

# Turning toward God's Abundance – Compassion

## Greeting

The love of God poured into our hearts,  
the saving grace of Jesus Christ,  
and the abundant life of the Holy Spirit  
be with you all.

**And also with you.**

## Opening Prayer

O God, rich in mercy, full of kindness, out of your great love, you raise us up from sin and death and make us alive together with Christ. Write your word upon our hearts and restore in us the image of your love that, by your Spirit, our way of life may become the way of Christ, through whom we pray. **Amen.**

## Silence

## Word

### Week 3 – Compassion

Reading: “little prayer” by Danez Smith

let ruin end here

let him find honey  
where there was once a slaughter

let him enter the lion's cage  
& find a field of lilacs

let this be the healing  
& if not let it be

**Gospel: Luke 13:1-9** *The barren fig tree*

<sup>1</sup>At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. <sup>2</sup>He asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? <sup>3</sup>No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. <sup>4</sup>Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them — do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? <sup>5</sup>No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did."

<sup>6</sup>Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. <sup>7</sup>So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' <sup>8</sup>He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. <sup>9</sup>If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

*Silence for reflection follows the gospel reading.*

**Prayer**

In Christ Jesus we meet the God who knows our weakness and bears the wounds of the world.

Therefore, let us be bold as we pray,  
trusting that God draws near to those in any kind of need.

**Week 3 – Bidding prayer**

Siblings in Christ, let us pray for creation . . .

Let us pray for the nations, including our own . . .

Let us pray for the places we live, our communities and neighborhoods . . .

Let us pray for our enemies, for everyone with whom we are angry . . .

Let us pray for all who are suffering in mind, body, or spirit . . .

Let us pray for our loved ones, families, and friends . . .

Let us pray for our own needs and weaknesses . . .

All these prayers we offer to you, O God of boundless compassion, trusting you to care for what we have named aloud or in our hearts.

**Amen.**

**Concluding Prayer**

God of all compassion, gather our prayers in your mercy and grant to us what you know we need, that we may walk in the life and the peace of your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our hope and our salvation.

**Amen.**

## **Lord's Prayer**

**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.**

**Save us from the time of trial**

**and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,**

**and the glory are yours,**

**now and forever. Amen.**

## **Blessing**

Christ Jesus dwell in our hearts through faith,

as we are being rooted and grounded in love,

strengthened by the Spirit,

and filled with all the fullness of God.

**Amen.**

From [sundaysandseasons.com](http://sundaysandseasons.com).

Copyright © 2022 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.