



St. Augustine Catholic Church
Wednesday, April 9, 2020 7 p.m.

LENTEN PENANCE SERVICE

"Be Reconciled to God and to One Another"

INTRODUCTORY RITES

GATHERING SONG:

GREETING:

**Presider: Grace, mercy, and peace be with you
from God the Father
and Christ Jesus our Savior.**

And with your spirit.

INTRODUCTION: *(in these or similar words)*

My brothers and sisters,

We gather this day/night because we are sinners. We come, though, with the firm conviction that we are approaching a merciful God. Knowing this, we find the courage to change, to become a holy people.

Tonight (today) we seek reconciliation with our God and with each other. St. Paul reminds us that we are ambassadors for Christ, for he has given us the ministry of reconciliation. Christ not only offers to us his mercy, he expects us to live in a spirit of mercy and forgiveness.

Let us pray for the courage to seek God's forgiveness and the willingness to offer forgiveness to those who have hurt us.

OPENING PRAYER

Presider: Let us pray.

(Pause)

Lord our God,

**you are patient with sinners
and accept our desire to make amends.
We acknowledge our sins
and are resolved to change our lives.
Help us to celebrate this sacrament of your mercy
so that we may reform our lives
and receive from you the gift of everlasting joy.**

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

CELEBRATION OF THE WORD:

Reading: 2 Corinthians 5: 17-21

Gospel Acclamation: *Praise to You Lord Jesus Christ, King of Endless Glory!*

Gospel: Luke 15

The tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to listen to him,²but the Pharisees and scribes began to complain, saying, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.”³So to them he addressed this parable.⁴ “What man among you having a hundred sheep and losing one of them would not leave the ninety-nine in the desert and go after the lost one^d until he finds it?⁵And when he does find it, he sets it on his shoulders with great joy⁶and, upon his arrival home, he calls together his friends and neighbors and says to them, ‘Rejoice with me because I have found my lost sheep.’⁷I tell you, in just the same way there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who have no need of repentance.^f

*Parable of the Lost Coin.*⁸“Or what woman having ten coins* and losing one would not light a lamp and sweep the house, searching carefully until she finds it?⁹And when she does find it, she calls together her friends and neighbors and says to them, ‘Rejoice with me because I have found the coin that I lost.’¹⁰In just the same way, I tell you, there will be rejoicing among the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

*The Parable of the Lost Son.*¹¹Then he said, “A man had two sons,¹²and the younger son said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of your estate that should come to me.’ So the father divided the property between them.¹³After a few days, the younger son collected all his belongings and set off to a distant country where he squandered his inheritance on a life of dissipation.¹⁴When he had freely spent everything, a severe famine struck that country, and he found himself in dire need.¹⁵So he hired himself out to one of the local citizens who sent him to his farm to tend the swine.¹⁶And he longed to eat his fill of the pods on which the swine fed, but nobody gave him any.¹⁷Coming to his senses he thought, ‘How many of my father’s hired workers have more than enough food to eat, but here am I, dying from hunger.¹⁸I shall get up and go to my father and I shall say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.¹⁹I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as you would treat one of your hired workers.”’²⁰So he got up and went back to his father. While he was still a long way off, his father caught sight of him, and was filled with compassion. He ran to his son, embraced him and kissed him.²¹His son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son.’²²But his father ordered his servants, ‘Quickly bring the finest robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet.²³Take the fattened calf and slaughter it. Then let us celebrate with a feast,²⁴because this son of mine was dead, and has come to life again; he was lost, and has been found.’ Then the celebration began.²⁵Now the older son had been out in the field and, on his way back, as he neared the house, he heard the sound of music and dancing.²⁶He

called one of the servants and asked what this might mean.²⁷The servant said to him, 'Your brother has returned and your father has slaughtered the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.'²⁸He became angry, and when he refused to enter the house, his father came out and pleaded with him.²⁹He said to his father in reply, 'Look, all these years I served you and not once did I disobey your orders; yet you never gave me even a young goat to feast on with my friends.³⁰But when your son returns who swallowed up your property with prostitutes, for him you slaughter the fattened calf.'³¹He said to him, 'My son, you are here with me always; everything I have is yours.'³²But now we must celebrate and rejoice, because your brother was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found.'"

Homily

Song

Examination of Conscience:

Examination of Conscience

The assembly is now invited to make an examination of conscience. This can be done in silence or by using the examination of conscience below. One reader alone may read the examination or two readers might alternate between questions. Allow a brief period of silence between each one.

**Presider: Sisters and brothers,
let us call to mind our failings
so that we may seek God's forgiveness.**

Reader 1:

- **Do I pray daily?**
- **Do I receive the sacraments regularly?**
- **Do I keep Sundays and holy days sacred?**
- **Do I fulfill my commitments as a member of my faith community?**
- **Have I tried to grow in the life of the Spirit through prayer and reading the Word of God?**
- **Do I trust God's goodness and providence, even in times of crisis and doubt?**

Reader 2:

- **Do I respect my own body as a gift from God?**
- **Do I control my vices, including abuses of food and drink?**

- Have I made good use of the gifts God has given me?
- Do I work too hard and too long? Do I neglect my family and health?
- Have I been lazy and given too much time to leisure or entertainment?

Reader 1:

- In my household, have I contributed to the well-being and happiness of the rest of my family? Am I patient? Am I loving?
- Do I treat my parents with respect?
- Am I ever angry with those I love? Am I resentful?
- Have I been faithful in my relationships?
- Have I imposed my will on others without respecting their freedom and rights?
- Am I intolerant of other's ideas or needs?
- Have I perpetuated racism, prejudices, and stereotypes?
- Do I treat people with disabilities with respect?

Reader 2:

- Do I share my time and my treasure with others in need?
- Do I fail to speak out on behalf of the poor or the oppressed?
- Have I accepted suffering as a share in the suffering of Christ?

- Have I indulged in reading, conversation, or entertainments that are contrary to Christian decency and respect for human life?
- Do I use the earth's resources wisely?
- Do I purchase a lot of material goods that I don't really need?

Reader 1:

- Have I listened to the voice of God and followed his will for my life?
- Am I ever afraid to act in a Christian manner, afraid of what others might think?
- Is the hope of eternal life my inspiration for all I do?
- Do I sincerely want to be set free from sin, turn again to God, and resolve to begin again?

Rite of Reconciliation

General Confession of Sins

Presider: **Brothers and sisters,
Let us call to mind the goodness of God
our Father,
and acknowledge our sins,
so that we may receive God's merciful
forgiveness.**

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.

Litany of Repentance

(The response, "Lord, have mercy" may be sung.)

All stand.

Presider: The Lord is merciful.
He makes us clean of heart
and leads us into his freedom
when we acknowledge our guilt.
Let us ask him to forgive us
and bind up the wounds inflicted
by our sins.

Deacon/Minister: You were sent with good news for the
poor and healing for the contrite.
Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon/Minister: You came to call sinners, not the just.
Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

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

All: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon/Minister: You did not shun the company of
outcasts and sinners.
Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon/Minister: You carried back to the fold the sheep
that had strayed.
Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon/Minister: You called Zacchaeus to repentance and a
new life.
Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

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

Lord's Prayer

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

Our Father...

Concluding Prayer

**Presider: Lord,
draw near to your servants
who in the presence of your Church
confess that they are sinners.
Through the ministry of the Church
free them from all sin
so that renewed in spirit
they may give you thankful praise.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.**

All: Amen.

Individual Confession and Absolution

The presider or other minister might tell the assembly where the confessors will be located. Some brief words regarding the manner of confessions should be given. The assembly may be advised to remain in church if there is to be a common ending. Quiet instrumental music might be played during this time.

Concluding Prayer of Thanksgiving

Presider: Lord God,
creator and ruler of your kingdom of light,
in your great love for this world
you gave up your only Son
for our salvation.
His cross has redeemed us,
his death has given us life,
his resurrection has raised us to glory.
Through him we ask you
to be always present among your family.
Teach us to be reverent in the presence of your
glory;
fill our hearts with faith,
our days with good works,
our lives with your love;
may your truth be on our lips
and your wisdom in all our actions,
that we may receive the reward of everlasting
life.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

CONCLUDING RITE

Blessing

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

All: Amen.

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

All: Amen.

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

All: Amen.

Dismissal

Deacon/Presider: The Lord has freed you from your sins. Go in peace.

All: Thanks be to God.

Closing Song of Thanksgiving