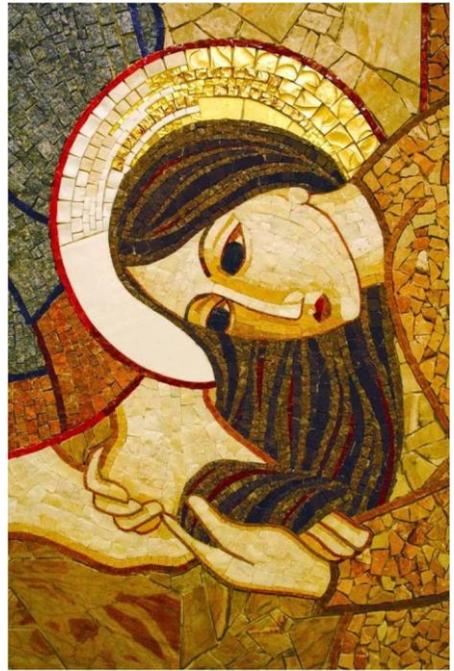


**CELEBRATION OF
PENITENTIAL RITE
IN PREPARATION OF EASTER**



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

HYMN Come back to me with all your heart
 Don't let fear keep us apart
 Trees do bend though straight and tall
 So must we to others' call
 Long have I waited for
 Your coming home to me
 And living deeply our new lives

The wilderness will lead you
To the place where I will speak
Integrity and justice
With tenderness
You shall know.

 Long have I waited for
 Your coming home to me
 And living deeply our new lives

CELEBRANT God calls us once more to conversion: let us pray to obtain the grace of new life in Christ the Lord.

(pause for silent prayer)

Merciful Father and God of every consolation, who does not will the death but conversion of sinners, help your people, so that they may return to you and live. Grant us to listen to your voice and confess our sins; grateful to your forgiveness may we witness to the truth and progress in everything and always in following Christ your Son, who lives and reigns forever and ever.

ALL **Amen.**

All seated

READER 1 **From the letter of St Paul the apostle to the Ephesians (2:4-10)**

But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ[a]—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

ALL **Thanks be to God.**

Responsorial Psalm (Ps 51)

REFRAIN ***Forgive my sins, O Lord***

VOICE 1 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. **Ref.**

Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and put a new and right spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from your presence,
and do not take your holy spirit from me. **Ref.**

For you have no delight in sacrifice;
if I were to give a burnt offering, you would not be pleased.
The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise. **Ref.**

Let us stand

REFRAIN **Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

VOICE 1 I am the light of the world,
 says the Lord;
 he who follows me will have the light of life. (Jn 8:12)

REFRAIN **Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

READER 2 **From the Gospel of Luke (7, 36-50)**

One of the Pharisees asked Jesus to eat with him, and he went into the Pharisee's house and took his place at the table. And a woman in the city, who was a sinner, having learned that he was eating in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster jar of ointment. She stood behind him at his feet, weeping, and began to bathe his feet with her tears and to dry them with her hair. Then she continued kissing his feet and anointing them with the ointment. Now when the Pharisee who had invited him saw it, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would have known who and what kind of woman this is who is touching him—that she is a sinner." Jesus spoke up and said to him, "Simon, I have something to say to you." "Teacher," he replied, "speak." "A certain creditor had two debtors; one owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. When they could not pay, he canceled the debts for both of them. Now which of them will love him more?" Simon answered, "I suppose the

one for whom he canceled the greater debt.” And Jesus said to him, “You have judged rightly.” Then turning toward the woman, he said to Simon, “Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave me no water for my feet, but she has bathed my feet with her tears and dried them with her hair. You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not stopped kissing my feet. You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment. Therefore, I tell you, her sins, which were many, have been forgiven; hence she has shown great love. But the one to whom little is forgiven, loves little.” Then he said to her, “Your sins are forgiven.” But those who were at the table with him began to say among themselves, “Who is this who even forgives sins?” And he said to the woman, “Your faith has saved you; go in peace.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

ALL **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

All seated

Silent prayer.

Examination of conscience

GUIDE For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.” (Mk 7:21-22).

The Markan text tells us that evil intentions that contaminate man come out of the heart. With the list that this Gospel presents in front of us, it is important to acknowledge: “it touches us”, that is we are not exempted from these things; these are attitudes that we have within.

Allowing ourselves to be guided by the words of Card. Maria Martini let us then reflect on some of our attitudes that we can show towards others in our community.

VOICE 1 Let’s think about *envy*, that is all the forms of criticisms that seek to put down the other, to the extent of finding negative aspects even in the good done.

Pause

VOICE 2 Lord, if envy has found space in our heart, we ask your pardon.

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

VOICE 1 Let us consider *foolishness* that makes us act with motivations contrary to religious acts: success, vanity, personal interests, ambition, excelling others.

Pause

VOICE 2 Lord, if foolishness has found space in our heart, we ask your pardon.

REFRAIN **Mercy..**

VOICE 1 Let us consider *wickedness* that highlights defects, negativity in others leading to embarrassment, suffering and suspicion.

Pause

VOICE 2 Lord if wickedness has found space in our heart, we ask your pardon.

REFRAIN **Mercy...**

VOICE 1 Let us think about *ambition* that makes us to desire to be valued more in community, to be recognised by others, to be always better than others.

Pause

VOICE 2 Lord, if ambition has found space in our heart, we ask your pardon.

REFRAIN **Mercy...**

VOICE 1 Let us consider *slander* that spreads so much evil in the community.

Pause

VOICE 2 Lord, if slander has found space in our heart, we ask your pardon.

REFRAIN **Mercy...**

VOICE 1 Let us think about *pride*, that moves us to wish that everyone be at our disposal, that everything be in our hands

Pause

VOICE 2 Lord, if pride has found space in our hearts, we ask your pardon.

SONG **Mercy...**

Guide These attitudes are present in us and could surprise us at every moment. We cannot eliminate them, but we can see that they do not overwhelm us. Let us examine ourselves and see whether we are guilty of these things, and at the same time ask ourselves what are the sentiments that fill our heart.

Silence for reflection

Guide The Lord invites us to consider these attitudes in their very roots, not to discourage us but to be purified “by the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world”

HYMN **Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world,
*have mercy on us***
**Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world,
*have mercy on us***
**Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world,
*have mercy on us***

Let us stand

CELEBRANT Let us pray to Christ the good Shepherd, who goes in search of the lost sheep and leads it back to its sheepfold

REFRAIN **Misericordia Domini in aeternum cantabo.**

VOICE Jesus, doctor of the body and soul, heal our wounds, sustains us always with the strength of your spirit. **Ref.**

Strip us of the corruption of the old man that is in us
clothe us with the new man. **Ref.**

Help us through the penitence that we do to follow you more closely
in order to reach the glory of resurrection. **Ref.**

May Mary your Mother, refuge of sinners, intercede for us:
and you grant us the indulgence and peace. **Ref.**

You who forgave the sinful woman,
do not take away from us your mercy. **Ref.**

You who carried the lost sheep on your shoulders,
welcome in your goodness even us sinners. **Ref.**

You who promised the repentant thief the paradise,
admit us one day into the joy of your kingdom. **Ref.**

You who died and rose for us
make us to participate in the fruits of your passion and death. **Ref.**

CELEBRANT In the spirit of the Gospel, let us reconcile with one another and
call upon God our Father in faith to obtain forgiveness for our
sins.

TO BE SUNG **Our Father.**

CELEBRANT Lord Jesus Christ, rich in mercy and forgiveness, who willed to
take up our human nature to strengthen us amidst the trails of life
with the example of your humility and patience, help us to safe-
guard the benefits of your redemption and help us to rise from our
failings through a sincere repentance. You who live and reign for-
ever and ever.

ALL ***Amen***

CELEBRANT May the Lord guide our hearts into the love of God and save us in
his mercy.

ALL **Amen.**

CELEBRANT We can always walk in the new life and in a manner pleasing to
the Lord in everything.

ALL **Amen.**

CELEBRANT Let us go in peace.

ALL **Let us give thanks to the Lord.**

FINAL HYMN