

# Thy Will Be Done

## A Series of Services for the Season of Lent

### Week 1: God's Will And My Inadequacy

*"But [Moses] said, 'Oh, my Lord, please send someone else.'" Exodus 4:13*

#### **Opening Hymn**

#### 423 Jesus, Refuge of the Weary

LSB 423



1 Je - sus, ref - uge of the wea - ry, Blest Re - deem - er,  
2 Do we pass that cross un - heed - ing, Breath - ing no re -  
3 Je - sus, may our hearts be burn - ing With more fer - vent



whom we love, Foun - tain in life's des - ert drea - ry, Sav - ior  
pen - tant vow, Though we see You wound - ed, bleed - ing, See Your  
love for You; May our eyes be ev - er turn - ing To be -



from the world a - bove: Of - ten have Your eyes, of - fend - ed,  
thorn - en - cir - cled brow? Yet Your sin - less death has brought us  
hold Your cross a - new Till in glo - ry, part - ed nev - er



Gazed up - on the sin - ner's fall; Yet up - on the  
Life e - ter - nal, peace, and rest; On - ly what Your  
From the bless - ed Sav - ior's side, Grav - en in our



cross ex - tend - ed, You have borne the pain of all.  
grace has taught us Calms the sin - ner's deep dis - tress.  
hearts for - ev - er, Dwell the cross, the Cru - ci - fied.

## **Welcome**

### **Invocation**

P Wherever two or more are gathered together in Jesus' name, he promises to be there in the midst of them.

**C Come, merciful Father, and be our guest.**

P Come, loving Savior, and be our guest.

**C Come, Comforter, be our guest and fill this moment with your presence.**

P In the sure and confident hope that our Lord is present in this place we begin in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Let us glorify him who has called us out of darkness into his marvelous light!

- The **Opening Litany** is spoken responsively by the pastor and the congregation and responsive hymn verses are sung to the tune Gethsemane 77 77 77:

P Periods of failure come into the lives of everyone. With the glorious exception of Jesus, every hero of the Bible had their times of failure as well.

**C Adam and Eve ate the fruit.**

P Abraham and Sarah laughed at God.

**C Moses murdered a man.**

P King David had an affair.

**C Solomon worshipped false gods.**

P Jonah refused to obey and ran away from the work of the Lord.

**C Peter denied the Lord.**

P Thomas doubted the promise and the testimony.

**C Paul persecuted Christians.**

P The list could go on and on. All the heroes of yesterday had their areas of weakness.

**C But God strengthened them in their weakness, and was able to use them according to his good and gracious will.**

# 611 Chief of Sinners Though I Be

v1,2,3



1 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Je - sus shed His  
2 Oh, the height of Je - sus' love, High - er than the  
3 On - ly Je - sus can im - part Balm to heal the



blood for me, Died that I might live on high,  
heav'ns a - bove, Deep - er than the depths of sea,  
wound - ed heart, Peace that flows from sin for - giv'n,



Lives that I might nev - er die. As the branch is  
Last - ing as e - ter - ni - ty! Love that found me—  
Joy that lifts the soul to heav'n, Faith and hope to



to the vine, I am His, and He is mine.  
won - drous thought! Found me when I sought Him not.  
walk with God In the way that E - noch trod.

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P It can happen in a moment. A bad decision,

**C an action we shouldn't have taken,**

P a moment of fear that led to an impulse that was wrong,

**C and failure invades our life.**

P It can happen when things are going great,

**C or it could happen gradually, the result of a series of events that has taken place.**

P Failure invades all of our lives at one time or another.

**C Some failures are minor and are overcome quickly.**

P Others are devastating not only in their effect on us,

**C but in their effect on others.**

P Yet to those who repent, a gracious God offers full and free forgiveness.

**C God strengthens us in our weakness, and is able to use us according to his good and gracious will.**

O my Savior, help afford by your Spirit and your Word! When my wayward heart would stray, keep me in the narrow way; Grace in time of need supply while I live and when I die.

### **The Prayer of the Day**

P Moses said, ‘Oh, my Lord, please send someone else’” (Exodus 4:13). We know that prayer, Lord; we know it all too well. At times we feel weak and inadequate, too sinful and unsure to be your representatives. At times we don’t want to be bothered and are too self-focused to be your messengers. We lay our own inadequacies and our own unwillingness before you today. Give us your sense of value and purpose. Forgive our failings. Restore our vision of your mission. And promise to be with me, that your will may be done through me. **Amen.**

### **The First Reading, Exodus 3 and 4 (selected verses)**

P God called to him out of the bush, “Moses, Moses!” And he said, “Here I am.” Then he said, “Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.” And he said, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God. “Come, I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring my people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt.” But Moses said to God, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?” He said, “But I will be with you, and this shall be the sign for you, that I have sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain.” But Moses said to the Lord, “Oh, my Lord, I am not eloquent, either in the past or since you have spoken to your servant, but I am slow of speech and of tongue.” Then the Lord said to him, “Who has made man's mouth?... Now therefore go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall speak.” But he said, “Oh, my Lord, please send someone else.”

## **The Second Reading, Numbers 20:2-13**

P Now there was no water for the congregation. And they assembled themselves together against Moses and against Aaron. And the people quarreled with Moses and said, “Would that we had perished when our brothers perished before the Lord! Why have you brought the assembly of the Lord into this wilderness, that we should die here, both we and our cattle? And why have you made us come up out of Egypt to bring us to this evil place? It is no place for grain or figs or vines or pomegranates, and there is no water to drink.” Then Moses and Aaron went from the presence of the assembly to the entrance of the tent of meeting and fell on their faces. And the glory of the Lord appeared to them, and the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, “Take the staff, and assemble the congregation, you and Aaron your brother, and tell the rock before their eyes to yield its water. So you shall bring water out of the rock for them and give drink to the congregation and their cattle.” And Moses took the staff from before the Lord, as he commanded him.

Then Moses and Aaron gathered the assembly together before the rock, and he said to them, “Hear now, you rebels: shall we bring water for you out of this rock?” And Moses lifted up his hand and struck the rock with his staff twice, and water came out abundantly, and the congregation drank, and their livestock. And the Lord said to Moses and Aaron, “Because you did not believe in me, to uphold me as holy in the eyes of the people of Israel, therefore you shall not bring this assembly into the land that I have given them.” These are the waters of Meribah, where the people of Israel quarreled with the Lord, and through them he showed himself holy.

- The **Third Reading**, Numbers 21:4-9, is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:

From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom. And the people became impatient on the way. And the people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we loathe this worthless food.” Then the Lord sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died. And the people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned, for we have spoken against the Lord and against you. Pray to the Lord, that he take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. And the Lord said to Moses, “Make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live.” So Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on a pole. And if a serpent bit anyone, he would look at the bronze serpent and live.

## **The Gospel Reading, John 3:14-18,**

P (Jesus said:) “And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.”

## **The Sermon**

**Offering** (to be collected **DURING** the hymn)

### **Offering Hymn**

571 God Loved the World So That He Gave

LSB 571 sts. 1–2, 5



1 God loved the world so that He gave His on - ly  
2 Christ Je - sus is the ground of faith, Who was made



Son the lost to save, That all who would in  
flesh and suf - fered death; All then who trust in



Him be - lieve Should ev - er - last - ing life re - ceive.  
Him a - lone Are built on this chief cor - ner - stone.

5 If you are sick, if death is near,  
This truth your troubled heart can cheer:  
Christ Jesus saves your soul from death;  
That is the firmest ground of faith.

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## **The Prayers**

*Each petition ends with the following response:*

P Perfect Son of God,

**C cover us with your holiness that we might live for you.**

P God of impossibility, thank you for showing us through your servant Moses that you are capable of using the weak things of this world to show your strength. Grant us the ability never to give up on ourselves and our capabilities and to never give up on you, Perfect Son of God,

**C cover us with your holiness that we might live for you.**

P In this Lenten season, Lord, we come to you because we know we are sinners and not good enough to win salvation for ourselves. Help us to remember that we are only made right with you through the suffering and death of your Son Jesus on the cross. Keep us ever dependent on his ability to free us forever from the evil of sin. Perfect Son of God,

**C cover us with your holiness that we might live for you.**

P Heavenly Father, we sometimes fall into despair and think that we cannot do anything right. We beat ourselves up and put ourselves down for our faults and failings. Help us to remember that we are made new through Jesus and with you by our side there is nothing we cannot do by your mercy and favor, according to your good and gracious will. Perfect Son of God,

**C cover us with your holiness that we might live for you.**

P So often we compare ourselves with others and come to the conclusion that we do not measure up to what others have accomplished. Give us the ability to see that you have created us for specific tasks that are unique to us. We do not need to compete with others. We only need to do what you have designed us to do to build up your family of faith and bring glory to you. Perfect Son of God,

**C cover us with your holiness that we might live for you.**

P Lord, you sent Jesus to be our Savior, yet he was not born in a castle. He lived a humble life. He came not to be served, but to serve. May we mirror the way of Christ in our approach to tasks and our approach to others. Give us servant hearts that seek to satisfy the needs of others before our own. And give us grace not to pursue fame or fortune in this world, but treasure instead the riches of heaven, won for us by Jesus. Perfect Son of God,

**C cover us with your holiness that we might live for you.**

P Only Jesus lived the perfect life. Help us to remember that as we encounter imperfections in our bodies, our world and our lives. Be with those suffering with the imperfections of illnesses and injuries, conditions and diseases, especially ... Guard and guide them to healing and recovery of body, mind and soul, as you will. Perfect Son of God,

**C cover us with your holiness that we might live for you.**

P Grant us each day the wisdom to know what your will is for our lives, and fill us the comfort of the cross of Christ, upon which your will was done for our benefit. Let us never forget that we are deeply precious to you. Perfect Son of God,

**C cover us with your holiness that we might live for you.**

P All these petitions we offer in the name of our Savior Jesus Christ, who did the will of God and lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

### **The Lord's Prayer**

**☩ 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 Benediction**

P And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying: "Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, 'This is the way you shall bless the children of Israel. Say to them: "The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace."' So they will put my name on the Israelites, and I will bless them."

**C Amen.**

## Closing Hymn

### 433 Glory Be to Jesus

LSB 433



1 Glo - ry be to Je - sus, Who in bit - ter pains  
2 Grace and life e - ter - nal In that blood I find;  
3 Blest through end - less a - ges Be the pre - cious stream  
4 A - bel's blood for ven - geance Plead - ed to the skies;



Poured for me the life - blood From His sa - cred veins!  
Blest be His com - pas - sion, In - fi - nite - ly kind!  
Which from end - less tor - ment Did the world re - deem!  
But the blood of Je - sus For our par - don cries.

- 5 Oft as earth exulting  
Wafts its praise on high,  
Angel hosts rejoicing  
Make their glad reply.
- 6 Lift we, then, our voices,  
Swell the mighty flood;  
Louder still and louder  
Praise the precious blood!

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