



Sunday, November 23, 2025
Compassion Sunday

Service Theme
COMPASSION SUNDAY

In his Word, our God describes himself as, “The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God” (Exodus 34:6). God views us with compassion. His heart goes out to us because he knows our desperate need for a Saviour. He met that need by sending his one and only Son. Not only is God compassionate to us, but he is also compassionate through us. He motivates and empowers us by his forgiving love to serve as his hands to care for our neighbours in need. What a joy it is to show compassion to others in his name!



Divine Word
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633 Speak, O Lord

CW 633



1 Speak, O Lord, as we come to you to re - ceive the food
 2 Teach us, Lord, full o - be - di - ence, ho - ly rev - er - ence,
 3 Speak, O Lord, and re - new our minds, help us grasp the heights



of your ho - ly Word; take your truth, plant it
 true hu - mil - i - ty; test our thoughts and our
 of your plans for us, truths un - changed from the



deep in us, shape and fash - ion us in your like - ness,
 at - ti - tudes in the ra - di - ance of your pu - ri - ty.
 down of time, that will ech - o down thro' e - ter - ni - ty.



that the light of Christ might be seen to - day in our acts of
 Cause our faith to rise, cause our eyes to see your ma - jes - tic
 And by grace we'll stand on your prom - is - es, and by faith we'll



love and our deeds of faith. Speak, O Lord, and ful -
 love and au - thor - i - ty. Words of pow'r that can
 walk as you walk with us. Speak, O Lord, till your



fill in us all your pur - pos - es for your glo - ry.
 nev - er fail, let their truth pre - vail o - ver un - be - lief.
 Church is built, and the earth is filled with your glo - ry.

Text: Keith Getty, b. 1974; Stuart Townend, b. 1963 Tune: Keith Getty, b. 1974; Stuart Townend, b. 1963

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INVOCATION

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

Amen.

LITANY OF COMPASSION

You, Lord, are a compassionate and gracious God,
slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness.

As a father has compassion on his children,
so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him.

The Lord is gracious and righteous;

Our God is full of compassion.

The Lord our God is merciful and forgiving,

even though we have rebelled against him.

Because of the LORD's great love, we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail.

They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

CONFESSION OF SINS

Trusting in the Lord's compassion and mercy, let us confess our sins to him.

Silence for personal confession.

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love;
according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions.

Wash away all my iniquity
and cleanse me from my sin.

Almighty and merciful Father,

we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts. We have offended you and sinned against your holy law. We have done those things that we should not have done, and we have not done those things that we should have done. Have mercy on us, Lord! Spare us, forgive us, and restore us, according to your promises in Christ Jesus.

God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by his death on the cross and freed us from death by his resurrection from the grave. We have peace with God now and forever.

Amen.

Let us praise our compassionate and forgiving God.



1 All glo - ry be to God on high, Who has our
2 We praise, we wor - ship you, we trust; We give you
3 O Je - sus Christ, the on - ly Son Of God, your
4 O Ho - ly Spir - it, pre - cious Gift, Our Com - fort -



race be - friend - ed! To us no harm shall
thanks for - ev - er, O Fa - ther, that your
heav'n - ly Fa - ther, You did for all our
er from heav - en, Our wea - ry hearts and



now come nigh; The strife at last is end - ed. The
rule is just And wise and chang - es nev - er. In
sins a - tone, And your lost sheep you gath - er. O
souls up - lift; For this our praise is giv - en. De -



Fa - ther's love, the Sav - ior's birth, Bring peace, good will, to
bound - less pow'r, with might - y reign, Done is what - ev - er
Lamb of God, to you on high From depths of woe we
liv - er us from doubt and fear; When Sa - tan trou - bles



all the earth; Oh, thank him for his good - ness!
you or - dain; Your rule brings count - less bless - ings!
sin - ners cry, Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus!
us, be near; We trust your love and pow - er.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Merciful Father, your Son came among us to serve, not to be served, and to give his life for the sins of the world. Lead us by his love to show compassion to those in need and to serve those to whom the world offers no comfort and little help. Through us give hope to the hopeless, love to the unloved, peace to the troubled and rest to the weary; through Jesus Christ, your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated.

FIRST READING

Acts 4:32-35

The early church responded to God's love by showing compassion to those in need.

³² All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had. ³³ With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all ³⁴ that there were no needy persons among them.

For from time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales³⁵ and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 103B



1 Praise, my soul, the King of heav - en; to his feet your
2 Praise him for his grace and fa - vor to his peo - ple
3 Fa - ther - like he tends and spares us; well our fee - ble
4 An - gels, help us to a - dore him; you be - hold him



trib - ute bring. Ran - somed, healed, re - stored, for - giv - en,
in dis - tress. Praise him, still the same as ev - er,
frame he knows. In his hand he gent - ly bears us,
face to face. Sun and moon, bow down be - fore him;



ev - er - more his prais - es sing; Al - le - lu - ia,
slow to chide, and swift to bless, Al - le - lu - ia,
res - cues us from all our foes; Al - le - lu - ia,
all who dwell in time and space, Al - le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia! praise the ev - er - last - ing King!
al - le - lu - ia! glo - rious in his faith - ful - ness!
al - le - lu - ia! wide - ly yet his mer - cy flows!
al - le - lu - ia! praise with us the God of grace!

SECOND READING

1 John 3:16-18

God's action love produces in us a love that acts for those in need.

¹⁶This is how we have come to know love: Jesus laid down his life for us. And we also should lay down our lives for our brothers. ¹⁷Whoever has worldly wealth and sees his brother in need but closes his heart against him—how can God's love remain in him? ¹⁸Dear children, let us love not only with word or with our tongue, but also in action and truth.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand.

GOSPEL

Mark 8:1-9

In compassion Jesus feeds thousands.

During those days another large crowd gathered. Since they had nothing to eat, Jesus called his disciples to him and said, ²“I have compassion for these people; they have already been with me three days and have nothing to eat. ³If I send them home hungry, they will collapse on the way, because some of them have come a long distance.” ⁴His disciples answered, “But where in this remote place can anyone get enough bread to feed them?” ⁵“How many loaves do you have?” Jesus asked. “Seven,” they replied. ⁶He told the crowd to sit down on the ground. When he had taken the seven loaves and given thanks, he broke them and gave them to his disciples to set before the people, and they did so. ⁷They had a few small fish as well; he gave thanks for them also and told the disciples to distribute them. ⁸The people ate and were satisfied. Afterward the disciples picked up seven basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. ⁹About four thousand men were present.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ.

Be seated.

767 Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us

CW 767



1 Lord of glo - ry, you have bought us with your
 2 Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to give you glad - ly,
 3 Won - drous hon - or you have giv - en to our
 4 Lord of glo - ry, you have bought us with your



life - blood as the price, nev - er grudg - ing for the
 free - ly, of your own. With the sun - shine of your
 hum - blest char - i - ty in your own mys - te - rious
 life - blood as the price, nev - er grudg - ing for the



lost ones that tre - men - dous sac - ri - fice;
 good - ness melt our thank - less hearts of stone
 sen - tence, "You have done it all for me."
 lost ones that tre - men - dous sac - ri - fice.



and with that have free - ly giv - en bless - ings
 till our cold and self - ish na - tures, warmed by
 Can it be, O gra - cious Mas - ter, that you
 Give us faith to trust you bold - ly, hope, to



count - less as the sand to th'un - thank - ful
 you, at length be - lieve that more hap - py
 need what we can do, say - ing by your
 stay our souls on you; but, oh, best of



and the e - vil with your own un - spar - ing hand.
 and more bless - ed 'tis to give than to re - ceive.
 poor and need - y, "Give as I have giv'n to you"?
 all your grac - es, with your love our love re - new.

SERMON TEXT AND THEME

1 Peter 2:12 – “Let Them See”

¹² Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

Stand.

APOSTLES CREED

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

**and is seated at the right hand of God the Father
Almighty.**

**From there he will come to judge the living and the
dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

With all our hearts and with all our minds, let us pray to the Lord.

Brief silence.

For the peace from above, for the loving-kindness of God, and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the holy Church of God, and for the unity of all peoples, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the leaders of our synod and for all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For our government, for the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For seasonable weather and for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the good earth that God has given us and for the wisdom and will to conserve it, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those who travel on land, on water, or in the air, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, and for the sick and the suffering, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, and for all who remember and care for them, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For deliverance from all danger, violence, oppression, and degradation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

That we may end our lives in faith and hope, without suffering and without reproach, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Special prayers and intercessions.

Defend us, deliver us, and in your compassion protect us, O Lord, by your grace.

Lord, have mercy.

OFFERATORY PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

We pray with confidence the prayer our Savior taught us:

**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.**

**Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.**

BLESSING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ + and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Amen.

Be seated.

930 Go, My Children, with My Blessing

CW 930



- 1 Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, nev - er a - lone.
- 2 Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.
- 3 Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, clos - er to me;
- 4 I the Lord will bless and keep you and give you peace;



Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you; you are my own.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
grow in love and love by serv - ing, joy - ful and free.
I the Lord will smile up - on you and give you peace;



In my love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for -
Here you heard my dear Son's sto - ry; here you touched him, saw his
Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you; here his ten - der com - fort
I the Lord will be your Fa - ther, Sav - ior, Com - fort - er, and



ev - er. Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, you are my own.
glo - ry. Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.
stilled you. Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, joy - ful and free.
Broth - er. Go, my chil - dren; I will keep you and give you peace.

Announcements

Church Cleaners

November 30 - Luke / December 7 - Timothy

DIVINE WORD'S TWO-WEEK CALENDAR

Su (23) 9:00 am Christian Aid and Relief Presentation
10:30 am Worship with Pastor Dan Sims
11:45 am *Coffee Hour*

Pastor Sullivan will be gone from Nov. 21 – Dec. 2

Su (30) 10:30 am Lay-led Worship (Advent 1)
11:45 am *Coffee Hour*

We (3) 9:30 am Communicating Christ (Adult)
5:15 pm Youth Confirmation (W)
7:00 pm New Communicating Christ (Adult)

Th (4) 10:30 am Devotion at Longfield Manor

Fr (5) 3:00 pm Online Women's Bible Study

Su (7) 9:00 am Sunday School / Bible Study
10:30 am Worship with Communion
11:45 am First Fellowship
3:00 pm Worship in Poltimore
4:00 pm Bible Class (Poltimore)