

First Reader: **A READING FROM ISAIAH**

The LORD God has given me
the tongue of a teacher,
that I may know how to sustain
the weary with a word.

Morning by morning he wakens—
wakens my ear
to listen as those who are taught.

The LORD God has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious,
I did not turn backward.

I gave my back to those who struck me,
and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;
I did not hide my face
from insult and spitting.

The LORD God helps me;
therefore I have not been disgraced;
therefore I have set my face like flint,
and I know that I shall not be put to shame;
he who vindicates me is near.

Who will contend with me?
Let us stand up together.

Who are my adversaries?
Let them confront me.

It is the LORD God who helps me;
who will declare me guilty?

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Leader: **Responding by whole verse:**

- 9 Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I am in trouble;
my eye is consumed with sorrow,
and also my throat and my belly.
- 10 For my life is wasted with grief,
and my years with sighing;
my strength fails me because of affliction,
and my bones are consumed.**
- 11 I have become a reproach to all my enemies
and even to my neighbors,
a dismay to those of my acquaintance;
when they see me in the street they avoid me.
- 12 I am forgotten like a dead man, out of mind;
I am as useless as a broken pot.**
- 13 For I have heard the whispering of the crowd;
fear is all around;
they put their heads together against me;
they plot to take my life.
- 14 But as for me, I have trusted in you, O LORD.
I have said, "You are my God.**
- 15 My times are in your hand;
rescue me from the hand of my enemies,
and from those who persecute me.
- 16 Make your face to shine upon your servant,
and in your loving-kindness save me."**

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,
but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form,
he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name
that is above every name,
so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Leader:

Beloved in Christ: As we are wholly dependent upon God's tender love and mercy, let us cry out to our Lord, saying, "Look upon us in mercy; and with compassion remember us."

Have mercy on your Church, O Holy One, for the times we have denied you. We have not been humble as you are humble. We are too often quick to speak and slow to love. *Silence.*

Look upon us in mercy; **and with compassion remember us.**

Have mercy on those who hold authority in the nations of the world, O Lord, especially those who are threatened by your message of love and mercy. Forgive us our silence and complicity.

Look upon us in mercy; **and with compassion remember us.**

Have mercy on those of us who are called to be stewards of your creation, O God. We have exploited and mistreated your masterpiece. Teach us to love what you have called good.

Look upon us in mercy; **and with compassion remember us.**

Have mercy on our enemies, Holy One, and on those who persecute us. Teach us the Love of Jesus, who from the cross prayed, "Father forgive them."

Look upon us in mercy; **and with compassion remember us.**

Have mercy on all who are sick and suffering, O Lord. Strengthen the afflicted. Comfort and care for those wasted with grief. Make your face to shine upon your servants.

Look upon us in mercy; **and with compassion remember us.**

Merciful Jesus, you became obedient unto death, even death upon a cross. Even as you have shared our mortality, mercifully grant us to share in your resurrection.

Look upon us in mercy; **and with compassion remember us.**

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.