

Lawless Grace

Prayer of Confession:

We have instituted rules to get around Your command to love. We have enacted laws that circumvent Your call for mercy. We have out voted You time and time again as we have sought to justify our acts of injustice. You have heard the cries of the immigrant when we have not. We have ignored You as You have responded to the needs of the poor. We have not shown love to our enemies, nor mercy to those who have tried to make our lives miserable. We have refused to tear down the walls we have built to divide and isolate. We resist Your call to reconcile with those who have found us offensive. But You are a God who is willing to work with us and to help us become perfected in love. Help us change the direction in our lives and to encourage other to join us in following as You Love the world and work to save us all. Hear our prayer in Jesus name. Amen.

Words of Assurance:

Jesus loves me this I know for the Bible tells me so,
little ones to him belong, we are weak but Christ is strong.
Yes, Jesus love me! Yes, Jesus love you!
Yes, Jesus loves us, the Bible tells me so.

One: In the name of Jesus you are forgive.

All: In the name of Jesus you are forgive. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Great Thanksgiving
(Lawless Grace)

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift the up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We praise You for Your lawless grace that gives voice to the voiceless,
and topples despots from their thrones.

We thank You that Your mercy is not stopped by unjust laws,
laws supporting racism, sexism, and so many other forms of legalized discrimination.

We praise You, defender of the weak, the vulnerable, the immigrant, and the child.

We know that is spiritual suicide to go against Your lawless grace.

If You stand with the defenseless, who can overpower Your unmerited favor?

This is why You are worshiped around the globe.

This is why every creature rejoices before You.

And we now come to humbly join them, those on earth and those in heaven to proclaim with our hearts and lives Your endless praise:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Love makes You holy, and we have seen that same holy love in Jesus.
Jesus lived a life of lawless grace.
Jesus graciously broke the law and healed at the wrong time.
Jesus graciously broke the law and fed the hungry.
Jesus graciously broke the rules and talked with foreign women.
Jesus graciously broke with convention to embrace the diseased.
Jesus graciously ate with sinners and undesirables ignoring a bad reputation.

Jesus graciously went against convention as Master and Lord,
leaving a place of honor to take the position of a female slave
to have the honor of washing the feet of others.
Remember love is more important than social convention.

Jesus graciously changed tradition
when he took the Passover bread,
set aside to remember those who are still seeking freedom.
With a thankful heart Jesus broke the bread to share it saying:
“Take, eat, this is my body broken and given for you.”
Remember love is more important than traditions.

Jesus graciously changed tradition
when he took the cup of Passover wine,
set aside to remember those harmed by our hardened hearts.
With a thankful heart Jesus shared it saying:
“Drink from my cup filled with my blood,
shared as a thank offering poured out to testify to the divine covenant of grace
granting forgiveness of sin to you and to all the world.”
Remember love is more important than traditions.

Love is more important than rules and laws.
Love is more important than cherished traditions.
This is why we embrace this Holy Mystery in Jesus Christ as we proclaim:

**Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

Lawless Grace, Measureless Mercy,
saturate these gifts of bread and wine
making them for us the body and blood of Christ.

Lawless Grace, Measureless Mercy,
saturate our lives, the physical, the mental, the emotional, and the spiritual
making them for the world Your church,
the sacrificial body and the compassionate bride of Christ.

Lawless Grace, Measureless Mercy
free us from division;
open our hearts to those who are struggling;
help us create with our lives a safe space giving shelter to those who are afraid;
allow nothing to keep us from demonstrating Your law of love which supercedes all others.
Use us to proclaim with our lives that Jesus is Love,
Use us to provide the spiritual fruit of love through Your Holy Spirit to all in need.
Use us in creative ways as we give our lives over to You our Creator so that You might
bring deliverance to those in bondage and the light of hope to those who dwell in deep darkness.
May all we touch with Your love, join us in this worship around Your throne, All Loving God,
now and forever. Amen.
Now as those set free to love, let us pray with Jesus saying:

**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. Amen.**

Prayer After Communion:

Thank You for sharing with us this Holy Mystery in Jesus Christ. You have renewed us in love.
You have set us free to show love and mercy to all. Christ, himself has showed us no one and
nothing can stop us from loving, even a cross. Now send us out in Your lawless grace to
transform lives. That all might know how deeply You love ever person and how much you
desire to be in communion with us all, now and forever. Amen.