

## Looking for Mercy

*As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their masters, and the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress, so our eyes look to the Lord our God, until he show us his mercy.” -Psalm 123:2-3*

Psalm 123 is appointed for this Friday of the second last week of the church year in the Semi-Continuous Series of the Daily Lectionary published with Evangelical Lutheran Worship.

Are you looking for mercy? I am. Mercy from the weather, or at least when I get stuck in the snow barrier at the end of my street. I can't do anything about the weather, but I can do something for my neighbour when he gets stuck in the snow barrier at the end of the street.

I was just starting to shake my head at a young man's plight. He had tried to muscle through a snow plow embankment with his 4X4 and got stuck. Then I remembered the time I had cut off road with my 4X4 and missed the approach, sliding into a snow drift and needing help from a passerby... Blessed are the merciful, for they shall be shown mercy.

Thank you to the three angels of mercy who got us unstuck at the corner of 24<sup>th</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> on Monday...

Many are looking for mercy from the pandemic too. Its not easy to contemplate lockdowns over Christmas, and some are thinking they would rather risk the statistical odds (and social costs) of "herd immunity." The little virus has no eyes and does not see our longing for mercy: but there is another to whom we can turn, who asks only that we see his own face in all who suffer.

I was just starting to feel frustrated with the medical officer who was talking on CBC about who should get the first doses when the COVID-vaccine is available. The mantra had been, "we need research before we can decide," until the interviewer cut to the chase. "But who do you think should get it first?" Maybe that's the secular way that Jesus asks his secular followers "but who do you say that I am?" She replied: "The most vulnerable, the elderly, and health care workers administering the vaccine." I hope the people who form public policy were listening. Many eyes are looking to them for mercy....

Thank you to the front line health care workers who will volunteer for that task. I know you would give your vaccine to the grandmother raising her grandchildren on social assistance. Blessed are the merciful, for you shall receive mercy....

Mercy is a bright light shining in a dark place right now. May we be a church of mercy.

Lord our creator and redeemer, we look to you for all that we need. Look with mercy upon us, your servants, that we may look with mercy on our world. In Jesus' name, Amen