

- A** Am I grateful for what I have received and generous in sharing God's gifts? Or do I envy what other people have and overlook all that I have been given?

*(Pause for reflection.)*

- P** Together we pray:

- A** Lord Jesus Christ, in your great mercy, wipe out my offense.

**Reader 1:** The Church requires that we help support our local parish with our time and talents as well as our financial contributions. Have we given our share so that the parish and local church can spread the good news of the Kingdom of God?

- A** Do I support organizations or individuals who serve the poor and needy directly? Do I support organizations or individuals that work for justice in our community, nation and the world?

*(Pause for reflection.)*

- P** Together we pray:

- A** Lord Jesus Christ, in your great mercy, wipe out my offense.

## CONTRITION AND CONFESSION

*(All stand.)*

- P** Friends, we have all fallen short of the goal, and our purpose in reflecting on our sins is to open ourselves to healing, not judgment and condemnation. Desiring to be set free from sin and all its negativity, let us together pray:

- A** I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

- P** Confident that God will heal us and set us free, let us pray in the words Jesus taught us:

- A** Our Father, who art in heaven . . .

*(All sit. Instructions for individual confessions are given here.  
When individual confessions are complete,  
the assembly gathers once again.)*

## THANKSGIVING AND PRAISE

*(All stand.)*

- C** The Lord is kind and merciful.
- A** The Lord is kind and merciful.
- C** Bless the Lord, O my soul;  
and all my being, bless his holy name.  
Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
and forget not all his benefits.
- A** The Lord is kind and merciful.
- C** He pardons all your iniquities,  
he heals all your ills.  
He redeems your life from destruction,  
he crowns you with kindness and compassion.
- A** The Lord is kind and merciful.
- C** The Lord secures justice  
and the rights of all the oppressed.  
He has made known his ways to Moses,  
and his deeds to the children of Israel.

- A** The Lord is kind and merciful.

- C** Merciful and gracious is the Lord,  
slow to anger and abounding in kindness.  
For as the heavens are high above the earth,  
so surpassing is his kindness toward those who fear him.

- A** The Lord is kind and merciful.

## SIGN OF PEACE

- P** Forgiven by our Lord and Savior, we can put away all guilt and shame. Let us offer each other a sign of the peace of Christ.

*(The Sign of Peace is exchanged.)*

## FINAL BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

- P** May the blessing of Almighty God be ours, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

- A** Amen.

- P** Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

- A** Thanks be to God.

## CLOSING HYMN

# Is it I, Lord?



## A PENANCE SERVICE FOR LENT

# Is it I, Lord?

## OPENING HYMN

*(All stand.)*

**Presider:** May the grace and peace of God, our Father, the love of the Son and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**All: And with your spirit.**

**P** We come together as friends of Jesus Christ, but friends who have to face an uncomfortable fact: it was one of his friends who betrayed Jesus to his enemies. And the rest of his friends did not do much better: they ran or denied him. Knowing that we have at times betrayed, run from or denied the Lord, we pause in silent prayer.

*(silent pause)*

**P** Lord Jesus, you famously forgave your enemies, but just as amazingly, you forgave your friends as well. We seek your help as we strive to know where, when and how we have sinned so that we, too, may enjoy your mercy and forgiveness. Send your Holy Spirit to enlighten our minds to the truth and move our hearts to repentance.

**A Amen.**

**P** Lord Jesus, you came into the world not to condemn the world but to redeem it, and so we say:

**A Lord, have mercy.**

**P** Christ Jesus, you came to call sinners to repentance, and so we say:

**A Christ, have mercy.**

**P** Lord Jesus, you gave us a lasting example of forgiveness from the cross, and so we say:

**A Lord, have mercy.**

**P** Almighty God and Father, in your desire to set us free from sin and all its terrible effects, you sent Jesus to be our Savior. Grant us your mercy now as we seek the freedom of your daughters and sons.

**A Amen.**

*(All sit.)*

First Reading.....Joshua 5:9-12

Responsorial Psalm.....Psalm 34:2-7

**C** Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

**A Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.**

**C** I will bless the LORD at all times;  
his praise shall be ever in my mouth.  
Let my soul glory in the LORD;  
the lowly will hear me and be glad.

**A Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.**

**C** Glorify the LORD with me,  
let us together extol his name.  
I sought the LORD, and he answered me  
and delivered me from all my fears.

**A Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.**

**C** Look to him that you may be radiant with joy,  
and your faces may not blush with shame.  
When the afflicted man called out, the LORD heard,  
and from all his distress he saved him.

**A Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.**

Second Reading.....2 Corinthians 5:17-21

*(All stand.)*

Gospel Reading.....Luke 22:14-26

*(All sit.)*

## HOMILY

### EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE

**Reader 1:** Having heard from Jesus that one of them would betray him, the disciples immediately began to argue about which of them was the greatest. Instead of questioning their own motives, they began to jockey for position, place and privilege.

**A Do I use religion to enhance my reputation, or can I look honestly at my behavior in the light of the gospel? Have I faithfully carried out my duties at home, at work or school, and at church?**

*(Pause for reflection.)*

**P** Together we pray:

**A Lord Jesus Christ, in your great mercy, wipe out my offense.**

**Reader 1:** God did not hold our sins against us but sent his son to redeem us from the shame, fear and sadness our sins cause us. Do we ask God's pardon for sinners? Do we forgive others or hold their sins against them?

**A Do I pass judgment on people without knowing all the**

**facts of their situation? Have I passed along rumors as if they were true?**

*(Pause for reflection.)*

**P** Together we pray:

**A Lord Jesus Christ, in your great mercy, wipe out my offense.**

**Reader 1:** Anger is not necessarily a sin, but it can often give rise to sinful behavior. We may even excuse or justify our actions because we were angry. Did we hold on to our anger, even when it was hurtful to ourselves and others?

**A Have I asked forgiveness of those I have injured? Is there someone I need to forgive?**

*(Pause for reflection.)*

**P** Together we pray:

**A Lord Jesus Christ, in your great mercy, wipe out my offense.**

**Reader 1:** Jesus allowed himself to be crucified for us, and he left us a lasting memorial of that sacrifice in the Eucharist. More than a weekly obligation, attendance at Mass is a great privilege.

**A Do I faithfully worship with the Church? Do I seriously consider Catholic teaching when making a decision? Do I practice my faith even when it might be inconvenient?**

*(Pause for reflection.)*

**P** Together we pray:

**A Lord Jesus Christ, in your great mercy, wipe out my offense.**

**Reader 1:** As Catholics, we are called to be ambassadors for Christ, signs of God's love in the world. Does our language reflect that, or do we take God's name in vain? Do we joke about sexuality or make fun of other people's racial or religious background?

**A Have I behaved as a Christian, or have I abused alcohol or taken harmful drugs? Do I indulge in pornographic images or literature?**

*(Pause for reflection.)*

**P** Together we pray:

**A Lord Jesus Christ, in your great mercy, wipe out my offense.**

**Reader 1:** God provided manna in the desert to the Israelites, but even more, God is the source of all that sustains and nurtures us. Giving thanks to God is a way of worshiping the Lord and acknowledging the truth about ourselves.