

LENTEN PENITENTIAL SERVICE



OPENING HYMN : Father Mercy

Ref:

Father, mercy! Father hear me! Why have You gone from me?
Broken, humbled, waiting, hopeful, Father, return to me.

Wash me, my Lord, forgive me my sin;
In Your goodness have mercy on me.
For I have done evil before You, I know,
Have sinned from the day I was born.

Teach me Your wisdom, cleanse my heart,
And I shall be whiter than snow.
Sing to me songs, full of gladness and joy,
And the bones You have broken shall rise.

Coda:

Father, return to me.

PRESIDER : Grace, mercy and peace of God the Father and Jesus Christ, His Son be with you in truth and love.

ALL : And with your spirit.

PRESIDER : We have come together as sinful people who want to admit that we are so. The confession of that sinfulness and the communal experience of God's forgiveness can bring us closer as a community. It can also deepen our conscience and open our eyes to what we would not see perhaps by ourselves. (*Brief Silence*)

Psalm 50 (Alternate Choir)

Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness.
In your compassion blot out my offense.
O wash me more and more from my guilt
and cleanse me from my sin.

My offenses truly I know them;
my sin is always before me.
Against you, you alone, have I sinned;
what is evil in your sight I have done.

That you may be justified when you give sentence
and be without reproach when you judge.
O see, in guilt was I born,
a sinner was I conceived.

Indeed you love truth in the heart;
then in the secret of my heart teach me wisdom.
O purify me, then I shall be clean;
O wash me, I shall be whiter than snow.

Make me hear rejoicing and gladness,
that the bones you have crushed may revive.
From my sins turn away your face
and blot out all my guilt.

A pure heart create for me, O God,
put a steadfast spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from your presence,
nor deprive me of your holy spirit.

Give me again the joy of your help;
with a spirit of fervor sustain me,
that I may teach transgressors your ways
and sinners may return to you.

O rescue me, God, my helper,
and my tongue shall ring out your goodness.
O Lord, open my lips
and my mouth shall declare your praise.

For in sacrifice you take no delight,
burnt offering from me you would refuse;
my sacrifice, a contrite spirit.
A humbled, contrite heart you will not spurn.

In your goodness, show favor to Zion:
rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.
Then you will be pleased with lawful sacrifice,

holocausts offered on your altar.

PRESIDER : Let us pray for the grace of God's light and peace.

Lord God, merciful Father, we are humbly gathered here during this season of Lent in Your presence to celebrate the gift of your loving forgiveness. Have mercy on us Lord and cleanse us of our sinfulness. Purify our dedication to your service. Removed the barriers that divide us. Help us avoid the failings that spring from human weakness. Teach us to forgive as You forgive us. Strengthen us to bear with others as you bear with us. Let our hearts of stone become hearts of flesh. Through Your Spirit enkindle in us the fire of Your love. We make this prayer through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Redeemer.

ALL : Amen

GOSPEL READING - LUKE 15:1-10

(Heaven is filled with joy when one sinner turns back to God)

POINTS FOR REFLECTION PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

PRESIDER : Let us pray to god, who is Father that He may give us the grace of true contrition and the consolation of inner peace. For every petition, let our response be:

Father forgive us and give us Your peace

1. That we may inspire each other to a more authentic repentance, and to a life of edifying service. *WE beg your mercy, Lord.*
2. Forgive us, Lord, for all out unworthy thoughts, our judgments of others, our unfair criticism and our inner discontent, moodiness and despondency which we nourished. *We beg your mercy, Lord.*
3. Forgive us Lord, that sometimes we have been conceited,; that we tried to make ourselves important to dominate, to build up our own image; that we've tried to make ourselves popular; that we wanted to be right at all costs. *We beg your mercy, Lord.*
4. Forgive us, Lord, that sometimes we showed little enthusiasm in our faith; that through a cultivated mediocrity, we did not do justice to the true face of Christ and the true meaning of the Gospel in the eyes of other people; that we have been unfaithful in our mission and life of adoration; that sometimes through selfishness we tried to include in our vocation what does not agree with it. *We beg your mercy, Lord.*
5. Forgive us, Lord, our faults of omission; the help we could have given, the comfort which was expected from us; the sorrow we did not even see, the inspiration which we denied others. Your longing for us which we did not want to hear. *WE beg your mercy, Lord.*

PRESIDER : **Almighty God, hear our prayers and accept them as our sincere desire to open ourselves to Your merciful forgiveness and to Your loving graces so that we can reform our lives; believe and live the Gospel more faithfully. WE make these prayers through Jesus Christ, Our Lord and Savior.**

ALL : **Amen**

INDIVIDUAL CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

PRESIDER : Now let us pray together to the Father, that we, forgiving one another our sins may experience the Lord's forgiveness.

ALL : *Our Father*

EXCHANGE OF PEACE

PRESIDER : To express our reconciliation with God and with one another, let us now greet each other with the sign of peace.

CONCLUDING PRAYER

PRESIDER : Lord, Jesus Christ,
Your loving forgiveness knows no limits. You took our human nature to give us an example of humility and to make us faithful in every trial. May we never lose the gifts you have given us, but if we fall into sin lift us up by Your gift of reconciliation, for You live and reign for ever and ever.

ALL : **Amen**

CLOSING HYMN I HAVE LOVED YOU

I have loved you with an everlasting love
I have called you, and you are mine
I have loved you with an everlasting love
I have called you, and you are mine

Seek the face of the lord and long for him
He will bring you his light and his peace

I have loved you with an everlasting love
I have called you, and you are mine
I have loved you with an everlasting love
I have called you, and you are mine

Seek the face of the lord and long for him
He will bring you his joy and his hope

I have loved you with an everlasting love
I have called you, and you are mine
I have loved you with an everlasting love
I have called you, and you are mine