



Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

Connecting with God; Connecting with Others; Connecting others with God

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Devotionals from Pastor Sell

Tuesday, April 13

I sat in Zion's narthex between services on Palm Sunday and watched the rain as it gently fell on a branch of andromeda near the front door. The small white flowers danced in response to the rain drops, then just as gently let the rain drops fall to the ground. I couldn't help but recall Shakespeare's words from *The Merchant of Venice*:

“The quality of mercy is not strained.
It droppeth as the gentle rain from heaven
Upon the place beneath. It is twice blest:
It blesseth him that gives and him that takes.”

Mercy is such an important concept for the Christian life. Mercy embodies the idea that we are all sinners in need of mercy from God and from our fellow brothers and sisters. Mercy given like the gentle rain of God. Mercy that blesses both the giver and the receiver.