A Penance Service for Lent  
Diocese of Madison  
Lent 2004

The service below is taken from the *Rite of Penance*. Many variations on this service are possible. See appendix II of the *Rite of Penance* for suggestions and examples of other services, including services for children, young people, and the sick.

Please email the Office of Worship (worship@straphael.org) if you would like to receive an electronic copy of this material.

Musical Suggestions

The music provided in the leaflet was selected to correspond with the readings and ritual texts of the attached liturgy. It is familiar to most Catholics. Other music may be selected that is familiar to the parish. Contact the Office of Worship if you would like assistance.

- **Opening Hymn**  
  *What wondrous love is this*
  
  Breaking Bread / Music Issue No.429, Gather No.290, Gather Comprehensive No. 627, Ritual Song No.749, We Celebrate No.792, Worship No.600

- **Psalm 90**  
  Any familiar setting is appropriate
  
  Settings in popular hymnals include: Breaking Bread / Music Issue No. 784, Gather Comprehensive Nos. 83-84, Ritual Song Nos. 120-121, Worship Nos. 209, 952.
  
  *The most appropriate antiphon is “Fill us with your love, O Lord.” However, other antiphons for Psalm 90 may be used.*

- **Gospel Acclamation**  
  Use the setting which is being sung at Lenten Masses

- **Proclamation of Praise**  
  *There’s a wideness in God’s mercy*
  
  Breaking Bread / Music Issue No.425, Gather Comprehensive No. 626, Ritual Song No.742, We Celebrate No.415, Worship No.595

  Many other hymns and songs are well-known and appropriate, such as *Amazing grace, Parce Domine, O healing river, Grant to us, O Lord, I heard the voice of Jesus say, The glory of these forty days, Lord who throughout these forty days,* and *Seek the Lord.* In addition, any setting of the *Magnificat* would be appropriate for the Proclamation of Praise, especially at penance services held in the evening.
Introductory Rites

Hymn or Song  What wondrous love is this *(All stand)*

Greeting  *After making the sign of the cross, the priest says:*

    Presider:  *Grace and peace be with you*
      *from God the Father*
      *and from Jesus Christ*
      *who loved us*
      *and washed away our sins with His blood.*
    All:  *Glory to Him for ever.*

*See The Rite of Penance, nos. 49 and 94-96 for alternative greetings.*

Introduction  *The presider may offer a brief introduction before saying:*

    *Brothers and sisters, God calls us to conversion; let is therefore ask him for the grace of sincere repentance.*

*Pause for silent prayer.*

Opening Prayer

    *Lord,*
    *hear the prayers of those who call on you,*
    *forgive the sins of those who confess to you,*
    *and in your merciful love*
    *give us your pardon and your peace.*
    *We ask this through Christ our Lord.*
    *Amen.*

*For other forms of the Opening Prayer, see The Rite of Penance, nos. 50 and 97-100.*
Celebration of the Word of God

See Rite of Penance, nos. 101-201 for other texts.

Suggested Readings (Others may be chosen)

**Reading (All sit)**  
Deuteronomy 6:3-9  
*You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart.*  
Lectionary for Mass number 412 (Year I: Saturday of the Eighteenth Week in Ordinary Time)

**Psalm**  
Psalm 90  
*Fill us with your love, O Lord, and we will sing for joy.*

**Gospel Acclamation (All stand)**

**Gospel**  
Matthew 22:34-40  
*You shall love the Lord your God and your neighbor as yourself.*  
Lectionary for Mass 148A (Year A: Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time)

**Homily (All sit)**

**Examination of Conscience**  
*See the attached example or The Rite of Penance, appendix III.*
Rite of Reconciliation

General Confession of Sins (All stand)
(For additional texts, see The Rite of Penance nos. 54 and 202-205.)

Presider: My brothers and sisters, confess your sins and pray for each other, that you may be healed.

[Let us kneel.] All kneel.

All: I confess to almighty God, and to you my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned through my own fault in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done, and in what I have failed to do; and 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.

[Please stand] All stand for the litany.

Presider: Our God seeks out what is lost, leads home the abandoned, binds up what is broken and gives strength to the weak; let us ask him to help us.

The litany may be led by the priest, deacon, cantor, or lector.

You were sent with good news for the poor and healing for the contrite.

Assembly: Lord, have mercy.

You came to call sinners, not the just. Lord, have mercy.

You forgave the many sins of the woman who showed you great love. Lord, have mercy.

You did not shun the company of outcasts and sinners. Lord, have mercy.

You carried back to the fold the sheep that had strayed. Lord, have mercy.

You did not condemn the woman taken in adultery,

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but sent her away in peace.

Lord, have mercy.

You called Zacchaeus to repentance and a new life.

Lord, have mercy.

You promised paradise to the repentant thief.

Lord, have mercy.

You are always interceding for us at the right hand of the Father.

Lord, have mercy.

Make us a living sign of your love for all to see:
people reconciled with you and with each other.

Lord, have mercy.

Presider: Let us now pray to God our Father in the words Christ gave us, and ask him for his forgiveness and protection from all evil.

All: Our Father . . .

Presider: Father,
our source of life,
you know our weakness.
May we reach out with joy to grasp your hand
and walk more readily in your ways.
We ask this through Christ, our Lord.

Assembly: Amen.

Individual Confession and Absolution

Each member of the assembly who wishes to confess their sins and receive individual absolution should have the opportunity to do so. At the conclusion of the confession of sins and prayer of the penitent, the priest extends his hands over the penitent’s head and says:

God, the Father of mercies, through the death and resurrection of his Son has reconciled the world to himself and sent the Holy Spirit among us for the forgiveness of sins; through the ministry of the Church, may God give you pardon and peace, and I absolve you from your sins and the name of the Father, and of the Son, ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

The penitent answers: Amen.
Proclamation of Praise for God’s Mercy  There’s a wideness in God’s mercy (All stand)

Presider:  Brothers and sisters, the Lord is loving and kind: his mercy lasts for ever. [Let us praise God in song.]

If a psalm, canticle, or song is not sung, a psalm may be recited. See The Rite of Penance no. 206 for additional texts.

Concluding Prayer of Thanksgiving  (For additional texts, see The Rite of Penance nos. 57 and 207-211.)

Presider:  God and Father of us all, you have forgiven our sins and sent us your peace. Help us to forgive each other and to work together to establish your peace in the world. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Assembly: Amen.

Concluding Rite

Blessing & Dismissal  (For additional texts see The Rite of Penance nos. 58 and 212-214.)

Presider:  May the Lord guide your hearts in the way of his love and fill you with Christ-like patience.

All:  Amen.

May he give you strength to walk in newness of life and to please him in all things.

Amen.

May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, ✞ and the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The Lord has freed you from your sins. Go in peace.

Thanks be to God.

An appropriate hymn may be sung.

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