promised, a glorious crown in heav'n.

O all-embracing Mercy, O ever-open Door,
 What should we do without you when heart and eye run o'er?
 When all things seem against us, to drive us to despair,
 We know one gate is open, one ear will hear our prayer.

- The **Old Testament Reading**, Joel 2:12-19, is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:

Ⓟ “Yet even now,” declares the Lord, “return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; and rend your hearts and not your garments.” Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster. Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the Lord your God? Blow the trumpet in Zion; consecrate a fast; call a solemn assembly; gather the people. Consecrate the congregation; assemble the elders; gather the children, even nursing infants. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her chamber. Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep and say, “Spare your people, O Lord, and make not your heritage a reproach, a byword among the nations. Why should they say among the peoples, ‘Where is their God?’” Then the Lord became jealous for his land and had pity on his people. The Lord answered and said to his people, “Behold, I am sending to you grain, wine, and oil, and you will be satisfied; and I will no more make you a reproach among the nations.”

- The **Epistle Reading**, 1 Peter 2:1-10, is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:

Ⓟ So put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander. Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation—if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in Scripture: “Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.” So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, “The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,” and “A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense.” They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. But you are a chosen race,

a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

- The **Gospel Reading**, Matthew 5:1-11, is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:

Ⓟ Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying: “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.”

- The **Children’s Message** is delivered by the pastor or other worship leader:

(Object: A picture of some kind of optical illusion.)

Ⓟ *(Hold up the optical illusion and point out what you see initially, and then what you see upon closer examination.)* When you look at a picture of an optical illusion, you usually see one thing, but there is another thing that you are able to see if you look at the picture more closely or from a different angle. Optical illusions are fun, and they help us to see things in a different way.

At the time of Jesus everybody considered the blessed people to be the ones who were rich or famous, or kings or queens. Regular, ordinary people were never considered blessed, that is, until Jesus came along. Jesus looked at people in a different way. He said that “blessed” people are the ones who are poor, hungry, thirsty, sad or meek. And the great thing about Jesus is that when he says something, his words make it true. If Jesus calls you “blessed,” you are exactly that! Even if you feel poor, hungry, thirsty or sad, Jesus gives you what you need to feel better. He blesses you!

That’s a very important thing to remember on Ash Wednesday. Just a little while ago we all came forward and had crosses drawn on our foreheads with ashes. It reminded us that we are made out of dust and we will one day die. But a cross was put on our forehead to remind us that even though we die, we will live. Because Jesus died on the cross and rose again from the dead, we too will rise again.

If Jesus says something, then it will happen. If Jesus calls us “blessed,” we are blessed. If he says that we are forgiven, we are forgiven. If he says to a dead person “Live!” that person will live. That’s what he will do for you and me. We might look at a person and see that they are dead. But Jesus looks at a dead person in a different way. Jesus speaks his word and calls them to life. Those who believe in him will live forever. We are blessed!

Dear Jesus, we thank you that you look at us in a different way. You look at us and call us “blessed.” Thank you for blessing us with new and eternal life. Amen.

- The **Sermon Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune Azmon CM:

Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer’s praise,
The glories of my God and King, the triumphs of his grace!

Jesus! The name that charms our fears, that bids our sorrows cease;
'Tis music in the sinner’s ears, 'tis life and health and peace.

He breaks the pow’r of canceled sin; he sets the pris’ner free.
His blood can make the foulest clean; his blood avails for me.

See all your sins on Jesus laid; the Lamb of God was slain.
His soul was once an off’ring made for ev’ry soul of man.

To God all glory, praise and love be now and ever giv’n
By saints below and saints above, the Church in earth and heav’n.

- The **Sermon** is delivered by the pastor:

Ⓟ Blessings come cheap these days. You can sneeze on an airplane and receive two or three blessings on the spot (and a few unfriendly looks as well). “Bless you!” they say, and it doesn’t cost you a dime. Those with a cold or allergies get blessed many times over. Beyond this, we don’t hear the word “blessed” very often.

In the Bible God is blessing people all over the place. God’s very first blessing came on the fifth day of creation. After creating birds and fish, Genesis tells us that “God blessed them” (Gen 1:22) with the promise that they would multiply. Later God blessed Abraham and sent him packing and then blessed him again and again. Way at the other end of the Bible in Revelation there are no less than seven blessings from God scattered throughout the book.

The word the original New Testament uses for “blessed” is “makarios.” At the front end of that word you can hear “mak” as in “macro,” meaning to make large or long. It’s the word Jesus used in his famous Beatitudes at the beginning of the Sermon on the Mount. To bless someone is to extend or make greater that which one has by giving it to another.

Jesus' beatitudes are not wishes, though. He isn't saying, "May you be poor in spirit" or "May you hunger and thirst after righteousness." These are descriptions of his disciples as they will live and witness in the kingdom. More than that, the Beatitudes are exclamations, even celebrations, of those who will follow Jesus. It's as if Jesus is saying, "How blessed are the meek!" or "How blessed are the peacemakers!" Given how early the sermon comes in Jesus' ministry and the slowness of the disciples to grasp the kingdom, one can only admire Jesus' confidence that the kingdom would take hold in people's lives.

On this Ash Wednesday, three of Jesus' blessings stand out for us. The first is, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." We come this day "poor in spirit." That is, we come with nothing to offer God but our sins and our needs. We come just as we are "without one plea." Found in Martin Luther's pocket shortly before he died was a scrap of paper with several scribbles in his own handwriting. Among the notes to self was this one "This is true. We are all beggars" (James M. Kittelson, *Luther the Reformer: The Story of the Man and His Career* [Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1986, 2003], 297). To us cross-marked sinners this very day comes the kingdom with all the grace and forgiveness we need to be blessed.

Only Jesus can give this blessing because only Jesus ushered in the kingdom of heaven by emptying himself and taking the form of a suffering servant in our place. He earned this blessing for us by becoming "poor in spirit" in our place. His humility took him all the way to the cross. There he "preached" his greater sermon on the mount.

Another blessing which is especially ours today comes with Jesus' second beatitude, "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted." We are blessed today to have a "godly grief" over our sin (2 Cor 7:10). You may recall a few times in your life when you deeply disappointed your parents. No doubt, you can remember the look on their faces or even what they said. The sadness you felt inside was profound. Some people never get over that sadness. The same is true many times over in our relationship with our heavenly Father. Sin is not objective or neutral. It is deeply relational. When we sin, we deeply disappoint a loving Father, and it leaves us sad. It's this godly grief combined with our faith which brings us to repentance. In sorrow, we turn from our sin to face the cross of Jesus Christ, and we are forgiven.

Here again only Jesus can give the comfort we need. We have the comfort of our Father's forgiveness because Jesus bought our forgiveness with his own life. This Son did not disappoint his Father. He took our sins on himself and died for us. That is why Jesus is the only one who can comfort us in our godly grief over sin.

And a third blessing comes to us this Ash Wednesday when Jesus says, "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied." It's worth noting that this blessing clearly flows from the previous ones. It's not enough to be humble and repentant or

meeke, for that matter, which is the third beatitude. This would leave us alone with God. This fourth beatitude reminds us that we have a life to live and people with whom we live it. So our hunger and thirst for righteousness reveal in us a deep desire to be right with God and right with others.

In the best-selling book (2008) and film (2017), *Same Kind of Different as Me*, a once homeless sage named Denver Moore says, “There’s something I learned when I was homeless: Our limitation is God’s opportunity. When you get all the way to the end of your rope and there ain’t nothin’ you can do, that’s when God takes over.” So it is with a yearning for righteousness. We will always reach the end of our rope. The righteousness we seek is only a righteousness God can give, and it does not come cheap. It costs the life of Jesus Christ on the cross. This is a righteousness of the heart which we receive through faith in him. His perfect righteousness becomes ours as we place our trust in him. From His righteousness flows all of our right decisions, right relationships, and right actions. And we are satisfied ... and blessed in Christ.

As we begin our Lenten journey, as we make our way through life, we Christians will look different from the rest of humanity. Our Christ-like humility, our godly grief, and our righteousness of faith mark us as unique. In these blessings of Christ we can look at each other and say, “You are the same kind of different as me.” Amen.

- The **Offering** is collected at this time. If desired, this **Mini Movie** (purchased by you from Worship House Media: worshiphousemedia.com) is presented on a screen at this time for reflection on the theme of the service:

<https://www.worshiphousemedia.com/mini-movies/48148/the-beatitudes>

- The **Prayers** are spoken responsively by the pastor and the congregation:

Each petition ends with the following response:

P Lord, because of your mercy,

C **Blessed are we.**

+

P Lord Jesus, we thank you for opening your mouth and teaching us. You have called us “blessed” and so we are. Because of your perfect life, your crucifixion on the cross and your resurrection from the dead, we are blessed beyond all people. Lord, because of your mercy,

C **Blessed are we.**

P Lord Jesus, as your people you have called us to open our eyes to those who are poor, those

who mourn, those who are meek, and those who hunger and thirst. Make us merciful so that we not only see but also help those who are in need of help. Make us your hands and feet for service in this world. Lord, because of your mercy,

C Blessed are we.

P Lord Jesus, you have taught us to be peacemakers. Use us to properly influence our government to rule according to your will and in the wisdom only you can provide. Make every leader around the world compassionate and peace-loving. Lord, because of your mercy,

C Blessed are we.

P Lord Jesus, you bless your people with the miracle of health and healing. Surround all those who are ill with your presence and your love. Give them the blessing of people who are wise, willing and ready to serve them in the best possible way for restoration of body and soul. Lord, because of your mercy,

C Blessed are we.

P Lord Jesus, we thank you for all those who were persecuted for righteousness' sake and have given their lives for the sake of the Gospel. We also thank you for those near and dear to us who influenced us in the faith and now live and walk with you. Their reward in heaven is great due to the boundless depths of your grace. Lord, because of your mercy,

C Blessed are we.

P Into your hands, Lord Jesus, we place all of our needs knowing that you are the only one who can bless us in measure beyond our wildest expectation. Amen.

- The **Lord's Prayer** is spoken in unison.
- The **Benediction** is spoken responsively by the pastor:

P The God of all grace who became meek for us, bless you with all that is good on earth and with all the riches of heaven. Rejoice and be glad! Amen.

- The **Closing Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune Aurelia 76 76 D, or a selection from the contemporary music song suggestions list at the end of the music guide for this service can be sung instead:

The Church's one foundation is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
She is his new creation by water and the Word.
From heav'n he came and sought her to be his holy bride;
With his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.

Though with a scornful wonder the world sees her oppressed,
By schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed,
Yet saints their watch are keeping; their cry goes up, "How long?"
And soon the night of weeping shall be the morn of song.

Through toil and tribulation and tumult of her war
She waits the consummation of peace forevermore
Till with the vision glorious her longing eyes are blest,
And the great Church victorious shall be the Church at rest.

Yet she on earth has union with God, the Three in One,
And mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won.
O blessèd heav'nly chorus! Lord, save us by your grace
That we, like saints before us, may see you face to face.

SERMON *on the* MOUNT

A SERIES of SERVICES *for the* SEASON of LENT

ASH WEDNESDAY: BLESSED ARE YOU

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Tune..... Southwell SM

- The **Opening Hymn and Response** is sung by the congregation to the tune Southwell SM, or a selection from the contemporary music song suggestions list at the end of the music guide for this service can be sung instead, with the pastor and congregation reading the lines of the text after the fourth verse responsively:

Lord Jesus, think on me and purge away my sin;
From worldly passions set me free and make me pure within.

Lord Jesus, think on me, by anxious thoughts oppressed;
Let me your loving servant be and taste your promised rest.

Lord Jesus, think on me amid the battle's strife;
In all my pain and misery, O be my health and life!

Lord Jesus, think on me nor let me go astray;
Through darkness and perplexity point out your chosen way.

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

C Amen.

P Blessed are the poor in spirit,

C for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

P Blessed are those who mourn,

C for they shall be comforted.

P Blessed are the meek,

C for they shall inherit the earth.

P Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,

C for they shall be satisfied.

P Blessed are the merciful,

C for they shall receive mercy.

P Blessed are the pure in heart,

C for they shall see God.

P Blessed are the peacemakers,

C for they shall be called sons of God.

P Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake,

C for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

P Blessed are you

C when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

Lord Jesus, think on me that, when this life is past,
I may the eternal brightness see and share your joy at last.

Measures 1-4 of the piece. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and the time signature is common time (C). The music is written for piano in a grand staff. Measure 1 starts with a whole rest in both staves. Measures 2-4 contain chords and single notes in both staves.

Measures 5-8 of the piece. The notation continues with chords and single notes in both staves. Measure 5 begins with a half note in the treble staff and a half note in the bass staff.

Measures 9-12 of the piece. The notation continues with chords and single notes in both staves. Measure 9 begins with a half note in the treble staff and a half note in the bass staff.

Measures 13-16 of the piece. The notation continues with chords and single notes in both staves. Measure 13 begins with a half note in the treble staff and a half note in the bass staff. The piece concludes with a whole rest in both staves in measure 16.

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- The **Hymn of Response** is sung by the congregation to the tune Anthes 76 76 D:

Today your gate is open, and all who enter in
Shall find a Father's welcome and pardon for their sin.
The past shall be forgotten, a present joy be giv'n,
A future grace be promised, a glorious crown in heav'n.

O all-embracing Mercy, O ever-open Door,
What should we do without you when heart and eye run o'er?
When all things seem against us, to drive us to despair,
We know one gate is open, one ear will hear our prayer.