

## Reflecting on Last Week's Question



What is something in the world - or in your life - that you wish could be made right?

*a few responses shared at our weekly community dinner with our apartment residents:*

help people connect to the resources that are out there

Violence in the world

fix the hurts I've caused

a place to stay for everyone in our community

end war

stop the hatred we see

help people understand that everything they see is not truth

put an end to social injustices

help people truly listen

help people recognize their struggles more easily

go back in time to live differently than I did

build a better transportation system

no violence against children

## Join Us for Holy Week

**Holy Thursday, April 2 at 10:30 A.M.**

Service of Prayer, Communion, and Simple Foot Clinic

**Good Friday, April 3 at 10:30 A.M.**

Leaf Making for our Memorial Trees

**Easter Sunday, April 5 at 7:00 A.M.**

Annual Easter Sunrise Service



## Where Brokenness Meets Blessing

LENT WITH THE ROOM IN THE INN COMMUNITY

# Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

MATTHEW 5:7



*A work in progress by Bill B., Room In The Inn Artist*

*The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,  
his mercies never come to an end;  
they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.  
"The Lord is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him."*

Lamentations 3:22-24

MARCH 18, 2026 | WEEK FIVE

# More Than Our Worst Day

Every day, Room In The Inn staff members sit down with individuals to discuss how to take steps toward finding permanent housing. This process is often one of overcoming barrier after barrier. Sometimes these barriers are related to gathering documentation, having the right income, or saving up for a deposit. The most difficult often require confronting things that have happened in the past, often many years ago, and still stand in the way of having a safe, dignified place to live.

Prior evictions, poor credit, past criminal records, and other legal barriers often prevent people from being accepted as tenants, regardless of the hard work they may be doing to turn their life around.

Homelessness is a symptom of an un-merciful society. We treat housing as a commodity for the deserving, rather than a human right to be enjoyed by all. It is seen as a vehicle for wealth and investment rather than a basic means for people to find safety and stability.

We hope that Room In The Inn is a place where mercy can break through. None of us deserves to be judged solely by our worst day. There are times in life when accountability helps us move forward or brings justice. There are also moments for second (and third, and fourth, and fifth...) chances.

Mercy does not erase the past, but it refuses to let the past have the final word. It looks at a person not only for who they have been, but for who they might still become.

Each time a landlord takes a chance on someone, when a community offers support instead of suspicion, every time someone is welcomed back after failure, mercy begins to reshape the world. Barriers that seemed insurmountable give way to possibility.

Perhaps mercy begins with the belief that every person deserves a chance to begin again, and that a loving community can help make that beginning possible.



## Question of the Week

**Is there a time when someone gave you a second chance that made a difference in your life?**

## Putting Love In Action

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus instructs his listeners, before they bring gifts to God, to make sure they have reconciled with other people (Matt. 5:23).

**Is there someone in your life to whom you need to offer mercy?** Maybe this is the time to get out of your comfort zone and reach out.

Mercy often begins with a small but courageous step. You might consider:

- Making the phone call you've been putting off
- Writing a note or letter to express care or reconciliation
- Invite them to sit by you in church
- Extending an invitation – to coffee, conversation or even something meaningful like the Room In The Inn Easter Sunrise Service.

If you're not ready for steps like these, say a prayer for them, write a letter to them that you keep to yourself, or simply hold them in your thoughts with compassion rather than frustration.

Remember, the person who needs your mercy the most could be you.

**To forgive is to set a prisoner free and discover that the prisoner was you.**

LOUIS B. SMEDES

