

LENT

*in view of*

# GOD'S MERCY



ASH WEDNESDAY:  
*Mercy in Ashes*



WEEK ONE:  
*Mercy in Temptation*



WEEK TWO:  
*Mercy in Suffering*



WEEK THREE:  
*Mercy in Betrayal*



WEEK FOUR:  
*Mercy in Relationships*



WEEK FIVE:  
*Mercy in Service*

A SERIES OF SERVICES FOR LENT

**Welcome**

*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*

*(Please stand, as you are able)*

**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.**

## **Opening Hymn, “Make Me a Servant”**

Make me a servant, humble and meek,  
Lord, let me lift up, those who are weak.  
And may the prayer of my heart always be:  
Make me a servant, make me a servant,  
Make me a servant today.

**(Repeat all)**

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## **Confession and Absolution**

**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

**P** 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. **Amen** *(Please be seated)*

## Old Testament Reading, Micah 6:7-8

"Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?" He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

**L** This is the Word of the Lord    **C** **Thanks be to God**

## Epistle Reading, Hebrews 6:9-12

Though we speak in this way, yet in your case, beloved, we feel sure of better things—things that belong to salvation. For 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. And we desire each one of you to show the same earnestness to have the full assurance of hope until the end, so that you may not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord    **C** **Thanks be to God**

*(Please stand as you are able)*

## The Holy Gospel, John 13:12-17

When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, "Do you understand what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.

**L** This is the Gospel of the Lord    **C** **Praise to You, O Christ!**

*(Please be seated)*

## Sermon Song, LSB 707 Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways

1 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!

2 Order my footsteps by Thy Word  
And make my heart sincere;  
Let sin have no dominion, Lord,  
But keep my conscience clear.

3 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.

4 Make me to walk in Thy commands—  
'Tis a delightful road—  
Nor let my head or heart or hands  
Offend against my God.

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## Sermon

## Offering

## Prayers of the Church

**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**

**P** Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**C 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**

**P** May the merciful God, who is faithful to forgive the corruption of your sin, empower you to give constructive words to others and to forgive them as God has forgiven you, through Jesus Christ to whom be the glory forever.

**C Amen.**

## **Closing Song, LSB 783 Take My Life and Let It Be**

1 Take my life and let it be  
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee;  
Take my moments and my days,  
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.

3 Take my voice and let me sing  
Always, only for my King;  
Take my lips and let them be  
Filled with messages from Thee.

5 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.

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2 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.

4 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.

6 Take my love, my Lord, I pour  
At Thy feet its treasure store;  
Take myself, and I will be  
Ever, only, all for Thee.