



**LEADER:**

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

Jesus, transform all we are and all we do into the kind of love that permeated your presence. Clothe us with your love and grant us grace to be truly kind and caring. May our spiritual clothes be spun from the gold of your goodness and last into eternity.

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**Lenten reflection**

**Reader 1:** The desire to focus on Lent as a time of being “clothed with love” leapt in me one evening at a gathering for Celtic studies. That night two of our members led us in a ceremony to honor the feast of Brigid (Feb. 1). They told stories about the legend of Brigid and how the Celts celebrated the protective, curative powers of her mantle. The Celts would take a cloth at sunset on her feast and place it outside their home. That night Brigid would hear their prayers and bring healing and protection for all in the house. They kept this cloth in the house until the next year’s feast.

**Reader 2:** Then we were each given a small lace cloth as a “mantle of Brigid” and asked to reflect on what protective and healing powers we needed in our lives. I felt myself needing to be clothed with loving-kindness. As the ceremony was nearing completion the scripture from Colossians suddenly came to mind. I took my “mantle of loving kindness” home with me that night and it became my Lenten practice that year.

- Joyce Rupp

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**Scripture**

**Reader 3:**

Clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other... Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. (Col. 3:12-14)

**SILENT REFLECTION**

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**LEADER:** Let us pray...

Jesus, Mentor and Friend, your life and ministry were constantly clothed with love. We hold the image of your loving qualities and virtues close to us as we pray:

When our spiritual clothes are soiled with negativity and neglect, may we have the desire and energy to clean them. R. Lord, hear us.

When our spiritual clothes droop, sag, and do not fit, may we have the wisdom and determination to let our words and actions fit our values and beliefs. R.

When our spiritual clothes need changing, may we have the ability to make good decisions and the courage to follow through with the necessary changes. R.

When our spiritual clothes are torn and need mending, may we make amends and be open to forgiveness and reconciliation. R.

When our spiritual clothes are not accepted by others, may we have the self-affirmation to be our true selves and not give in to the demands of others. R.

When our spiritual clothes become thin and frayed, may we strengthen them with a garment of loving kindness. R.

For the Sisters of Charity of St. Elizabeth and for all Seton Associates – that we may continue to birth the mission of charity and community started by our founders, we pray to the Lord... R.

For what else do we pray? ...

**LEADER:**

Loving Father, we place these intentions at your feet, believing in your constant love and trusting in the Spirit who continues to guide us. We make these prayers in Jesus' name.

**ALL:** Amen.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. What shape are my spiritual clothes in as I enter this Lenten season?
2. What do I need to do to be "well dressed" spiritually?
3. What is my prayer to Brigid at this point in my life?
4. How does living the charism of charity as a Seton Associate speak to the theme of today's prayer?

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**CLOSING PRAYER**

**LEADER:** Let us pray.

**ALL:** Crucified Jesus, help us to take up our cross day by day and sow love all around us. Through these crosses and through these lives of love, may we can grow closer to you. Help us to lean on you and to learn from you. May we not give in to self-pity or self-doubt. Rather, let us trust in your presence which strengthens us. Encourage us on our tomb-like days. Remind us of your resurrection. Help us to keep our vision focused on life and growth. Amen.