

Formation Sunday, September 14, 2014 (Proper 19)

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HWB - *Hymnal Worship Book*, SJ - *Sing the Journey*, SS - *Sing the Story**

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Can We Learn Grace and Compassion?

Psalm 103: 1-13

Gathering/Call to Worship

Leader: Bless the LORD, O my soul, and do not forget all his benefits.

People: The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

Leader: For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him.

People: As a father has compassion for his children, so the LORD has compassion for those who fear him.

Leader: Come, give thanks and worship this great God.

Confessing/Reconciling

Merciful, gracious and loving God, we confess our frequent lack of mercy, grace and love. Forgive our hard heartedness and increase our capacities for thankfulness and compassion. Help us to learn how to live well from you and to become channels of your gracious compassion and forgiveness. Open our eyes to your good dream for human welfare. AMEN.

Dedication Prayer

Leader: God of all goodness, as we enter another year of learning in our congregations, church schools, and public schools, we ask you to infuse us with your grace.

People: Whether we are teachers or learners help us to be merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

Leader: Bless those who teach by overwhelming them with your grace and compassion.

Bless those who learn by inspiring them to see you at work through your servants.

People: Bless all places of learning so they become places that give glory to you by enabling learners to follow your dream and live your way. Amen.

* Song book abbreviations match those used for corresponding worship resources in *Leader Magazine*