

In View of God's Mercy

A Series of Services for the Season of Lent

Week 5: Mercy in Service

Order of Service

God is not unjust so as to overlook your work and the love that you have shown for his name in serving the saints, as you still do. Hebrews 6:10

Invocation and Call to Worship

P The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C Amen.

P Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.

C We serve in the Spirit of Christ.

P Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

C We serve in the Spirit of Christ.

P Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant.

C We serve in the Spirit of Christ.

P Whoever would be great among you must be your servant.

C We serve in the Spirit of Christ.

P Whoever would be first among you must be slave of all.

C We serve in the Spirit of Christ.

P For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

C Amen.

Hymn: O God of Mercy, God of Might *LSB #852*

O God of mercy, God of might, in love and pity infinite;
Teach us, as ever in thy sight, to live our lives in thee.

And thou, who cam'st on earth to die that our lost world might live thereby,
O hear us; for to thee we cry, in hope, O Lord, to thee.

Teach us the lesson thou hast taught: to feel for those thy blood hath bought;
That ev'ry word and deed and thought may work a work for thee.

All are redeemed, both far and wide, since thou, O Lord, for all hast died.
Grant us the will and grace provide to love them all in thee!

In sickness, sorrow, want or care, may we each other's burdens share.
May we, where help is needed, there give help as unto thee!

And may thy Holy Spirit move all those who live to live in love
Till thou shalt greet in heav'n above all those who live in thee.

Confession and Forgiveness

P The scriptures sum up God's law, his demands upon us, in these two commands: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength," and "Love your neighbor as yourself" (Mark 12:30-31). But these commands we fail to keep. Our love for God is far from full, and our love for others is incomplete. We seek to serve ourselves rather than to serve God and others. Thus we acknowledge our sin and seek God's mercy.

C God of love, you love us with a perfect love. But you also demand that we love you and others perfectly. This we have failed to do. We have not loved you with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. You would be perfectly just to punish us now and forevermore. For the sake of your Son, the Suffering Servant Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us our self-centered and self-serving ways. Lead us to serve you and those you have placed into our lives.

P We cry to you for mercy.

C Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

(Please silently reflect on the fact that though our sin is great, God's mercy is greater.)

P Hear the good news! God's Word declares that "the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many" (Mark 10:45). In the mercy of Almighty God, his Son Jesus was given to die for you. For Christ's sake God forgives you all your sins and gives you his righteousness, making you holy in his sight. His mercy endures forever because his love for you is steadfast.

C Amen.

Prayer of the Day

Old Testament Reading ... Micah 6:7-8

Epistle Reading ... Hebrews 6:9-12

Gospel Reading ... John 13:12-17

Hymn: *Oh, That The Lord Would Guide My Ways* LSB #707

Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways to keep his statutes still!
Oh, that my God would grant me grace to know and do his will!

Order my footsteps by thy Word and make my heart sincere;
Let sin have no dominion, Lord, but keep my conscience clear.

Assist my soul, too apt to stray, a stricter watch to keep;
And should I e'er forget thy way, restore thy wand'ring sheep.

Make me to walk in thy commands—'tis a delightful road—
Nor let my head or heart or hands offend against my God.

Sermon

Offering

Prayers

P Almighty and merciful God, we approach your throne of grace today as your servants.

C Lord, have mercy.

P You call us to serve you by serving others, so guide us to recognize those who you send to us to serve.

C Lord, have mercy.

P You call us to serve one another as you have served us, so empower us to follow the example of Jesus who washed feet.

C Lord, have mercy.

P Give us insight to perceive the needs of others and to respond by serving the cares of body and soul.

C Lord, have mercy.

P Give us humility to count others more important than ourselves and to attend to their interests above our own.

C Lord, have mercy.

P Give us compassion to see others in distress and then to aid and assist.

C Lord, have mercy.

P In view of your mercy, move us by your Spirit to give mercy to others and so extend your mercy in the world.

C Lord, have mercy.

P May your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

C Lord, grant me your grace both to will and to do what pleases you.

P All these things we pray in the name of Jesus, who came not to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for us all.

C Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Benediction

P May the merciful God, who is faithful to forgive your self-serving sin, direct you to serve others in his name and through his power, through Jesus Christ to whom be the glory forever.

C Amen.

Hymn: Take My Life And Let It Be *LSB #783*

Take my life and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee;
Take my moments and my days, let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of thy love;
Take my feet and let them be swift and beautiful for thee.

Take my voice and let me sing always, only for my King;
Take my lips and let them be filled with messages from thee.

Take my silver and my gold, not a mite would I withhold;
Take my intellect and use ev'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.

Take my will and make it thine, it shall be no longer mine;
Take my heart, it is thine own, it shall be thy royal throne.

Take my love, my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure store;
Take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for thee.