God is Gracious

Exodus 34:6-7

The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness. 7 keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin.

We live in a sin-filled world. Therefore, there is not much graciousness found here on earth. With the advent of mass media almost any one can connect with some outlet and express their opinion. Others often describe these utterances to include words like "blast" and "slam." There are many love songs but murder and wars fill the headlines. Many individuals and nations live the motto of revenge found in Deuteronomy 19:21 which says: "It shall be life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot." Their golden rule is "Do unto others before they do it to you."

Jesus turns the tables on the thinking expressed in the above paragraph when He addresses the issue in His Sermon the Mount in the words of Matthew 5:38-42: [38] "You have heard that it was said, 'Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.' [39] But I tell you, Do not resist an evil person. If someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. [40] And if someone wants to sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. [41] If someone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. [42] Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you."

Because of our sins we deserved neither goodness nor mercy from God, but only wrath and punishment. Yet without our merit or worthiness God loves us (John 3:16) and bestows upon us temporal and eternal blessings. The consciousness of our guilt and unworthiness should not keep us from trusting in His grace. Just as we are, we may come to Him, and for Christ's sake He will prove Himself to be our good and gracious Father in heaven.

Prayer: Merciful Lord, I confess my sin and plead for future generations. Grant me forgiveness; make me Your heir for Jesus' sake. Amen. (TLSB)