



Mercy forever.

Lenten Devotion Five

The Spirit Anointed Christ for Mercy – Lenten Worship Series

Lent was the time when candidates for Holy Baptism were intently preparing to be baptized at the Vigil of Easter. We, too, in this season of Lent prepare ourselves to remember our Baptism at Easter as we ritually “pass over” with Jesus from death to new life. During this Lenten season we remember Jesus’ Baptism, His anointing with the Holy Spirit, and His words in Luke 4: that He was anointed to show and to be mercy. As His people — hearing Him proclaim God’s Word and being God’s Word as Prophet; seeing Him sacrifice Himself on a cross and knowing that He intercedes for us as Priest; and knowing that we live under Him as King in righteousness and purity — we will be reminded of our work of mercy. (*Each service will present an opportunity to give of our treasures to the church’s corporate mercy work through LCMS World Relief and Human Care.*)

The Spirit Anointed Christ . . . to Recover the Sight of the Blind.

HYMN “O Son of God, in Galilee” [LSB 841]

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Christ Jesus reigns as King in wisdom and grace. He opens our eyes of faith as He opened the eyes of the blind.

People: He allows us to see His love and mercy. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT Lev. 19:1–15

[After the reading]

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Pastor: Rescue us from our blindness.

People: Let us see Your great salvation.

CONFESSION (*based on Ps. 146*) read together.

¹Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD, O my soul!

²While I live I will praise the LORD; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

³Do not put your trust in princes *nor* in a son of man, in whom *there is* no help.

⁴His spirit departs, he returns to his earth; In that very day his plans perish.

⁵Happy is *he* who *has* the God of Jacob for his help, Whose hope is in the LORD his God,

⁶Who made heaven and earth, The sea, and all that is in them; Who keeps truth forever,

⁷Who executes justice for the oppressed, Who gives food to the hungry. The LORD gives freedom to the prisoners.

⁸The LORD opens *the eyes of the blind*; The LORD raises those who are bowed down; The LORD loves the righteous.

⁹The LORD watches over the strangers; He relieves the fatherless and widow; But the way of the wicked He turns upside down.

¹⁰The LORD shall reign forever — Your God, O Zion, to all generations.

Pastor: In Psalm 146, the Spirit encourages us to cry out to God because He is our help and the only one who can save us. It is God who gives us all we need for life in this world and in the world to come. It is God who reigns forever, and all the earthly powers we look to help will fade away. With those thoughts in mind, together we humbly make our confession.

(Silence for reflection and personal confession)

Pastor: It is true, Father in heaven,

People: We are people who often look for political and social organizations to save and protect, to cure and to heal. These are good gifts of Your kingdom of power but You are still the creator and preserver.

Pastor: We sometimes have given more thought to the secular and passing than the heavenly and eternal,

People: and sometimes we are blind and deaf because we choose to walk in darkness; we choose not to listen to Your voice.

Pastor: We have not always cried out to You for help,

People: but we often complain to and about everyone else, and sometimes our complaint is that You have not done enough to cure us.

Pastor: Father in heaven, we have sinned against You and have acted foolishly.

People: Father in heaven, we have sinned against You and our neighbor. We stand before You in need of forgiveness. In our blindness, grant the light of Christ. Free us from our darkness.

Pastor: Forgive us for the sake of Jesus, the merciful anointed one.

People: Amen.

ABSOLUTION *(based on Luke 4)*

Pastor: Jesus said, “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised.” Because our merciful Lord was anointed for mercy as Prophet who preaches to and recovers sight for the blind, as Priest who is the ransom that brings light and life to the blindness of sin, as King whose Kingdom is light; because of the death and resurrection of Jesus the Christ and by His authority, I, as a called and

ordained minister of the Word, forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the +
Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

EPISTLE 2 Peter, Chapter 1

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL Matt. 9:27–31 and Luke 4:16–20

MESSAGE

HYMN “Amazing Grace” [LSB 744]

OFFERING

Special offerings designated for LCMS World Relief and Human Care’s Disability Ministries, especially ministry to the blind.

PRAYER

Pastor: Generous sight-giving Lord, You have blessed us richly with life and have provided all things needed to sustain it. You have freed us from the blindness of sin, the nearsightedness of the devil’s lies, and the darkness of death. Accept our gifts, and grant us humility to use our blessings wisely, honoring You and faithfully serving in Your kingdom. We pray in Your name, Lord Jesus, light of light.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Lord Jesus, we bring before You the foolishness and failures of our lives. When these keep us from honoring You,

People: Open the eyes of our hearts; deliver us from our blindness.

Pastor: When our own agendas lead us down wayward paths and where we, and our blind guides, fall into the ditch,

People: Open the eyes of our hearts; deliver us from our blindness.

Pastor: When self-centeredness takes control of our hearts and blinds us to the needs of others and Your call to lead merciful lives,

People: Open the eyes of our hearts; deliver us from our blindness.

Pastor: In Your wisdom, Lord Jesus Christ, guide our rulers in the way of justice and peace, even though they will all fade away. Bless the blind with doctors and those who can restore their vision. Give

them visitors and pastors who comfort in Your name. Open the eyes of those who cannot see if it be Your will, and if not, give us the hearts and the means to help them in their trials. Remember, O Lord, the faithful, who languish in prison and grant them the opportunity to see their native land again. In Your mercy, grant healing to those who are sick, comfort to those who grieve, and rest to those who are weary.

People: We pray all of this in Your name, Lord Jesus. Amen.

Pastor: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray.

LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor: The Lord Almighty — the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit — bless and preserve you.

People: Amen.

HYMN "Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness" [LSB 849]