

Lenten Midweek Service Series



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

-Ephesians 4:32

Lord of Love Lutheran Church (ELCA)

10405 Fort St., Omaha, NE 68134

**Wednesday, March 22, 2023
7:00 p.m.**

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.

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

P Let us pray.

C 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.

Scripture Readings

Ephesians 4:25-32

P 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.

John 13:34-35

P (Jesus said,) “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.”

Sermon

Hymn: “Son of God, Eternal Savior”

ELW 655

Please stand

****Prayers***

L 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***

L Let us pray together as Jesus taught us,

C Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Please be seated.

****Hymn: "Blest Be the Tie That Binds"***

ELW #656

****Benediction***

P May the merciful God, who is faithful to forgive 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.

**Offering plates are not being passed, but we are collecting special lenten offerings to help support the good work of Heartland Family Service and Lutheran Disaster Response. You can go to lord-of-love.org/giving and click on Lent/Easter, to give online, or place a cash or check in the offering plate at the back of the sanctuary.*

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