

# FATHER

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# FORGIVE THEM

Creative  
Communications  
Sample

A LENTEN PENANCE SERVICE

## OPENING HYMN

*(All stand.)*

Presider: May the grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of the Father and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**All: And with your spirit.**

**P** My dear friends, we gather in this holy season of Lent to look at our relationship to God and to one another. Are we doing all we can to fulfill the promises of our baptism? Have we lived as faithful Christians since last Lent? Do those with whom we live and work have any just grievances against us? Realizing we are not perfect, we have come here together to ask for God's mercy.

*(pause)*

**P** Almighty God, in the company of one another and the presence of your angels and saints, we acknowledge our need for forgiveness, reconciliation and healing. Send your Holy Spirit to touch our hearts with confidence in your saving love.

**A** Amen.

**P** Lord Jesus, you came to call sinners to the fullness of life, and so we say:

**A** Lord, have mercy.

**P** Christ Jesus, your law is a guide toward the fullness of joy, and so we say:

**A** Christ, have mercy.

**P** Lord Jesus, your abiding presence invites us to the fullness of love, and so we say:

**A** Lord, have mercy.

**P** Loving God and Father, open our hearts and minds as we listen to your word so that we might hear and understand, listen and obey.

**A** Amen.

**First reading.....Jeremiah 31:31-36**

**Responsorial Psalm..... Psalm 51:3-4, 12-15**

**C** A clean heart create for me, God.

**A** A clean heart create for me, God.

**C** 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** A clean heart create for me, God.

**C** 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.

**A** A clean heart create for me, God.

**C** Restore to me the gladness of your salvation;  
uphold me with a willing spirit.  
I will teach the wicked your ways,  
that sinners may return to you.

**A** A clean heart create for me, God.

**Second reading** ..... Hebrews 5:7-9

**Gospel reading** ..... John 12:20-33

## HOMILY

### EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE

#### MARK 14:3-9

**Jesus said, “Let her alone. Why do you make trouble for her? She has done a good thing for me.”**

Reader I: Deep in our hearts, we all desire a closer relationship with God. Without love, that desire can be distorted as envy and jealousy.

Reader II: Am I excessively critical of other people’s faults, even though I make excuses for my own weaknesses? Do I thank God for the blessings enjoyed by family members and friends?

**A** **Have I helped other people prepare for death, or do I withdraw from those who are suffering? Do I consider and prepare for my own death?**

*(pause for reflection)*

**P** A clean heart create for me, O God,

**A** **and a steadfast spirit renew within me.**

#### MARK 14:17-21

**As they reclined at table and were eating, Jesus said, “Amen, I say to you, one of you will betray me, one who is eating with me.”**

Reader I: Betrayal is a terrible violation of trust, no matter what the circumstances might be.

Reader II: Have I been faithful to the promises I have made? Have I fulfilled my responsibilities at home and in the workplace or at school?

**A** **Do I participate regularly and faithfully in the Eucharist? Do I respect the name of Jesus?**