



Episode 24: Perfect Mercy

But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions – it is by grace you have been saved.

{ Ephesians 2:4-5 }

NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION

I love this second weekend of Eastertide because you know it's the octave of Easter. I love this idea of octave in the prayer of the church because as a musician it resonates with me as a concept. There's the note and the octave of the note. It's the same note but higher and there's something about Easter that resonates at a higher frequency still and it's beautiful.

Today is Divine Mercy Sunday and all of Easter celebrates the divine mercy that's poured out in the life death and resurrection of Jesus. In the Exsultet, the Easter proclamation, there is a reference to necessary sin. I don't think God caused sin or designed sin into us, we have free will. But if not for sin, we would not have needed the glorious Redeemer, that is Jesus, and the sacrifice of the cross for our redemption. Because of God's mercy, then, we have a new birth and a Living Hope.

Mercy is the very heart of our faith, God's perfect inexhaustible mercy, mercy that we are graced to receive, and a mercy that we are called also to show others. "Jesus Christ is the face of the father's mercy," is a line from the pope Francis's lovely exhortation that he wrote for the year of mercy.

In this time of uncertainty, struggle and social distancing, we're getting really amazing glimpses of God's mercy. I am NOT suggesting for a minute that that God sent the coronavirus. But, I do believe when these necessary afflictions of life come upon us, because life is imperfect, in these moments we can glimpse God's mercy, his faithfulness and his presence with us in ways that we're sometimes blind to when things are going well. My prayer is as these days and weeks continue to unfold that this divine mercy will continue to be revealed in the midst of all that we endure.

Father you call us
With a love that is steadfast
And mercy tender mercy
You hear the sinner's confession
With a heart of compassion
And draw us into your embrace

Father transform us
Take our lives Lord and use us
For mercy for your mercy
Give us eyes of compassion
For the lost and broken
Help us lead them back to your embrace

Father you are merciful
Forever you are merciful
Only by your Grace
Can we gaze upon the face of your mercy

Teach us to be merciful
As Father you are merciful
Lead us by your Grace
So that we may be the face of your mercy

Your love comes to meet us
Poured out in Jesus
Such mercy perfect mercy
Lamb of God our redemption
In the plan of Salvation
You paid the price we could not pay

The Face of Your Mercy
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How have you seen the face of the Father's mercy through
Jesus during this time?