

WOMEN OF LENT (Lent 3- 3/16/23)

Forgiven by God: Rahab and the Woman Caught in Adultery

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

Opening Hymn: “Come to Calvary’s Holy Mountain”- Hymn #435

P: “Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles.

C: And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.

P: For the joy set before Him He endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

C: Consider Him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.” (Hebrews 12:1-3)

P: “Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith.

C: Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.” (Hebrews 13:7-8)

Rahab: Joshua 2:1-6, 15-16, 6:22-23:

P: Then Joshua son of Nun secretly sent two spies from Shittim. “Go, look over the land,” he said, “especially Jericho.” So they went and entered the house of a prostitute named Rahab and stayed there.

The king of Jericho was told, “Look, some of the Israelites have come here tonight to spy out the land.” So the king of Jericho sent this message to Rahab: “Bring out the men who came to you and entered your house, because they have come to spy out the whole land.”

But the woman had taken the two men and hidden them. She said, “Yes, the men came to me, but I did not know where they had come from. At dusk, when it was time to close the city gate, they left. I don’t know which way they went. Go after them quickly. You may catch up with them.” (But she had taken them up to the roof and hidden them under the stalks of flax she had laid out on the roof.) So she let them down by a rope through the window, for the house she lived in was part of the city wall. She said to them, “Go to the hills so the pursuers will not find you. Hide yourselves there three days until they return, and then go on your way.

Joshua said to the two men who had spied out the land, “Go into the prostitute’s house and bring her out and all who belong to her, in accordance with your oath to her.” So the young men who had done the spying went in and brought out Rahab, her father and mother, her brothers and sisters and all who belonged to her. They brought out her entire family and put them in a place outside the camp of Israel.”

P: O Lord, have mercy on us.

C: Thanks be to God.

The Woman Caught in Adultery: John 8:2-11

P: At dawn Jesus appeared again in the temple courts, where all the people gathered around Him, and He sat down to teach them. The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group ⁴ and said to Jesus, “Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do You say?” They were using this question as a trap, in order to have a basis for accusing Him.

But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with His finger. ⁷ When they kept on questioning Him, He straightened up and said to them, “Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.” Again He stooped down and wrote on the ground.

At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there. Jesus straightened up and asked her, “Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?” “No one, sir,” she said. “Then neither do I condemn you,” Jesus declared. “Go now and leave your life of sin.

P: O Lord, have mercy on us.

C: Thanks be to God.

Message Hymn: *“For All the Faithful Women Hymn #855, vs. 1, screen (2,3), 3,4*

Screen verses:

For Rahab with a house built
On top of Jericho’s wall,
She ran it as a bad place
Where evil deeds were sown.
But when the spies of Israel came
She hid them in the flax.
God kept her house from falling;
He claimed her as His own.

For the adulterous woman
In sin brought to the Lord,
The crowd asked Him to judge her
While He wrote in the sand.
He told the guiltless then to cast
The first stone her to kill.
Alone He told her, You’re free.
Your new life now fulfill.”

Message: *“Forgiven by God: Rahab and the Woman Caught in Adultery”*

Hymn of Reflection: *“Chief of Sinners Though I Be” - Hymn #611*

Passion Story Reading from St. Matthew – Matthew 26:69-27:10

P: Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. And a servant girl came up to him and said, “You also were with Jesus the Galilean.” But he denied it before them all, saying, “I do not know what you mean.” And when he went out to the entrance, another servant girl saw him, and she said to the bystanders, “This man was with Jesus of Nazareth.” And again he denied it with an oath: “I do not know the man.” After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter, “Certainly you too are one of them, for your accent betrays you.” Then he began to invoke a curse on himself and to swear, “I do not know the man.” And immediately the rooster crowed. And Peter remembered the saying of Jesus, “Before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times.” And he went out and wept bitterly.

When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people took counsel against Jesus to put Him to death. And they bound him and led Him away and delivered Him over to Pilate the governor. Then when Judas, His betrayer, saw that Jesus was condemned, he changed his mind and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders, saying, “I have sinned by betraying innocent blood.” They said, “What is that to us? See to it yourself.” And throwing down the pieces of silver into the temple, he departed, and he went and hanged himself. But the chief priests, taking the pieces of silver, said, “It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, since it is blood money.” So they took counsel and bought with them the potter's field as a burial place for strangers. Therefore that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken by the prophet Jeremiah, saying, “And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of him on whom a price had been set by some of the sons of Israel, and they gave them for the potter's field, as the LORD directed me.”

P: In many and various ways, God spoke to His people of old by the prophets.

C: But now in these last days, He has spoken to us by His Son.

Responses on Forgiveness:

P: "As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us." (Psalm 103:12)

C: "In Christ we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace." (Ephesians 1:7)

P: "If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." (I John 1:9)

C: "The LORD our God is merciful and forgiving, even though we have rebelled against Him." (Daniel 9:9)

P: “I, even I, am He who blots out your transgressions, for My own sake, and remembers your sins no more ...” (Isaiah 43:25)

C: “Come now, let us settle the matter,’ says the LORD. ‘Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool.’” (Isaiah 1:18)

P: "Who is a God like You, who pardons sin and forgives the transgression of the remnant of His inheritance? You do not stay angry forever but delight to show mercy.

C: You will again have compassion on us; You will tread our sins underfoot and hurl all our iniquities into the depths of the sea." (Micah 7:18-19)

P: "Then God adds: 'Their sins and lawless acts I will remember no more.'" (Hebrews 10:17)

C: "For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more." (Jeremiah 31:34)

P: "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." (Luke 23:34).

C: "When Jesus saw their faith, He said, 'Friend, your sins are forgiven.'" (Luke 5:20)

P: "Then I acknowledged my sin to You and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, 'I will confess my transgressions to the LORD ' And You forgave the guilt of my sin.'" (Psalm 32:5)

C: "He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world." (I John 2:2)

P: "Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the LORD your God, for He is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and He relents from sending calamity." (Joel 2:3)

C: "Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord. " (Acts 3:19)

Prayer on Forgiveness:

P: O God, You desire not the death of sinners, but rather that they turn from their wickedness and live. We implore You to have compassion on the frailty of our mortal nature, for we acknowledge that we are dust and to dust we shall return. Mercifully pardon our sins that we may obtain the promises You have laid up for those who are repentant; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Lord's Prayer:

Closing Prayer:

P:

C: Amen.

Blessing: (pastor)

C: Amen.

Closing Hymn: "On My Heart Imprint Your Image" - Hymn #422