

## **Lenten Second Mountain Devotion - 'The Spirit Anointed Christ for Mercy'**

*Lent was the time when candidates for Holy Baptism were intently preparing to be baptized at the Vigil of Easter. We, too, in this season of Lent prepare ourselves to remember our Baptism at Easter as we ritually “pass over” with Jesus from death to new life. During this Lenten season we will remember Jesus’ Baptism, His anointing with the Holy Spirit, and His words in Luke 4 – that He was anointed to show, and to be, mercy. As His people – hearing Him proclaim God’s Word and being God’s Word as Prophet; seeing Him sacrifice Himself on a cross and know that He intercedes for us as Priest; and knowing that we live under Him as King in righteousness and purity – we will be reminded of our work of mercy.*

---

### **Christ's Second Mountain to Climb ... to Preach Good News to the Poor.**

#### **HYMN “Come to Calvary’s Holy Mountain”**

by James Montgomery, 1771-1854

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. Come to Calvary's holy mountain,<br>Sinners, ruined by the Fall;<br>Here a pure and healing fountain<br>Flows to you, to me, to all,<br>In a full, perpetual tide,<br>Opened when our Savior died.                     | 2. Come in poverty and meanness,<br>Come defiled, without, within;<br>From infection and uncleanness,<br>From the leprosy of sin,<br>Wash your robes and make them white;<br>Ye shall walk with God in light. |
| 3. Come in sorrow and contrition,<br>Wounded, impotent, and blind;<br>Here the guilty free remission,<br>Here the troubled peace, may find.<br>Health this fountain will restore;<br>He that drinks shall thirst no more. | 4. He that drinks shall live forever;<br>Tis a soul-renewing flood.<br>God is faithful; God will never<br>Break His covenant of blood,<br>Signed when our Redeemer died,<br>Sealed when He was glorified.     |

#### **INVOCATION**

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

**Pastor:** Brothers and sisters of our Lord Jesus Christ, the 40 days of Lent are set aside as a time to take a look at our walk with God. Our attention is especially directed to the holy sufferings and death of our Lord Jesus Christ. From ancient times the season of Lent has been kept as a time of special devotion, self-denial, instruction, and humble repentance born of a faithful heart that dwells confidently on His Word and draws life and hope from it. In our service tonight we continue to focus on God’s mercy in Christ, who was anointed as our Prophet Priest and King and who proclaims the mercy of God in Word and deed. We take this time to remind ourselves that as Christ has given us mercy we are to be merciful. Today we focus on his “Gospeling the poor” or preaching good news to the poor. Let us pray that our dear Father in heaven, for the sake of His beloved Son and in the power of His Holy Spirit, might richly bless this Lenten season for us, that we may come to Easter with glad hearts and keep the feast in sincerity and truth. Because God anointed Him with the Holy Spirit and with power as Prophet Priest and King, all kings will bow down to Jesus the Christ and all the nations will serve Him.

**People: For He will deliver the poor and the needy who cry out, the afflicted who have no one to help.**

Pastor: Praise be to the Lord God, the God of Israel, who alone does marvelous deeds.

**People: Praise be to His glorious name forever.**

Pastor: May the whole earth be filled with His glory.

**People: Amen.**

### **CONFESSION**

Pastor: Praise be to Your name, O Jesus, Prophet, Priest and King of all kings, forever and ever. The marvelous things of Your mercy include Your sinless life, Your death in our place, and Your spectacular resurrection from the dead.

**People: We who are beggardly poor and needy cry out to You.**

Pastor: We, like all people since Adam and Eve, have fallen into sin and stand in need of Your forgiveness.

**People: We who are beggardly poor and needy cry out to You.**

Pastor: O Christ, our King, we confess to You that we have not done the right things You want us to do. We confess that the poor have been forsaken by us and the good things we can and should do for others remain undone.

**People: We who are beggardly poor and needy cry out to You.**

Pastor: Forgive us, Lord.

**People: For Your sake, O Christ, forgive us.**

Pastor: Lord, in Your mercy, give us Your peace.

**People: Amen.**

### **ABSOLUTION**

Pastor: Our Prophet came to preach Good News to the poor; our Priest died to bring them into His kingdom, and our King will take pity on the weak and the needy. In the name of Jesus and by the power of His cross and His authority, I, as a called and ordained pastor, ordained to preach Good News to the poor, forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: Let us pray. O God our King, who has called us through your anointed one Jesus Christ to be kings and priests unto you: teach us to bear one another's burdens and the burdens of our country and the poor around the world. Open our eyes to see the woes of our land, the despair in the lives of many, and the deep and shameful wrongs that cry to be put right. Give to us also a vision of our world as you would have it be, and as You alone can fashion it. Make us your servants, giving us no rest or discharge until You have worked this work of compassion, that generations yet unborn may praise your name. We ask this for Jesus Christ's sake.

**People: Amen**

### **HYMN "Lord of Glory You Have Bought Us"**

Sung to the melody of #42, Come thou Long Expected Jesus

By: Eliza S. Alderson

1 Lord of glory, you have bought us  
With your lifeblood as the price,  
Never grudging for the lost ones  
That tremendous sacrifice;

2 Wondrous honor you have given  
To our humblest charity  
In your own mysterious sentence,  
"You have done it all to me."

And with that have freely given  
Blessings countless as the sand  
To the unthankful and the evil  
With your own unsparing hand.

Can it be, O gracious Master,  
That you deign for alms to sue,  
Saying by your poor and needy,  
"Give as I have given to you"?

3 Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to give you  
Gladly, freely of your own.  
With the sunshine of our goodness  
Melt our thankless hearts of stone  
Till our cold and selfish natures,  
Warmed by you, at length believe  
That more happy and more blessed  
'Tis to give than to receive.

4 Yes, the sorrow and the sufferings  
Which on every hand we view  
Channels are for gifts and offerings  
Due by solemn right to you;  
Right of which we may not rob you  
Debt we may not choose to pay  
Lest that face of love and pity  
Turn from us another day.

### **OLD TESTAMENT Deut. 15:7-11**

"If among you, one of your brothers should become poor, in any of your towns within your land that the LORD your God is giving you, you shall not harden your heart or shut your hand against your poor brother, but you shall open your hand to him and lend him sufficient for his need, whatever it may be.

Take care lest there be an unworthy thought in your heart and you say, 'The seventh year, the year of release is near,' and your eye look grudgingly on your poor brother, and you give him nothing, and he cry to the LORD against you, and you be guilty of sin.

You shall give to him freely, and your heart shall not be grudging when you give to him, because for this the LORD your God will bless you in all your work and in all that you undertake. For there will never cease to be poor in the land. Therefore I command you, 'You shall open wide your hand to your brother, to the needy and to the poor, in your land.'

### **EPISTLE Gal. 2:1-10**

Then after fourteen years I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, taking Titus along with me. I went up because of a revelation and set before them (though privately before those who seemed influential) the gospel that I proclaim among the Gentiles, in order to make sure I was not running or had not run in vain.

But even Titus, who was with me, was not forced to be circumcised, though he was a Greek. Yet because of false brothers secretly brought in—who slipped in to spy out our freedom that we have in Christ Jesus, so that they might bring us into slavery—to them we did not yield in submission even for a moment, so that the truth of the gospel might be preserved for you.

And from those who seemed to be influential (what they were makes no difference to me; God shows no partiality)—those, I say, who seemed influential added nothing to me.

On the contrary, when they saw that I had been entrusted with the gospel to the uncircumcised, just as Peter had been entrusted with the gospel to the circumcised (for he who worked through Peter for his apostolic ministry to the circumcised worked also through me for mine to the Gentiles), and when James and Cephas and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given to me, they gave the right hand of fellowship to Barnabas and me, that we should go to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised.

Only, they asked us to remember the poor, the very thing I was eager to do.

### **HOLY GOSPEL Luke 12:32-34, Luke 4:16-21**

"Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions, and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys.

For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read.

And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. And he began to say to them, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

## **THE SERMON**

## **OFFERING**

## **PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

Pastor: Lord, our heavenly Father, whose blessed Son came not to be ministered unto, but to minister: We beseech you to bless all who, following in His steps, give themselves to the service of their fellow men. Endue them with wisdom, patience, and courage to strengthen the weak and raise up those who fall; that, being inspired by thy love, they may worthily minister in your Name to the suffering, the friendless, and the needy. Make us signs of your kingdom as we seek to give back the mercy that You have bestowed upon us. Make us kind and compassionate for the sake of Him who laid down His life for us, your Son our Savior, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**People: In your mercy hear our prayer.**

Pastor: O God, the King of righteousness, lead us, we pray, in the ways of justice and of peace; inspire us to break down all oppression and wrong, to gain for every man his due reward, and from every man his due service; that each may live for all, and all may care for each other; in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

**People: In your mercy hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Eternal Father, who in the sending your Son spoke peace to the world, and in the blood of His Cross opened to all mankind the way to peace with You: turn all men to the cross, that, following His holy example and burning with His zeal of service, they may become one brotherhood in Christ, and your peace possess every heart and rule in all nations of the world; bless those who are, or who have been, prophets in your church, proclaiming the Gospel of peace and Good News to the poor. Bless those who through illness or old age can no longer serve as pastors but who like Simeon wait for the final consummation of their service and proclamation through the same Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

**People: In your mercy hear our prayer.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

**HYMN:** 168 "Cross of Jesus, Cross of Sorrow", vs 1.2.4.5