

Date following
the church year

Bible verse
taken from
Scripture
reading

Scripture reading
and Psalm

THURSDAY, JANUARY 7

Read Matthew 5:7 Psalm 119:49-56

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.
Matthew 5:7

Devotion
title 1-5
words in
length

Mercy

Devotion
245-250
words
including
verse and
prayer

Mercy is a special form of love. It sees someone in misery and feels compelled to step forward and do something about it—even if the suffering is a result of that person's own sinful actions.

That same mercy moved God to send His Son to save us. It was also the driving force behind Jesus' earthly life. He came across highly contagious lepers, and His pity moved Him to reach out to touch and heal them. He passed a widow whose only son was being carried out to be buried. Filled with mercy, He reached out, touched the bier, and restored the son to life.

He saw all of us in our spiritual poverty, with eternal damnation hanging over our heads. In great mercy, He took our sin and guilt upon Himself and suffered God's wrath in our place, that we might be forgiven and inherit eternal life.

Since we have been forgiven all our sins, we look differently at others we see suffering—even if they brought it on themselves. Knowing God's forgiveness, we hurry to share His mercy with them. We assure them of God's forgiveness and befriend them as Christ forgave and befriended us.

*Heavenly Father, remind me of Your great mercy in Jesus Christ, that I might show mercy to those around me. In Jesus' name.
Amen.*

A brief
sentence prayer