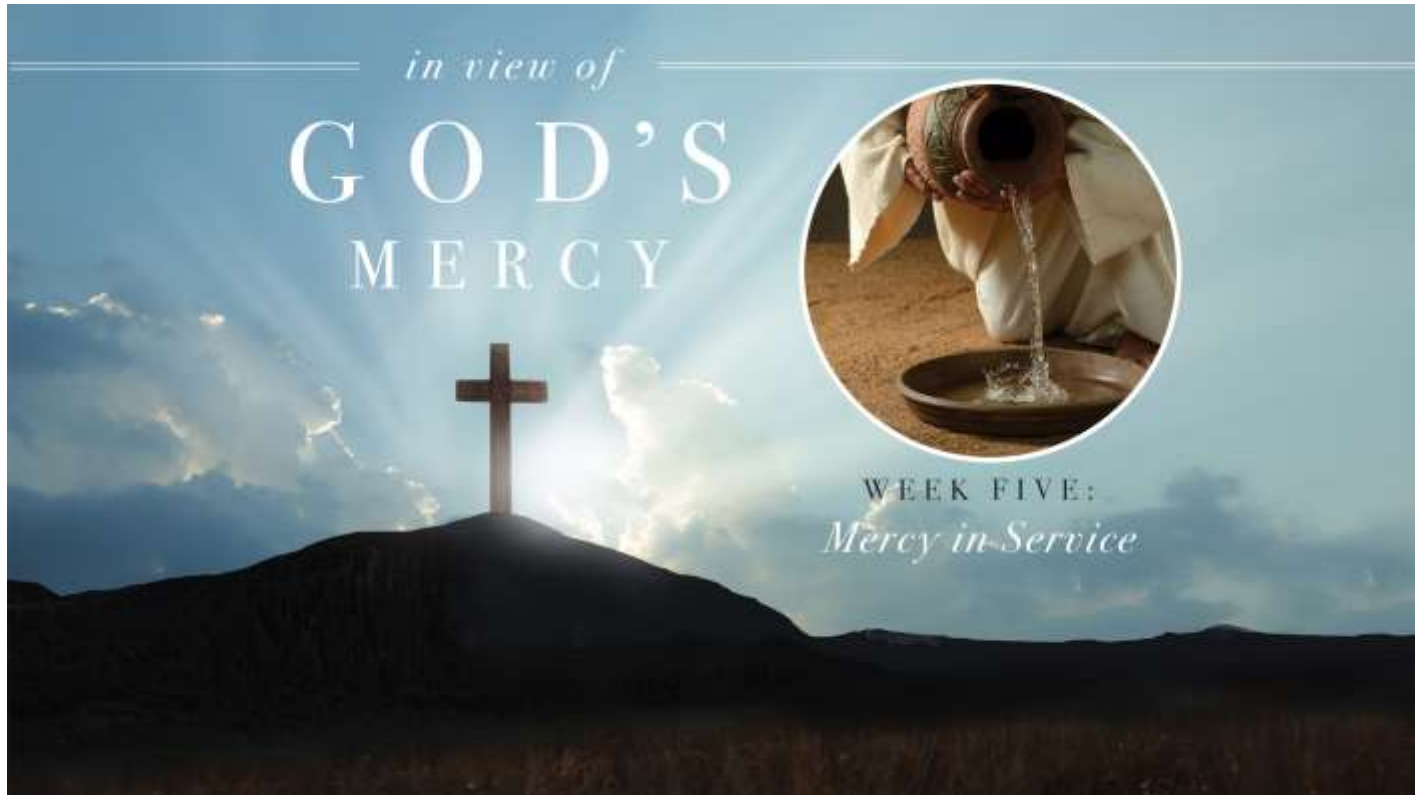


Lenten Midweek Service Series



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

Lord of Love Lutheran Church (ELCA)

10405 Fort St., Omaha, NE 68134

**Wednesday, March 29, 2023
7:00 p.m.**

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 your-selves.

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.

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

P Let us pray.

C 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.

Scripture Readings

Hebrews 6:9-12

P 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.

John 13:12-17

P 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.

Sermon

Hymn: “O God of Mercy, God of Light”

ELW #714 (v. 1-4)

****Prayers***

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

C Lord, have mercy.

L 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.

L 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.

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

C Lord, have mercy.

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

C Lord, have mercy.

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

C Lord, have mercy.

L 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.

L 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.

L 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***

L Let us pray together as Jesus taught us,

C Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

****Hymn: "Take My Life and Let It Be"***

ELW #583

****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.

****Dismissal***

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

**Offering plates are not being passed, but we are collecting special lenten offerings to help support the good work of Heartland Family Service and Lutheran Disaster Response. You can go to lord-of-love.org/giving and click on Lent/Easter, to give online, or place a cash or check in the offering plate at the back of the sanctuary.*