
✝ The 'Our Father'

The priest / leader introduces the Our Father.

Our Father ...

✝ Sharing Peace

The priest / leader invites everyone to share a sign of peace.

✝ Individual Confessions and Sacrament of Reconciliation

✝ Final Blessing

The priest / leader says:

Today the Lord has given us another chance to show sorrow for our sins and go back to him our loving father. He welcomes us back to his Christian family and wants us to live together in peace and love. We thank you Lord for your forgiveness and ask you to help us live in your love now in this special time of Lent and always.

May the almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you now and forever.

All: Amen.

✝ Final hymn / music

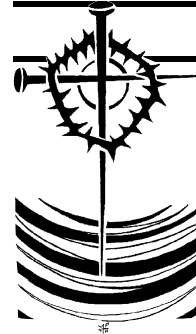


LENT RECONCILIATION SERVICE



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A PHARISEE AND A TAX-COLLECTOR

Who am I like?

✝ Welcome and Introduction

We are in a special time — Lent. In this special time of 40 days before Easter, God invites us to think about how we can love him more. He wants us to do something about it. Today he invites us to listen to his Word and think about what he wants to say to us.

In today's reading Jesus tells us about two people who both went to the temple to pray — but they prayed in a very different way. Today Jesus invites us to admit that we have committed sins and turned away from God. He also invites us to meet him in the Sacrament of Reconciliation or Confession. He invites us to show that we are sorry for our sins and ask him to forgive us.

✝ Opening hymn / music

✝ Opening prayer

The priest / leader says this prayer:

Lord Jesus,

You love us so much that you are always ready to welcome us back to you. You want us to say 'yes' to all that you want of us — but sometimes we don't — we listen to someone else and turn away from you.

We want to come back today. We want to say 'no' to sin and 'yes' to you. Help us to listen and to put what you tell us into practice. We ask this through Jesus Christ, Our Lord.

All answer: Amen.

✝ Word of God

Responsorial Psalm

The response is: The Lord is kind and merciful.

The Lord is kind and full of mercy,
Slow to anger, abounding in love.
How good is the Lord to all,
Merciful to all his creatures. *Response.*

The Lord is faithful in all his words
And loving in all his deeds.
The Lord supports all who fall
And raises all who are bowed down. *Response.*

The Lord is just in all his ways
And loving in all his deeds.
He is close to all who call him,
Who call on him from their hearts. *Response.*

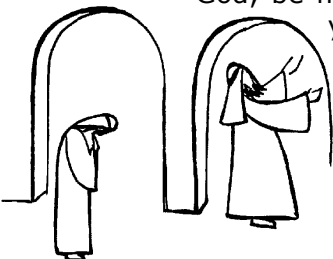
(Psalm 103)



Gospel

A reading from the Gospel according to Luke

He spoke the following parable to some people who prided themselves on being upright and despised everyone else, 'Two men went up to the Temple to pray, one a Pharisee, the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood there and said this prayer to himself, "I thank you, God, that I am not grasping, unjust, adulterous like everyone else, and particularly that I am not like this tax collector here. I fast twice a week; I pay tithes on all I get." The tax collector stood some distance away, not daring even to raise his eyes to heaven; but he beat his breast and said, "God, be merciful to me, a sinner." This man, I tell you, went home again justified; the other did not. For everyone who raises himself up will be humbled, but anyone who humbles himself will be raised up.'



This is the Gospel of the Lord.

(Luke 18:9-14)

✝ Reflection / Homily

✝ Examination of Conscience

Jesus praised the tax collector who admitted he was a sinner. Today Jesus wants us to do the same. Let us think about the times when we have sinned.

For the times I have not been good towards God — when I did not pray, when I did not pay attention at mass, when I did not listen to God's voice in me telling me to do what is good.

All: I am sorry Lord.

For the times I have not been good at home — when I showed lack of respect to my parents or disobeyed them; when I did not respect my brothers and sisters in any way.

All: I am sorry Lord.

For the times I have not been good at school — when I did not do my work properly, when I wasted time, when I did not listen to teachers and others who work in school.

All: I am sorry Lord.

For the times I have not been good with others — for the times I said bad things about others or have told lies instead of the truth; or when I have taken or damaged someone else's property.

All: I am sorry Lord.

✝ Prayer of Sorrow

Let us show God that we are really sorry for our sins by saying together the sorry prayer:

O my God, I am very sorry that I have sinned against you but with the help of your grace I will not sin again.

