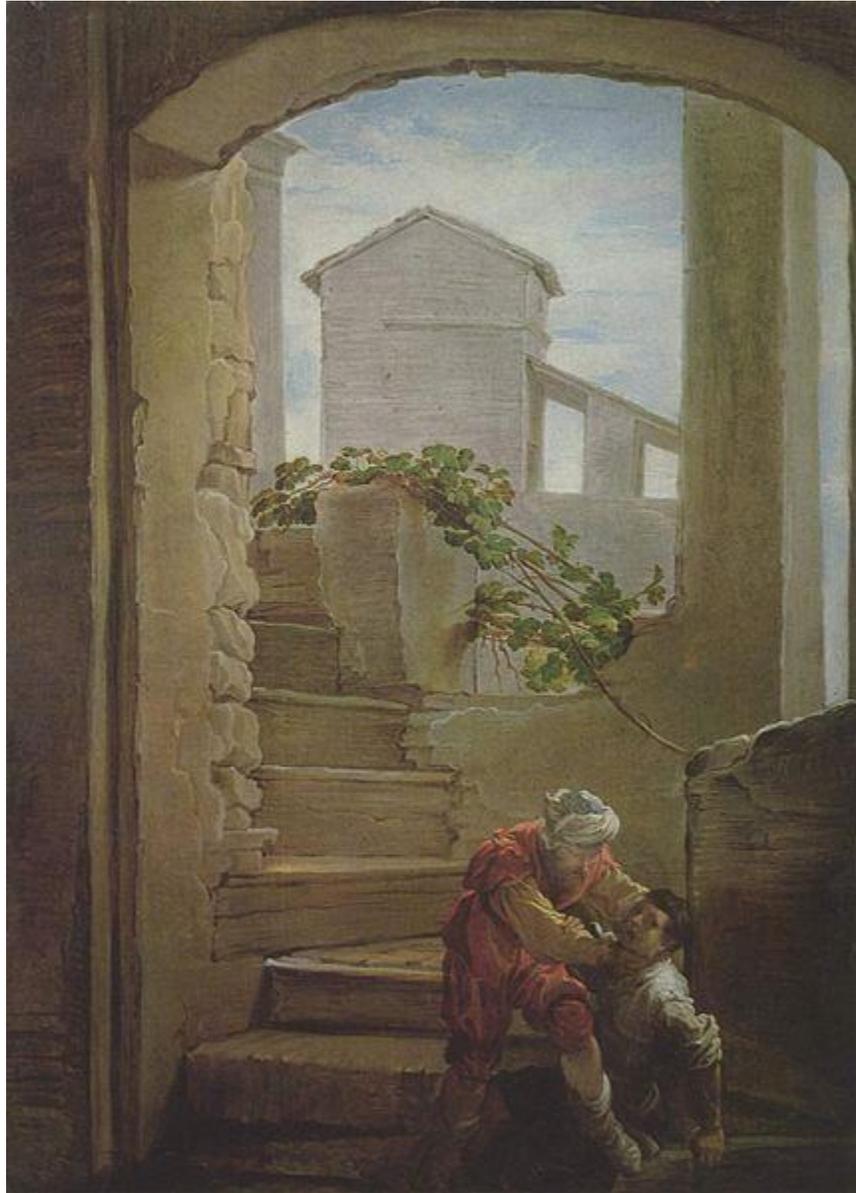


LENTEN COMMUNAL PENANCE SERVICE 2021



Parable of the Unforgiving Servant by Domenico Fetti, c.1620
Gemäldegalerie Alte Meister, Dresden

INTRODUCTORY RITES

HYMN

Have mercy, Lord, on us,
For you are ever kind;
Though we have sinned before you, Lord,
Your mercy let us find.

Lord, wash away our guilt,
And cleanse us from our sin;
For we confess our wrongs, and see
How great our guilt has been.

Blot out our many sins,
Remove them from your view;
Clean hearts create for us, O God;
Our spirits now renew.

The joy your grace can give
Let us again obtain,
And may your Spirit's strong support
Our contrite hearts sustain.

Text: Psalm 51; Nahum Tate, 1652-1715, and Nicholas Brady, 1659-1726, alt.
Tune: SOUTHWELL, SM; William Daman, the Psalmes of David, 1579, alt.

Most hymn tunes marked "SM" (Short Meter) will fit with this text.

Examples include:

SWABIA (*'Tis Good, Lord, to Be Here*)

FESTAL SONG (*Rise Up O Men Of God*)

GREETING

After the song the presider greets the people:

Presider:

Grace, mercy and peace
from God the Father and Jesus Christ his son
be with you in truth and love.

All: Amen.

Then the presider or another minister speaks briefly about the importance and purpose of the celebration and the order of the service.

The faithful are briefly reminded that they are linked with each other in sin and in repentance so that each should take their calling to conversion as an occasion of grace for the whole community.

OPENING PRAYER

Presider:

Almighty and merciful God,
you have brought us together in the name of your Son
to receive your mercy and grace in our time of need.
Open our eyes to see the evil we have done.
Touch our hearts and convert us to yourself.

Where sin has scattered,
may your love make us one again;
where sin has brought weakness,
may your power heal and strengthen;
where sin has brought death,
may your Spirit raise to new life.

Give us a new heart to love you
so that our lives may reflect the image of your Son.
May the world see the glory of Christ
revealed in your Church,
and come to know
that he is the one whom you have sent,
Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

All: Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

The following reading is listed as an option in the rite, and is also found in the Lectionary at number 130, cycle "A".

FIRST READING

Sirach 27:30 – 28:7

Reader: A reading from the book of Sirach

Wrath and anger, these also are abominations,
yet a sinner holds on to them.
The vengeful will face the Lord's vengeance;
indeed he remembers their sins in detail.
Forgive your neighbor the wrong done to you;
then when you pray, your own sins will be forgiven.
Does anyone nourish anger against another
and expect healing from the LORD?
Can one refuse mercy to a sinner like oneself,
yet seek pardon for one's own sins?
If a mere mortal cherishes wrath, who will forgive his sins?
Remember your last days and set enmity aside;
remember death and decay, and cease from sin!
Remember the commandments
and do not be angry with your neighbor;
remember the covenant of the Most High, and overlook faults.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God

The psalm should be sung.

The following suggested psalm is the proper psalm for the Twenty-Eighth Sunday of Ordinary Time, cycle "B".

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 90: 12-13, 14-15, 16-17

R. Fill us with your love, O Lord, and we will sing for joy.

Teach us to count our days aright,
that we may gain wisdom of heart.

Relent, O LORD! How long?

Have pity on your servants! (R.)

Fill us at daybreak with your mercy,
that all our days we may sing for joy.

Make us glad as many days as you humbled us,
for as many years as we have seen trouble. (R.)

Show your deeds to your servants,
your glory to their children.

May the favor of the Lord our God be ours.

Prosper the work of our hands!

Prosper the work of our hands! (R.)

LENTEN GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

If the acclamation is not sung, it is omitted.

R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Be merciful,
just as your Father is merciful.

R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

The following suggested gospel reading may be found in the Lectionary at number 130, cycle "A", Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time.

GOSPEL

Matthew 18: 21-35

Deacon: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Deacon: + A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew.

All: Glory to you, Lord.

Peter approached Jesus and asked him,

“Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive him?

As many as seven times?”

Jesus answered, “I say to you, not seven times but seventy-seven times.

That is why the kingdom of heaven may be likened to a king

who decided to settle accounts with his servants.

When he began the accounting, a debtor was brought before him

who owed him a huge amount.

Since he had no way of paying it back, his master ordered him to be sold,

along with his wife, his children, and all his property,

in payment of the debt.

At that, the servant fell down, did him homage, and said,

‘Be patient with me, and I will pay you back in full.’

Moved with compassion the master of that servant let him go

and forgave him the loan.

When that servant had left,

he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a much smaller amount.

He seized him and started to choke him, demanding,

‘Pay back what you owe.’

Falling to his knees, his fellow servant begged him,

‘Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.’ But he refused.

Instead, he had him put in prison until he paid back the debt.

Now when his fellow servants saw what had happened,

they were deeply disturbed, and went to their master

and reported the whole affair.

His master summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked servant!

I forgave you your entire debt because you begged me to.

Should you not have had pity on your fellow servant, as I had pity on you?’

Then in anger his master handed him over to the torturers

until he should pay back the whole debt.

So will my heavenly Father do to you,

unless each of you forgives his brother from his heart.”

Deacon: The gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

HOMILY

EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE

The assembly is now invited to make an examination of conscience.

This may be done:

- *in silence*
- or*
- *by using the examination of conscience below.*

Presider:

We examine our thoughts, words and deeds [in silence].

One reader may read the questions.

Allow a brief period of silence between each set.

Reader:

1.)

- When priorities other than God take precedence in my life...
- When I neglect my prayer life and ignore God's presence within me...
- When I take God's name in vain and refuse to grow in holiness...

Help me to be merciful, and to see the face of God more clearly.

2.)

- When I harbor bitterness and resentment towards others because of disagreements and hurt feelings...
- When concern for my own personal needs prevents me from recognizing and responding to the needs of others...
- When impatience and intolerance inhibit me from recognizing the goodness and potential of each person I meet...

Help me to be merciful, and to see the face of God more clearly.

3.)

- When worry and frustration keep me from placing my trust and confidence in God...
- When anger and jealousy prevent me from hearing God speak to me in my heart...
- When feelings of discouragement and despair hinder me from realizing that darkness always leads to light...

Help me to be merciful, and to see the face of God more clearly.

If read aloud, this Examination of Conscience should conclude with a period of silence so that each person may personally examine his or her conscience.

RITE OF RECONCILIATION

GENERAL CONFESSION OF SINS

Presider:

Directing the assembly:

Please kneel.

Brothers and sisters,
let us call to mind the goodness of God our Father,
and acknowledge our sins,
so that we may receive his merciful forgiveness.

After a brief period of silence, all say together:

**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.**

LITANY OF REPENTANCE

Presider:

Directing the assembly:

Please stand.

By human weakness we have disfigured the holiness of the Church: pardon
all our sins and restore us to full communion with our brothers and sisters.

Presider: Our response: Forgive us as we forgive.

All: (R.) **Forgive us as we forgive.**

Presider: Your mercy is our hope:
welcome us to the sacrament of reconciliation. (R.)

Presider: Give us the will to change our lives, and the lives of others,
by charity, good example and prayer. (R.)

Presider: As we make our confession, rescue us from slavery to sin
and lead us to the freedom enjoyed by your children. (R.)

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

Presider: Through the sacrament of reconciliation
may we grow in your peace
and seek to spread it throughout the world. (R.)

Presider: In this sign of your love you forgive our sins:
may it teach us to love others
and to forgive their sins against us. (R.)

LORD'S PRAYER

Presider:

Now, in obedience to Christ himself,
let us join in prayer to the Father,
asking him to forgive us as we forgive others.

All say together:

Our Father...

The presider concludes:

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.

All: Amen.

INVITATION TO INDIVIDUAL CONFESSION

Presider:

Directing the assembly:

Please be seated.

Before we begin the Sacrament of Reconciliation, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank our priests who have joined us for this liturgy:

I would also like to thank all of you who have come together to pray, seeking Christ's mercy.

While we sing the next song, our confessors will process to their confessional stations. They are located in these places in the church:

At the end of the song I invite you to go to the Priest of your choice at one of the confessional stations.

After your confession is heard you may remain here to pray for a time if you wish but are otherwise dismissed.

For those of you who decide not to partake of the sacrament at this time, I invite you to go to individual confession at your earliest convenience.

PRAYER AND BLESSING

Presider:

Gesturing for the assembly to stand:

Let us pray.

All pray in silence for a brief period.

Lord Jesus Christ,
your loving forgiveness knows no limits.
You took our human nature
to give us an example of humility
and to make us faithful in every trial.
May we never lose the gifts you have given us,
but if we fall into sin
lift us up by your gift of repentance,
for you live and reign for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

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

All: Amen.

Confessors process to their stations during the song.

HYMN

There's a wideness in God's mercy
Like the wideness of the sea;
There's a kindness in God's justice
Which is more than liberty.
There is plentiful redemption
In the blood that has been shed;
There is joy for all the members
In the sorrows of the Head.

For the love of God is broader
Than the measures of our mind;
And the heart of the Eternal
Is most wonderfully kind.
If our love were but more faithful,
We should rest upon God's word;
And our lives would be thanksgiving
For the goodness of our Lord.

Troubled souls, why will you scatter
Like a crowd of frightened sheep?
Foolish hearts, why will you wander
From a love so true and deep?
There is welcome for the sinner,
And more graces for the good;
There is mercy with the Savior;
There is healing in His blood.

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

Text: Fredrick W. Faber, 1814-1863, alt.

Tune: IN BABILONE, 8 7 8 7 D, *Oude en Nieuwe Hollandse Boerenliedjes en Contredansen*, c.1710

INDIVIDUAL CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Then the penitents go to the priests designated for individual confession, and confess their sins. Each one receives and accepts a fitting act of satisfaction and is absolved. After hearing the confession and offering suitable counsel, the priest extends his hands over the penitent's head (or at least extends his right hand) and gives him or her absolution. Everything else which is customary in individual confession is omitted.

After receiving absolution the penitents may return to the main body of the church and spend some time in private prayer.

Soft, unobtrusive instrumental music may be played for a time during the transition to individual confession.