

Willow Springs Retreat, Sunday Morning, February 25, 2024

9:30 am at Willow Springs.

Blessed are the merciful

Songs

Opening sentence

Blessed are the merciful,
for they will receive mercy.

Call to praise

*Praise God, the Abba bearing love;
Praise God, the Servant from above;
Praise God, the Paraclete we share:
O Triune God, receive our prayer.*

Lord, open our lips
and our mouths will proclaim your praise.
You are good to those who wait for you,
to all who seek you.

Glory ...

*Glory to the Father,
and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning,
is now,
and will be for ever. Amen.¹*

Psalm 86.1-8

Turn your ear, O LORD, and give answer
for I am poor and needy.
*Preserve my life, for I am faithful;
save the servant who trusts in you.*
You are my God, have mercy on me, Lord,
for I cry to you all the day long.
*Give joy to your servant, O Lord,
for to you I lift up my soul.*
O Lord, you are good and forgiving,
full of love to all who call.
*Give heed, O LORD, to my prayer
and attend to the sound of my voice.*

In the day of distress I will call
and surely you will reply.

Among the gods

*there is none like you, O Lord,
nor work to compare with yours.*

Thanksgiving

My heart is ready, O God;

I will sing your praise.

*Your steadfast love is higher than the heavens,
and your faithfulness reaches to the clouds.*

(free prayers of thanksgiving)

Be exalted, O God, above the heavens,
and let your glory shine over all the earth.
Amen.

Song/s

Children's Time — Beth Gerig

Call to discipleship

Jesus said, Let anyone with ears to hear listen.

*You shall love the Lord your God
with all your heart, and with all your soul,
and with all your strength,
and with all your mind;
and your neighbor as yourself.*

Do this, and you will live.

Lord Jesus, you have the words of eternal life.

Luke 6.32-38

“If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

“Do not judge, and you will not be judged;
do not condemn, and you will not be condemned.
Forgive, and you will be forgiven;
give, and it will be given to you. A good
measure, pressed down, shaken together, running
over, will be put into your lap; for the
measure you give will be the measure you get
back.”

Romans 12.9-16, (17-21)

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold
fast to what is good; love one another with
mutual affection; outdo one another in showing
honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in
spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be
patient in suffering, persevere in prayer.
Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend
hospitality to strangers.
Bless those who persecute you; bless and
do not curse them. Rejoice with those who
rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in
harmony with one another; do not be haughty,
but associate with the lowly; do not claim to
be wiser than you are.

Silence then spoken reflection on the readings.

Song/s

The Beatitudes

*Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.
Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst
for righteousness, for they will be filled.
Blessed are the merciful,
for they will receive mercy.
Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.
Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.
Blessed are those who are persecuted
for righteousness' sake,*

*for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are you when people revile you
and persecute you
and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely
on my account.
Rejoice and be glad,
for your reward is great in heaven,
for in the same way
they persecuted the prophets
who were before you.*
(Matthew 5.3-12, NRSV)

Call to intercession

Rejoice in the Lord always.

The Lord is near.

Do not worry about anything,
but in everything with thanksgiving
let your requests be made known to God.
God, rich in mercy, we bring our prayers
to you as acts of love for you and for our
neighbors.

In your mercy, Lord, hear our prayer.

You have mercy on all who cry to you. We
pray for **ourselves and those dear to us.**

(open prayers)

You bless the merciful;

they will receive mercy.

You reveal yourself to the pure in heart.
We pray for **our community and for our
neighbors.**

(open prayers)

You bless the merciful;

they will receive mercy.

We long to stand in your holy place. We pray
for **the church in all places**, that we may daily follow in the footsteps of Christ.

(open prayers)

You bless the merciful;

they will receive mercy.

You rule the earth in all its fullness. We pray
for **the world, for those in positions of power and authority.**

(open prayers)

You bless the merciful;
they will receive mercy.
We offer you **other concerns we carry in our hearts.**

(open prayers)

You bless the merciful;
they will receive mercy.
God whose justice shines like the sun,
you bless all who seek first
your kingdom and righteousness.
Fill our hearts
with the spirit of the Beatitudes,
that we may live this day
in simplicity, mercy, and joy.

Through Jesus,
who taught us to do so,
we pray for the coming of your reign:
Our Father ...

Announcements

Benediction

***By the tender mercy of our God,
the dawn from on high will break upon us
to give light to those who sit in darkness
and in the shadow of death,
to guide our feet into the way of peace. Amen.***