

Lenten Penitential Litany

By John Chawarika

Leader: As the Lenten season begins, we come before you, Oh Lord. Great is your Might, Eternal One. Your great compassion is the source of life. Your power is in the help that comes to the falling, in the healing that comes to the sick because of our transgressions. You bring hope to the captive, in faith. Forgive us, Oh Lord, and cleanse us with the blood of the lamb from all our unrighteousness and make us whole again. Who is like you, Mighty One, who is your equal? Author of life and death, source of our salvation.

Community: Who is like you, Source of mercy? In compassion, you sustain the lives of your children. We trust in you to restore our lives. Blessed is the Eternal one, the source of all life.

Leader; V'alkulam eloha s'lichot.

Community: S'lachlanu, m'chal lanu, kaper lanu.

Leader: For all the transgressions against God and all the transgressions of one human being against another, Oh Lord God, forgive us.

Community: I hereby forgive all who have hurt me, all who have wronged me, whether deliberately or inadvertently, whether by word or by deed. As I forgive and pardon those who have wronged me. May those I have harmed forgive and pardon me, whether I acted deliberately or advertently, whether by word or by deed. For our failure of truth, Oh God, we kindly ask for forgiveness.

Leader; V'alkulam eloha s'lichot.

Community: S'lachlanu, m'chal lanu, kaper lanu.

Leader: For passing judgement without the true knowledge of the facts.

Community: And for distorting the facts to fit our theories.

Leader: For deceiving ourselves and others with half-truths.

Community: And for pretending to have emotions we do not feel.

Leader: For using the sins of others to excuse our own, for denying responsibility for our own misfortunes.

Community: And for condemning our children and our parents the faults we tolerate in ourselves.

Leader: For our failures of justice, Oh lord God, we ask forgiveness. For keeping the poor in the chains of poverty.

Community: And turning a deaf ear to the cry of the oppressed.

Leader: For using violence to maintain our power.

Community: And for using violence to bring about change.

Leader: For waging aggressive war.

Community: And for the sin of appeasing aggressors.

Leader: For obeying criminal orders.

Community: And for the sin of silence and indifference.

Leader: For poisoning the air and polluting the land and seas.

Community: And for the evil means we employ to accomplish good ends. For our failures of love, Oh God, we ask for forgiveness.

Leader; V'alkulam eloha s'lichot.

Community: S'lachlanu, m'chal lanu, kaper lanu.

Leader: For confusing love with lust.

Community: And for pursuing fleeting pleasure at the cost of lasting hurt.

Leader: For using others as a means to gratify our desires

Community: And shunting aside those whose youth or age disturbs.

Leader: For withdrawing love to control those we claim to love.

Community: And for the cynicism which leads us to mistrust the reality of authentic love.

Leader: Teach us to love ourselves for all those sins, Oh forgiving God and help us to overcome them.

Leader; V'alkulam eloha s'lichot.

Community: S'lachlanu, m'chal lanu, kaper lanu. Amen.

Translation; Valkulam elohas'lichor means, "for all these sins, O God of mercy, for give us. S'lachlanu, m'chal lanu, kapwe lanu means pardon us and grant as atonement

This Lenten litany has been influenced by the Jewish prayers of atonement.