

## Retreat for the Year of Mercy

*"Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful." Luke 6:36*

Opening Prayer: Psalm 136

Praise the LORD, for he is good; for his mercy endures forever;

2Praise the God of gods; for his mercy endures forever;

3Praise the Lord of lords; for his mercy endures forever;

4Who alone has done great wonders, for his mercy endures forever;

5Who skillfully made the heavens, for his mercy endures forever;

6Who spread the earth upon the waters, for his mercy endures forever;

7Who made the great lights, for his mercy endures forever;

8The sun to rule the day, for his mercy endures forever;

9The moon and stars to rule the night, for his mercy endures forever;

10Who struck down the firstborn of Egypt, for his mercy endures forever;

11And led Israel from their midst, for his mercy endures forever;

12With mighty hand and outstretched arm, for his mercy endures forever;

13Who split in two the Red Sea, for his mercy endures forever;

14And led Israel through its midst, for his mercy endures forever;

15But swept Pharaoh and his army into the Red Sea, for his mercy endures forever;

16Who led the people through the desert, for his mercy endures forever;

17Who struck down great kings, for his mercy endures forever;

18Slew powerful kings, for his mercy endures forever;

19Sihon, king of the Amorites, for his mercy endures forever;

20Og, king of Bashan, for his mercy endures forever;

21And made their lands a heritage, for his mercy endures forever;

22\*A heritage for Israel, his servant, for his mercy endures forever.

23The Lord remembered us in our low estate, for his mercy endures forever;

24Freed us from our foes, for his mercy endures forever;

25And gives bread to all flesh, for his mercy endures forever.

26Praise the God of heaven, for his mercy endures forever.

**Reflect:** How do I see God's mercy enduring forever?

**Lectio Divina Instructions:**

In a group setting, the passage is read three times by different people. It is often better to just listen to the reader, rather than reading along. After each reading the passage read the prompt for that reading and allow a time of silence (about a minute) for reflection. Then each person responds to the prompt.

**Luke 6: 27-36**

But to you who hear I say, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, 28bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. 29To the person who strikes you on one cheek, offer the other one as well, and from the person who takes your cloak, do not withhold even your tunic. 30Give to everyone who asks of you, and from the one who takes what is yours do not demand it back. 31Do to others as you would have them do to you. 32For if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. 33And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do the same. 34If you lend money to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit [is] that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, and get back the same amount. 35But rather, love your enemies and do good to them, and lend expecting nothing back; then your reward will be great and you will be children of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. 36Be merciful, just as [also] your Father is merciful.

First reading prompt: What word or passage touched your heart?

Second reading prompt: Where do you see or hear Christ in the text? Where does that word or passage touch your life today?

Third reading prompt: Where is Christ calling you forth in the text? What is he specifically calling you to be or do this week?

As you share your reflection, do not go into long explanations or give others feedback. If someone does not want to speak, they do not have to.

After all have spoken, go around one more time and pray for aloud the person to your right, if possible, use what they have said during this prayer time as part of your prayer.