

L: Let us pray:
Lord, hear the prayers of those who call on you, forgive the sins of those who confess to you, and in your merciful love give us you pardon and peace through Christ our Lord.

ALL: Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

A reading from the Letter of St. Paul to Titus:
(Tit 3:4-7)

When the kindness and generous love of God our savior appeared, not because of any righteous deeds we had done but because of his mercy, he saved us through the bath of rebirth and renewal by the holy Spirit, whom he richly poured out on us through Jesus Christ our savior, so that we might be justified by his grace and become heirs in hope of eternal life. The Word of the Word.

Response:

L: Praise the Lord, for he is good;
ALL: for his mercy endures forever.

L: Praise the God of gods;
ALL: for his mercy endures forever.

L: Praise the Lord of lords;
ALL: for his mercy endures forever.

L: Who alone has done great wonders,
ALL: for his mercy endures forever.

L: The Lord remembered us in our low estate,

ALL: for his mercy endures forever.

L: Freed us from our foes,
ALL: for his mercy endures forever.

L: And gives bread to all flesh,
ALL: for his mercy endures forever.

L: Praise the God of heaven, (Ps 136:2-4,23-26)
ALL: for his mercy endures forever.

L: The Lord be with you.
ALL: And with your spirit.

L: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew. (Mt 9:12-13)

ALL: Glory to you, O Lord.

L: Jesus said, "Those who are well do not need a physician, but the sick do. Go and learn the meaning of the words, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' I did not come to call

the righteous but sinners." The Gospel of the Lord.

Pause for Reflection (two minutes)

The Sacrament of Reconciliation:

L: Let us call to mind our sins so that we may seek God's mercy:

Forgive me, God of love and tenderness, for I have not contemplated frequently enough on the mystery of mercy nor gazed intently enough upon your face of mercy. **(Pause)** And so I pray:

ALL: I trust in your mercy!

L: Forgive me, God of love and tenderness, for I have not discovered often enough your mercy in Word and Sacrament, especially through the Eucharist. **(Pause)** And so I pray:

ALL: I trust in your mercy!

L: Forgive me, God of love and tenderness, for I have not discovered deeply enough your mercy in my sister and brother, in my neighbor, and in the people with whom I interact. **(Pause)** And so I pray:

ALL: I trust in your mercy!

L: Forgive me, God of love and tenderness, for I have not discovered frequently enough your mercy in creation and culture, in nature and technology, and in the signs of the times. **(Pause)** And so I pray:

ALL: I trust in your mercy!

L: Forgive me, God of love and tenderness, for I have not adequately prepared myself to encounter your mercy by means of prayer and meditation. **(Pause)** And so I pray:

ALL: I trust in your mercy!

L: Forgive me, God of love and tenderness, for I have not thoroughly prepared myself for your mercy by means of spiritual reading and continuing education. **(Pause)** And so I pray:

ALL: I trust in your mercy!

L: Forgive me, God of love and tenderness, for I have not genuinely prepared myself for your mercy by means of a change of heart, a concern for my own well-being,

or a mindfulness toward the world around me. **(Pause)** And so I pray:

ALL: I trust in your mercy!

L: Forgive me, God of love and tenderness, for I have not wholeheartedly shared your mercy in gratitude through the spiritual and corporal acts of charity.

(Pause) And so I pray:

ALL: I trust in your mercy!

L: Forgive me, God of love and tenderness, for I have not heartily shared your mercy in gratitude through my working for justice or my actions toward peace.

(Pause) And so I pray:

ALL: I trust in your mercy!

L: Forgive me, God of love and tenderness, for I have not effectively shared your mercy in gratitude through the encounter of dialogue, the bonding of trusting interaction, and the bridge-building of forgiveness and reconciliation. **(Pause)** And so I pray:

ALL: I trust in your mercy!

L: Forgive me, God of love and tenderness, for I have squandered your mercy because I have neglected you, rejected your mercy because I centered on myself, and betrayed your mercy because I have hurt others. **(Pause)** And so I pray:

ALL: I trust in your mercy!

L: Forgive me, God of love and tenderness, for I have sinned against you. **(Pause)** And so I pray:

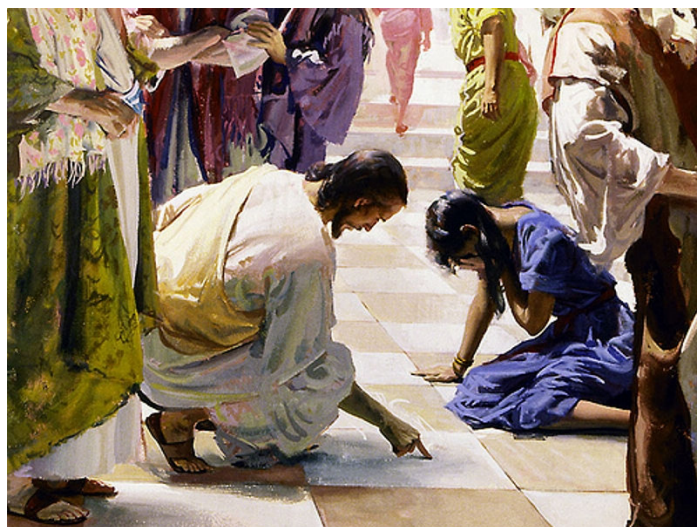
ALL: I trust in your mercy!

L: As our common act of contrition we pray:
Have mercy on me, God, in accord with your merciful love; * in your abundant compassion blot out my transgressions. * Thoroughly wash away my guilt; * and from my sin cleanse me. * A clean heart create for me, God; * renew within me a steadfast spirit. * Do not drive me from before your face, * nor take from me your holy spirit. * Restore to me the gladness of your salvation; * uphold me with a willing spirit. * Through Christ our Lord. * Amen.

(Ps 51)

Sacramental Confession.

Lenten Penance Service



Opening Song:

(LM)

**Kind Maker of the world, O hear
The fervent pray'r with honest tear
Poured forth by ev'ry penitent
Who keeps this holy fast of Lent.**

**Each heart is manifest to thee;
Thou knowest our infirmity;
Now we repent and seek thy face;
Grant unto us thy pard'ning grace.**

**Spare us, O Lord, who now confess
Our weakness and our sinfulness
And, for the glory of thy name,
Our weakened souls to health reclaim.**

L: In the name...

ALL: Amen.

L: May the God of mercy be with you all.

ALL: And also with you.

L: Let us prepare ourselves for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. **(pause)**

L: You are a kind and merciful God.
Lord, have mercy.

ALL: Lord, have mercy.

L: You are righteous, O Lord, and all your deeds are just and all your ways are mercy and truth.
Christ, have mercy.

ALL: Christ, have mercy.

L: You are rich in mercy, because of the great love you have for us,
Lord, have mercy.

ALL: Lord, have mercy.