

# Blessed are the merciful

## Psalm 145 (146)

Martin Foster

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of two systems. The first system has a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line has the lyrics: "Bless - ed are the mer - ci - ful for \_\_\_ they shall re - ceive \_\_\_ mer - cy." The piano accompaniment has a right hand with a melody and a left hand with a bass line. The second system continues the piano accompaniment with a different melody in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. Chord symbols are provided above the piano parts.

Chord symbols for the first system: D, Bm, Em, A, Bm, Em, A, D.

Chord symbols for the second system: D, A/C#, Em/A, Em/G, Bm, A/C#, Em7, D, Bm, C, Em.

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,  
who is just to those who are oppressed.  
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,  
the Lord, who sets prisoners free,
2. It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,  
who raises up those who are bowed down,  
the Lord, who protects the stranger  
and upholds the widow and orphan.
3. It is the Lord who loves the just  
but thwarts the path of the wicked.  
The Lord will reign for ever,  
Zion's God, from age to age.

### Psalm 145 (146): 7-10. R. Matthew 5:7

- cf. 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

Another psalm, in an even more explicit way, attests to the concrete signs of his mercy: "He secures justice for the oppressed; he gives food to the hungry. The Lord sets the prisoners free; the Lord opens the eyes of the blind. The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous. The Lord watches over the sojourners, he upholds the widow and the fatherless; but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin" (Ps 145:7-9). In short, the mercy of God is not an abstract idea, but a concrete reality through which he reveals his love as that of a father or a mother, moved to the very depths out of love for their child. It is hardly an exaggeration to say that this is a "visceral" love. It gushes forth from the depths naturally, full of tenderness and compassion, indulgence and mercy. [MV6]

The response taken from the Beatitudes is based on the use of this psalm with the response 'How happy are the poor in spirit...'

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