

In View of God's Mercy

A Series of Services for the Season of Lent

Week 4: Mercy in Relationships

Order of Service

*Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.
Ephesians 4:32*

Invocation and Call to Worship

P The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C Amen.

P Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another.

C We are united in Christ.

P Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.

C We are united in Christ.

P Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

C We are united in Christ.

P Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity!

C We are united in Christ.

P It is like the precious oil on the head, running down on the beard, on the beard of Aaron.

C We are united in Christ.

P It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion.

C We are united in Christ.

P For there the Lord has commanded the blessing, life forevermore.

C Amen.

Hymn: *Jesus, Refuge of the Weary* *LSB #423*

Jesus, refuge of the weary, blest Redeemer, whom we love,
Fountain in life's desert dreary, Savior from the world above:
Often have your eyes, offended, gazed upon the sinner's fall;
Yet upon the cross extended, you have borne the pain of all.

Do we pass that cross unheeding, breathing no repentant vow,
Though we see you wounded, bleeding, see your thorn-encircled brow?
Yet your sinless death has brought us life eternal, peace and rest:
Only what your grace has taught us calms the sinner's deep distress.

Jesus, may our hearts be burning with more fervent love for you;
May our eyes be ever turning to behold your cross anew
'Til in glory, parted never from the blessed Savior's side,
Graven in our hearts forever, dwell the cross, the Crucified.

Confession and Forgiveness

P "Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice" (Ephesians 4:31). We confess to God that we have often been bitter towards others, expressed sinful anger to them, clamored against them and have engaged in slander and malice. We have refused to forgive and have pursued revenge rather than reconciliation.

C Holy God, we confess that we have not loved others as you have loved us. We have sinned against them, and in so doing we have sinned against you. We have not kept our tongues from evil but have slandered others. We have not sought peace but have pursued sinful revenge. Forgive our transgressions. Bring reconciliation and restoration to our relationship with you and our relationships with others.

P We cry to you for mercy.

C Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

(Please silently reflect on the fact that though our sin is great, God's mercy is greater.)

P Hear the good news! God's Word declares that "God in Christ forgave you" (Ephesians 4:32). In the mercy of Almighty God, his Son Jesus was given to die for you to remove the guilt of your sin. For Christ's sake God forgives you all your sins and gives you his righteousness, making you holy in his sight. His mercy endures forever because his love for you is steadfast.

C Amen.

Prayer of the Day

Old Testament Reading ... Genesis 45:1-15

Epistle Readings ... Ephesians 4:25-32

Gospel Reading ... John 13:34-35

Hymn: *Son of God, Eternal Savior* *LSB #842*

Son of God, eternal Savior, Source of life and truth and grace,
Word made flesh, whose birth among us hallows all our human race,
You our Head, who, throned in glory, for your own will ever plead:
Fill us with your love and pity, heal our wrongs and help our need.

As you, Lord, have lived for others, so may we for others live.
Freely have your gifts been granted; freely may your servants give.
Yours the gold and yours the silver, yours the wealth of land and sea;
We but stewards of your bounty held in solemn trust will be.

Come, O Christ, and reign among us, King of love and Prince of Peace;
Hush the storm of strife and passion, bid its cruel discords cease.
By your patient years of toiling, by your silent hours of pain,
Quench our fevered thirst of pleasure, stem our selfish greed of gain.

Son of God, eternal Savior, Source of life and truth and grace,
Word made flesh, whose birth among us hallows all our human race:
By your praying, by your willing that your people should be one,
Grant, O grant our hope's fruition: Here on earth your will be done.

Sermon

Offering

Prayers

P Almighty and merciful God, we approach your throne of grace today with broken relationships.

C Lord, have mercy.

P When we have alienated ourselves from others due to corrupting talk, put words in our mouths that foster reconciliation.

C Lord, have mercy.

P When we have alienated ourselves from others due to falsehood, help us to speak the truth in love with our neighbor.

C Lord, have mercy.

P When we have alienated ourselves from others due to bitterness and anger, renew a right spirit within us to work toward peace.

C Lord, have mercy.

P When we have alienated ourselves from others due to a refusal to forgive, soften our hearts so that we may forgive as you have forgiven us.

C Lord, have mercy.

P We praise you that while we were yet sinners, you still loved us and sent Christ to die for us, reconciling us to you.

C Lord, have mercy.

P In view of your mercy, lead us by your Spirit so that we will build one another up by extending your grace to others.

C Lord, have mercy.

P Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.

C Lord, grant me your grace both to will and to do what pleases you.

P All these things we pray in the name of Jesus, who reconciled us to you.

C Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Benediction

P May the merciful God, who is faithful to forgive the corruption of your sin, empower you to give constructive words to others and to forgive them as God has forgiven you, through Jesus Christ to whom be the glory forever.

C Amen!

Hymn: *Blest Be the Tie That Binds* *LSB #649*

Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;
The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.

Before our Father's throne we pour our ardent prayers;
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts and our cares.

We share our mutual woes, our mutual burdens bear,
And often for each other flows the sympathizing tear.

When here our pathways part, we suffer bitter pain;
Yet, one in Christ and one in heart, we hope to meet again.

From sorrow, toil, and pain, and sin we shall be free
And perfect love and friendship reign through all eternity.