

A LITURGY OF COMPASSION

HYMN

INVOCATION: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. R/Amen.

Pastor: We come together as the church of Jesus Christ recognizing that He lived and died not just for the church but for the world of men, His highest creation.

People: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son."

Pastor: We also recognize that in that great love from God we were to sense our need to first be loved and thus turned around and caused to face the needs of our brothers.

People: "We love, because He first loved us."

Pastor: Love us then, ^{selfish} O God, in order that we may be free of our egotistic desires and liberated ^{free} in the causes of your will.

People: "Whatsoever we do to the least of our brothers, ^{sisters} that we do to You, O Father."

THE WORD OF LOVE

Pastor: The shape of Divine Love comes to us in the ministry of Jesus as He said:

[People]: The Father has loved me, so have I loved you. He who loves his life loses it.

Greater love has no man than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends I loved you: abide in my love.

Pastor: and those who understood that Divine love and let it run through their bodies and minds, said further:

People: Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?
Let your love be genuine
Husbands love your wives *wives love your husbands*
Love of Christ controls us *Parents love you children +*
The fruit of the Spirit is Love *children love your parents*
He destined us in love to be his sons
Love covers a multitude of sin
Know God, for God is love
Perfect love casts out fear
Let us not love in word or speech, but in deed and truth
If one loves God, one is known by Him

LITANY OF LOVE

Pastor: We may have the gifts of scientific prediction and understand the behavior of molecules, we may break into the storehouses of nature and bring forth new insights

People: but devoid of love, all these mean nothing, O Lord!

Pastor: We may give our goods to feed the poor, we may bestow gifts to charity

People: but devoid of love all these mean nothing, O Lord!

Pastor: We may die the death of a martyr and spill our blood as a symbol of honor for generations unborn

People: but, devoid of love, all these mean nothing, O Lord!

Pastor: O Father, we must come to see that a man may be self-centered in his self-denial and self-righteous in his self-sacrifice, our generosity may feed our ego and our piety our pride.

People: without love, benevolence becomes egotism and martyrdom becomes spiritual pride.

Pastor: "But the greatest of all virtues is love."

People: In a world dependent upon force, coercive tyranny, and bloody violence, we are challenged by your loving Son to follow in His love.

Pastor: and then discover that unarmed love is the most powerful force in the world.

People: Amen - so be it.

APOSTLE'S CREED

I believe in God, Almighty Father, Creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His Only Son, Our Lord, who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.

He suffered and was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

He died and was buried.

He went to the dead, and the third day He rose again.

He entered into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Almighty Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life eternal. Amen

THE LESSON:

THE HOMILY:

HYMN:

THE COLLECT FOR SELF-ACCEPTANCE (ALL)

O, God, we ask that we be given the grace to carry the burdens of our day. Let us see where we become defensive of who we think we are and then free us in Jesus Christ to become a new being. Open our eyes to the wounds, despairs and loneliness of our brothers and help us love one another by first letting ourselves become loveable, in Christ. Amen

LORD'S PRAYER (ALL)

Our Father in Heaven, Holy 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 in the time of trial, and
deliver us from evil. For yours is the kingdom,
the power and the glory, forever. Amen

PASSING OF THE PEACE TO EACH OTHER

BENEDICTION

HYMN