

Life Week 2026 Devotion - Day 7

Slowed-Down Service by Deaconess Rose Adle



***“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another:
just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.
By this all people will know that you are my disciples,
if you have love for one another” (John 13:34-35).***

Have you heard the line, “Speedy service with a smile”? It’s exactly what we want when we’re waiting for a hamburger. We want someone to serve us, quickly. Outside the fast-food scene, we’re still in customer mode. Too often, we’re pushing in line to serve ourselves, thinking we are always right.

Operating on our own love-of-self schedule, we shift swiftly from one personal agenda to another. In this human hurry, we miss the love of Christ urging us to live for others. In the rite for individual confession and absolution (LSB pp. 292-293), the penitent puts this plainly: “I have lived as if God did not matter and as if I mattered most ... I have not let His love have its way with me, and so my love for others has faltered.” This is deeply convicting.

These words of confession don’t aim to keep us stuck inside our sinful self but rather move us into a reception of absolution and pardon. Full forgiveness carries us out of self-absorption into the grace of God. From there, we are propelled into a different mode that sees the neighbor’s need as something that matters.

The love of Christ doesn’t encourage us to rush through life for our own benefit, flying from one taste of personal gratification to the next. In Christ, we are not in “I matter most” mode. Rather, we live day to day in a cruciform, cross-like pattern. There’s real joy in the fact that Jesus loves us and forgives our sins. There’s real gladness in loving one another with slowed-down service. We’re made for this! And that’s where the smile comes in.

Heavenly Father, who sent Your Son to live and die for us, slow us on our self-serving path that we might be moved by Jesus’ love to live for others. In His name we pray, Amen.



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