



April 6, 2022 - Sixth Midweek Lenten Service

In View of God's Mercy: A Series of Services for the Season of Lent

As We Gather: In our "In View of God's Mercy" series, we are looking at our lives through the lens of God's love toward us in the sacrifice of his Son, Jesus. In this service, we will see that we are called to serve in mercy the needs of those around us by Christ's own example. Jesus, after washing the disciple's feet, said: "I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you." John 13:15

Welcome

Invocation and Call to Worship

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

People: **Amen.**

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

People: **We serve in the Spirit of Christ.**

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

People: **We serve in the Spirit of Christ.**

Pastor: 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.

People: **We serve in the Spirit of Christ.**

Pastor: Whoever would be great among you must be your servant.

People: **We serve in the Spirit of Christ.**

Pastor: Whoever would be first among you must be slave of all.

People: **We serve in the Spirit of Christ.**

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

People: **Amen.**

Hymn: LSB 435 "Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain"

Confession and Forgiveness

Pastor: 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.

All: 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.

Pastor: We cry to you for mercy.

All: 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.)

Pastor: 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.

People: Amen.

Prayer of the Day

Pastor: Gracious Lord, as we continue our Lenten pilgrimage, we do so in view of your mercy. We thank you for sending Jesus to be the Suffering Servant who gave his life so that we might live eternally. In view of your mercy, remake us into willing servants who live to serve you and others. Sanctify us by your Spirit to humbly serve the needs of those around us as we follow the example of our Lord Jesus Christ. We pray these things in his holy name.

People: Amen.

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

Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousand rivers of olive oil? Shall I offer my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? ⁸ He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly^[a] with your God.

Epistle Reading ... Hebrews 6:9-12

⁹ Even though we speak like this, dear friends, we are convinced of better things in your case—the things that have to do with salvation. ¹⁰ God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them. ¹¹ We want each of you to show this same diligence to the very end, so that what you hope for may be fully realized. ¹² We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised.

Gospel Reading ... John 13:2-17

The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" Jesus replied, "You do not

realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand.” “No,” said Peter, “you shall never wash my feet.” Jesus answered, “Unless I wash you, you have no part with me.” “Then, Lord,” Simon Peter replied, “not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!” Jesus answered, “Those who have had a bath need only to wash their feet; their whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you.” For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean. When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. “Do you understand what I have done for you?” he asked them. “You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

Hymn: LSB 857 “Lord, Help Us Walk the Servant Way”

Sermon: John 13:2-17 “Mercy in Service”

Hymn: LSB 425 “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

Prayers

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

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

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

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

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

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

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

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

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

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

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

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

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

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

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

People: **Lord, grant me your grace both to will and to do what pleases you.**

Pastor: 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.

Pastor: **Amen.**

Lord’s Prayer

All: **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.**

Benediction

Pastor: 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.

People: **Amen.**

Hymn: LSB 783 "Take My Life and Let It Be"

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