



TO RELIEVE THE GRACE OF BAPTISM
Penitential service in preparation for Easter

On the altar, a candle is placed, to be lighted at the moment of examination of conscience.

LEADER In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit
ALL **Amen.**

HYMN *God of mercy and compassion,
Look with pity upon me,
Father, let me call Thee Father,
'Tis Thy child returns to Thee.*

Refrain:

*Jesus, Lord, I ask for mercy;
Let me not implore in vain;
All my sins, I now detest them,
Never will I sin again.*

*2. By my sins I have deserved
Death and endless misery,
Hell with all its pains and torments,
And for all eternity.
(Refrain)*

LEADER We have failed in our baptismal commitment because of our sins: let us implore the Lord so that through repentance he may restore us in his love.

Pause for silent prayer

LEADER Look upon us with kindness, Lord
Those born into a new life in the waters of Baptism;
just as you have redeemed us with your passion,
so also make us participate in your resurrection.
who lives and reigns forever and ever.

ALL **Amen**

All sit

GUIDE As the Israelites, after the crossing of Red Sea, forgot the marvels the Lord had done for them, so also we, members of the new people of God, after the grace of Baptism, have sinned.

READER 1 **From the first letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians** (10,1-13)

I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness. Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play." We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. And do not complain as

some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing, he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

The Word of the Lord

ALL Thanks be to God.

Some minutes in silent prayer

Psalm 105,6-10.13-14.19-22

REFRAIN **Forgive my sins, o Lord**

VOICE 1 Both we and our ancestors have sinned;
we have committed iniquity, have done wickedly.
Our ancestors, when they were in Egypt,
did not consider your wonderful works;
they did not remember the abundance of your steadfast love,
but rebelled against the Most High at the Red Sea
Yet he saved them for his name's sake,
so that he might make known his mighty power.

REFRAIN **Forgive my sins, o Lord**

VOICE 1 He rebuked the Red Sea, and it became dry;
he led them through the deep as through a desert.
So he saved them from the hand of the foe,
and delivered them from the hand of the enemy.

REFRAIN **Forgive my sins, o Lord**

VOICE 1 But they soon forgot his works;
they did not wait for his counsel.
But they had a wanton craving in the wilderness,
and put God to the test in the desert;

HYMN **Forgive my sins, o Lord**

VOICE 1 They made a calf at Horeb
and worshiped a cast image.
They exchanged the glory of God
for the image of an ox that eats grass.

HYMN **Forgive my sins, o Lord**

VOICE 1 They forgot God, their Savior,
who had done great things in Egypt,
wondrous works in the land of Ham,
and awesome deeds by the Red Sea.

HYMN **Forgive my sins, o Lord**

GUIDE The sheep that is lost from the sheepfold is anxiously sought for by the shepherd; just as a woman who searches for the lost coin. We too, after the grace of baptism, have fallen into sin; but God comes to in search of us and, when we return to him, welcomes us with a father's heart.

READER 2 **From the Gospel according to Luke** (15, 1-10)

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them." So he told them this parable: "Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to

them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.’ Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance. “Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

The Gospel of the Lord

ALL Praise to Lord Jesus Christ.

Some minutes of silent prayer

Lighting of the candle on the altar.

After the lighting:

VOICE 2 Lord, may this
lighted candle
be the light that illumines our conscience!

May it be a fire
so that you may burn away
all our pride and egoism!

May it be a flame
so that you may enkindle our hearts
and teach us to love!

EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE

GUIDE The promises of our Baptism, reminds us that one day we have renounced Satan, all his works, and his empty promises

and we have committed ourselves to live in the freedom of God's children and to serve him faithfully in the Church.

The grace of Baptism has made us capable of living faith.

VOICE 1 Do I live my Baptismal commitments in a manner worthy of my vocation?

VOICE 2 After the Baptism we have fallen again into sin. When I return to the Lord, do I experience being welcomed by him with a heart of the Father?

VOICE 1 Do I believe firmly in the love of God for me?

VOICE 2 Do I know to accept myself as I am created, with this body, character, quality and limitations?

VOICE 1 Have I accepted deeply within me the forgiveness with which the Lord has pardoned my past sins?

VOICE 2 Am I reconciled with others, in particular with my sisters?

VOICE 1 Have I pardoned sincerely the person who has made me to suffer?

VOICE 2 Do I hold anger and resentment towards someone?

Prolonged silence for reflection

GUIDE Now is the favourable time, now the day of mercy of God.
Now in us, the Lord's vineyard, is a time of new plantation;
The old branches are pruned
so that they may bear more fruit.
Let us acknowledge ourselves as sinners and make our humble confession, saying:

ALL For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.
Hide your face from my sins,

and blot out all my iniquities.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and create in me a new and generous heart.

GUIDE With a repentant heart, let us pray to the Lord. May He help us with his Spirit, so that in the Church, the community of those redeemed by his mercy, we may be able to join the glory of the Risen Lord.

HYMN **Grant to us, O Lord, a heart renewed;
Recreate in us, your own Spirit, Lord.**

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy
blot out my transgressions.
Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin.

**Mercy, Lord we have sinned, listen to our plea,
Mercy Lord we have sinned, answer now our prayer!**

For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.
Against you, you alone, have I sinned,
and done what is evil in your sight,

**Mercy, Lord we have sinned, listen to our plea,
Mercy Lord we have sinned, answer now our prayer!**

so that you are justified in your sentence
and blameless when you pass judgment.
Indeed, I was born guilty,
a sinner when my mother conceived me.

**Mercy, Lord we have sinned, listen to our plea,
Mercy Lord we have sinned, answer now our prayer!**

All stand

LEADER Holy and merciful Father,
We raise our supplication
and the cry of our heart to you:
forgive us Lord so that from erroneous ways
we may return to the ways of justice
and, healed of the wounds of sin,
we may guard the grace
of our new birth in Baptism
and reconciliation through repentance
whole and perfect.
Through Christ our Lord.

ALL **Amen.**

LEADER Let us go in peace
ALL Give thanks to the Lord.

HYMN *Jesus, keep me near the cross,
There a precious fountain,
Free to all—a healing stream,
Flows from Calvary's mountain.*

*In the cross, in the cross,
Be my glory ever;
From the cross my ransomed soul
Nothing then shall sever.*

*Near the cross, a trembling soul,
Love and mercy found me;
There the Bright and Morning Star
Sheds its beams around me.*