



March 29, 2023

LAKE OCONEE LUTHERAN CHURCH

A Stephen Ministry Congregation

*God writes His Word on our Lives, building us into a Family engaged
in Spirit-filled Service.*



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MERCY IN SERVICE

In this service for Lent in our In View of God's Mercy series, we look at our lives through the lens of God's love toward us in the sacrifice of his Son, Jesus. In this service, we recognize that we are called to serve in mercy the needs of those around us by Christ's example.

Opening Sentences

Pastor: The grace of our 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

“O God of Mercy, God of Might” Hymn 852



1 O God of mer - cy, God of might, In love and
2 And Thou, who cam'st on earth to die That our lost
3 Teach us the les - son Thou hast taught: To feel for
4 All are re - deemed, both far and wide, Since Thou, O



pit - y in - fi - nite, Teach us, as ev - er
world might live there - by, O hear us; for to
those Thy blood hath bought, That ev - 'ry word and
Lord, for all hast died. Grant us the will and



in Thy sight, To live our lives in Thee.
Thee we cry, In hope, O Lord, to Thee.
deed and thought May work a work for Thee.
grace pro - vide To love them all in Thee!

5 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!

6 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.

Text: Godfrey Thring, 1823–1903, alt.
Tune: Samuel Howard, 1710–82
Text and tune: Public domain

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.

People: **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.**

(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.**

The 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. Amen.

The First 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?

The New Testament 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.

The Gospel Reading

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.

Hymn "Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways" Hymn 707



1 Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways To keep His stat - utes still!
2 Or - der my foot - steps by Thy Word And make my heart sin - cere;
3 As - sist my soul, too apt to stray, A strict - er watch to keep;
4 Make me to walk in Thy com - mands—'Tis a de - light - ful road—



Oh, that my God would grant me grace To know and do His will!
Let sin have no do - min - ion, Lord, But keep my con - science clear.
And should I e'er for - get Thy way, Re - store Thy wan - d'ring sheep.
Nor let my head or heart or hands Of - fend a - gainst my God.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.
Tune: William H. Havergal, 1793–1870
Text and tune: Public domain

The Message

The 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 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.

People: Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

**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**

The Blessing

Pastor: Let us bless the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

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

“On My Heart Imprint Your Image” (422)



On my heart im - print Your im - age, Bless - ed Je - sus, King of grace,



That life's rich-es, cares, and plea-sures Nev - er may Your work e-raise;



Let the clear in - scrip-tion be: Je - sus, cru - ci - fied for me,



Is my life, my hope's foun - da - tion, And my glo - ry and sal - va - tion!

Text: Thomas Hansen Kingo, 1634–1703; tr. Peer O. Strømme, 1856–1921, alt.
Tune: Johann Balthasar König, 1691–1758
Text and tune: Public domain

Lenten Wednesday Services for this year:

Thursday, 4/6 Maundy Thursday Worship with Communion at 7pm

Friday, 4/7 Good Friday Worship at 7pm

Sunday 4/9 Easter Worship with Communion 10:30 am

Followed by Easter Fellowship