

GOD SPEAKS HIS WORD

FIRST READING



Daniel 9:4-10

41 I prayed to the LORD, my God, and confessed, "Ah, Lord, great and awesome God, you who keep your merciful covenant toward those who love you and observe your commandments!

⁴We have sinned, been wicked and done evil; we have rebelled and departed from your commandments and your laws. ⁵We have not obeyed your servants the prophets, who spoke in your name to our kings, our princes, our fathers, and all the people of the land. ⁷Justice, O Lord, is on your side; we are

shamefaced even to this day: the men of Judah, the residents of Jerusalem, and all Israel, near and far, in all the countries to which you have scattered them because of their treachery toward you. ⁸O LORD, we are shamefaced, like our kings, our princes, and our fathers, for having sinned against you. ⁹But yours, O Lord, our God, are compassion and forgiveness! Yet we rebelled against you ¹⁰and paid no heed to your command, O LORD, our God, to live by the law you gave us through your servants the prophets.

PSALM



Psalm 79:8-9.11.13

⁹Do not hold past iniquities against us; may your compassion come quickly, for we have been brought very low. ¹⁰Help us, God our savior, for the glory of your name. Deliver us, pardon our sins for your name's sake. ¹¹Let the groans of prisoners come before you; by your great power free those doomed to death. ¹²Then we, your people, the sheep of your pasture, will give thanks to you forever; through all ages we will declare your praise.

GOSPEL



Luke 6:36-38

³⁶Be merciful, just as (also) your Father is merciful. ³⁷Stop judging and you will not be judged. Stop condemning and you will not be condemned. Forgive and you will be forgiven. ³⁸Give and gifts will be given to you; a good measure, packed together, shaken down, and overflowing, will be poured into your lap. For the measure with which you measure will in return be measured out to you."

Vestment Color: Violet

GOSPEL REFLECTION

AS WE FORGIVE. There is an impression that we who are employed in a Christian organization always embody good work ethics and values. Most would think that this type of working environment is where one experiences life-changing work that genuinely impacts upon people.

While all of these could be true, we are not exempted from the daily pressures of work--nor from gossiping, factions, favoritism, etc. When conflicts arise, we also criticize and judge each other, aggravating the situation and making it hard to work productively. Forgiving would be the last thing on our to-do-list. After all, we are human and still very flawed.

Thanks to the Lord, Who gives us the chance to find joy and happiness in forgiving, we are spared from a doomed life estranged from those we work with and are dearest to us. He constantly teaches us to express forgiveness. From Him Who always forgives us, we learn to also forgive.

When we fail to forgive and show mercy, then we ourselves will not experience forgiveness and mercy. When we learn to forgive, we receive the gift of mercy, love, peace, joy and forgiveness in good measure, packed together, shaken down and overflowing. In God's way, we receive through our giving.

What should we do to be more merciful like Jesus?

PERSONAL RESPONSE

[illegible]