

A Communal Expression of Forgiveness

Reader 1: God of mercy and love,
Our hearts and mind to you we turn
In loving gratitude,
In joyful praise and in humble adoration
For the gift of Jesus,
Your Son, you sent to us
For the spirit of life you instilled in us,
For the gift of love we receive and give...

Reader 2: Open our hearts, O Lord,
To a new dimension
Of prayer and faith, of love and peace,
Of reconciliation and universal brotherhood,
Of joyful forgiveness for the wounds,
Great and small,
Past and present,
Inflicted and received,
Of loving respect for the whole of creation.

Reader 1: Lord, God of mercy and love,
May we dare to ask you as our brother
Francis did—
Make me an instrument of your peace!

—Br. Maximilian Mizzzi, O.F.M. Conv.
*The International Franciscan Centre for
Dialogue Assisi*

The Law of Love

Dear Lord,
Teach us the Law of Love.

Teach us to be open
when doors close.
Teach us to be forgiving
when we are wronged.
Teach us to be understanding
when we do not know.
Teach us to be just
when persecution reigns,
Teach us to be truthful
when fear clouds our vision.
Teach us to be hopeful
when despair infects the world.

-Les Miller



A Prayer For Forgiveness

**"He who cannot forgive
breaks the bridge over which
he himself must pass."**

George Herbert

Let us forgive one another...



Introduction

We gather in the loving embrace of our Creator God, beside our brother Jesus, and in the midst of the Spirit flowing through our hearts.

Opening Prayer

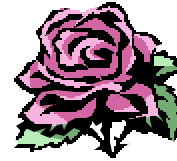
Reader 1: Loving God, we come before you, knowing that we have fallen, and you tell us to stand up and walk. We cannot change the past, for what is done is done: but today and tomorrow is your call to us. Support us, Loving God, and help us to be aware of how forgiving you are. Help us to take you at your word when you say, I love you.

Reader 2: Your word of forgiveness to us is terribly serious. It took sweat, nails and blood — the body and life of Jesus — for you to say to each of us, “I forgive you and I love you!” You have come to heal us and make us whole. For this we are ever filled with thanks, and will respond in the way we live in the days to come.

All: Amen

Source Unknown

Scripture Reading John 15: 9-17

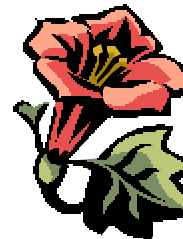


Let us reflect on a reading from the Gospel of John.

As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit--fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. This is my command: Love each other. The word of the Lord.
All: Thanks be to God.

Litany of Repentance

For our insensitivity to your creation,
For vandalism and violence,
For crassness and carelessness,
All: Forgive us, O Lord.



For hardness and hatred,
For cruelty and callousness,
All: Forgive us, O Lord.

For baseness and blindness,
For rebellion and ruthlessness,
All: Forgive us, O Lord.

For greed and gracelessness,
For indifference and ignorance,
All: Forgive us, O Lord.

For disrespect and drabness,
For lack of sense and laziness,
All: Forgive us, O Lord.

Grace and goodness,
Love and liveliness,
All: Give us, O Lord.

Calm and carefulness,
Generosity and goodness,
All: Give us, O Lord.

Peace and prosperity,
Hope and healthiness,
All: Give us, O Lord.

Strength and security,
Employment and enjoyment,
All: Give us, O Lord.

—D. Adam

Power Lines: Celtic Prayers about Work

“Forgiveness is not an emotion, it's
a decision.”

--Randall Worley