

In View of God's Mercy

Week 4: Mercy in Relationships

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

Ephesians 4:32

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Organist: Marena Henkle

Acolyte: Landon Hillman

Prelude

Invocation and Call to Worship

P In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **C Amen**

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: "*I Lay My Sins on Jesus*".....LBW #305

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

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.

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

Aundraya Paulson: 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.

Epistle Reading ... Ephesians 4:25-32

Landon Hillman: 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.

Gospel Reading ... John 13:34-35

Gospel Acclamation: "Glory to you , O Lord"

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.

Gospel Acclamation: "Praise to You, O Christ"

Sermon: "Mercy in Relationships"

Song: "Jesus, Thank You"*see insert*

Offering

Offering Response: "Create in Me"

Prayers (led by Jaxon Edwards)

- L Almighty and merciful God, we approach your throne of grace today with broken relationships. **C Lord, have mercy.**
- L When we have alienated ourselves from others due to corrupting talk, put words in our mouths that foster reconciliation. **C Lord, have mercy.**
- L 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.**
- L 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.**
- L 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.**
- L 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.**
- L 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.**
- L 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.**
- L All these things we pray in the name of Jesus, who reconciled us to you. **C Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Benediction

P The Lord bless thee and keep thee, The Lord make his face shine upon thee and be gracious unto thee. The Lord lift up His countenance upon thee, and give thee peace.

C (sing the three-fold Amen)

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Hymn: **“Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus”** (led by Marena Henkle)

*Turn your eyes upon Jesus, Look full in His wonderful face;
And the things of earth will go strangely dim In the light of His glory and grace.*

*Oh soul, are you weary and troubled? No light in the darkness you see?
There's light for a look at the Savior And life more abundant and free.*

*Though death into life everlasting He passed, and we follow Him there
O'er us sin no more hath dominion For more than conquerors we are. (Refrain)*

*Refrain: Oh, Turn your eyes upon Jesus, Look full in His wonderful face;
And the things of earth will go strangely dim In the light of His glory and grace.*

*His Word shall not fail you, He promised Believe Him and all will be well.
Then go to a world that is dying His perfect salvation to tell. (Refrain)*

(Please wait to leave the sanctuary until Pastor makes his way to the back)

Postlude

Thank you... for joining us for our Lenten service. Next week will be our final Wednesday evening service at 7 p.m. Join us as we focus on *Mercy in Service*.

Offering collected... during the Lenten services on Wednesdays and Easter will be kept at Emmanuel. Monies collected for Maundy Thursday and Good Friday will go to Benevolence.

Through Easter Sunday...all loose offering collected on Sundays will be designated for assistance to Ukraine through Lutheran World Relief.