

LENT

in view of

GOD'S MERCY



ASH WEDNESDAY:
Mercy in Ashes



WEEK ONE:
Mercy in Temptation



WEEK TWO:
Mercy in Suffering



WEEK THREE:
Mercy in Betrayal



WEEK FOUR:
Mercy in Relationships



WEEK FIVE:
Mercy in Service

A SERIES OF SERVICES FOR LENT

Welcome

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

(Please stand, as you are able)

Invocation and Call to Worship

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, 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.

Opening Hymn 423 Jesus, Refuge of the Weary

- 1 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.
- 2 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.
- 3 Jesus, may our hearts be burning With more fervent love for You;
May our eyes be ever turning To behold Your cross anew
Till in glory, parted never From the blessed Savior's side,
Graven in our hearts forever, Dwell the cross, the Crucified.

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Confession and Absolution

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

P Gracious Lord, as we continue our Lenten pilgrimage, we do so in view of your mercy. Although we have not loved one another as you command, you continue to show your mercy to us. In view of your mercy, transform us so that we view others as precious and love them as you have loved us. Strengthen us by the Holy Spirit so that we might live graciously toward our neighbors. We pray through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen** (*Please be seated*)

Old Testament Reading, Genesis 45:1-15

Then Joseph could not control himself before all those who stood by him. He cried, "Make everyone go out from me." So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. And he wept aloud, so that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. And Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph! Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, for they were dismayed at his presence. So Joseph said to his brothers, "Come near to me, please." And they came near. And he said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years, and there are yet five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. And God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here, but God. He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me; do not tarry. You shall dwell in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, and your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. There I will provide for you, for there are yet five years of famine to come, so that you and your household, and all that you have, do not come to poverty.' And now your eyes see, and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see, that it is my mouth that speaks to you. You must tell my father of all my honor in Egypt, and of all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here." Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, and Benjamin wept upon his neck. And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them. After that his brothers talked with him.

L This is the Word of the Lord **C** **Thanks be to God**

Epistle Reading, Ephesians 4:25-32

Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and give no opportunity to the devil. Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in

need. 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. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

L This is the Word of the Lord **C** **Thanks be to God**

(Please stand as you are able)

The Holy Gospel, John 13:34-35

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.

L This is the Gospel of the Lord **C** **Praise to You, O Christ!**

(Please be seated)

Sermon Song, LSB 842 Son of God, Eternal Savior

1 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.

3 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.

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2 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.

4 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 of the Church

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

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C Our Father, who art in heaven,

Hallowed be thy name;

Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

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.

Closing Song, LSB 649 Blest Be the Tie That Binds

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

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

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

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

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

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