

1. Read Luke 6:36. Why is a denial of mercy “a denial of who God is in Christ, a denial of the Holy Trinity?”
 - **(Luke 6:36)** Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.

2. How have Lutherans in Kenya expressed the mercy of Christ to victims of HIV/AIDS?

3. How has God revealed His mercy to us according to the following texts?
 - **(Hebrews 1:1-3)** Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, ²but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. ³He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power.

 - **(Ephesians 1:3-9)** Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love ⁵he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. ⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, ⁸which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight ⁹making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ.

 - **(1 Corinthians 2:2)** For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.

 - **(2 Corinthians 5:19-21)** In Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

4. Wilhelm Loehe writes: “Because [Christ’s] love and His Father’s and the Spirit’s love can only be mercy, so our love for the brothers and all men should include nothing but mercy.” How does this insight shape the Church’s practice?

5. How does God show His mercy to us in Baptism?

- **(Titus 3:5-6)** He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior.
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- **(Matthew 3:15)** But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.”
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- **(Mark 1:10)** And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove.
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6. Why is the doctrine of the Trinity the only alternative to agnosticism?

7. How does each person of the Holy Trinity manifest divine mercy?

- **(Mark 6:34)** When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. And he began to teach them many things.
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- **(Luke 23:34)** And Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.”
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- **(Philippians 2:1-2)** So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, ² complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.
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8. Reflecting on the words of Dietrich Bonhoeffer cited in note 16 on p. 37, how do you think Christians show mercy to the needy, the orphaned, and the suffering?

9. How does the mercy of the triune God flow through us to others?
