

Penitential Rites

Penitential Rite #1

Leader: Coming together as God's people to celebrate again the paschal mystery of our redemption, let us ask our God, who is full of mercy and compassion, to purify us of all that blocks the flow of his life and love within us: Jesus, Son of God, you reconcile us with the Father and with each other.

ALL: O God of mercy, forgive us all our sins.

Leader: Jesus, with your Holy Spirit, you heal the wounds of sin and division within us.

ALL: O God of compassion, heal all that needs to be healed within us.

Leader: Jesus, son of Mary, you plead for us at the right hand of the Father.

ALL: Loving Father, listen, we pray, to the prayers we offer you trustingly in the name of your Son. May almighty God bless us, forgive us our sins, and bring us together to everlasting life. Amen.

Penitential Rite # 2

Leader: Coming together as God's people to celebrate the paschal mystery of our redemption, let us ask our God, who is full of mercy and compassion, to purify us by forgiving and healing all our sins. Jesus, our savior, you were sent to call sinners to change of heart and contrition for their sins.

ALL: Merciful God, we humbly ask you to forgive all our sins, serious and small.

Leader: Jesus, our healer, you came to heal the contrite of heart of all the wounds left by their sins:

ALL: Compassionate God, we trustfully pray that you will heal all that divides us from you and from each other.

Leader: Jesus, our Mediator, you plead for us in the presence of your Father and our Father:

ALL: Loving Father, listen, we pray, to the prayers we offer you with hope and confidence in the name of your Son. May almighty God bless us, forgive us our sins, and bring us together to everlasting life. Amen

Our Humanness

Leader: Let us consider our humanness and our likeness to God. Let us be aware that each of us is human; that each of us stumbles, forgets, offends, and is thoughtless. Let us also be aware of our response to God's call to grace and how much we have loved. Let us ask each other for forgiveness and express our gratefulness to God.

For the times we were sluggish in our response to be the persons we were meant to be.

ALL: Loving God, forgive us as we forgive each other.

Leader: For our friendliness, concern, and genuine love for each other.

ALL: Loving God, we are grateful.

Leader: For our judgments of each other, for being closed to the goodness in each person, and focusing in on those things that annoy us.

ALL: Loving God, forgive us as we forgive each other.

Leader: For the inspiration we have been in our efforts to bring Christ's message to others.

ALL: Loving God, we are grateful.

Leader: For our impatience, selfishness, and narrowness of vision that center around our own needs and wall others out.

ALL: Loving God, forgive us as we forgive each other.

Leader: For the support we have given each other.

ALL: Loving God, we are grateful.

Leader: For all our thoughtless mistakes that cause hurt or inconvenience to others.

ALL: Loving God, forgive us as we forgive each other.

Leader: For the goodness we have experienced in each other and in ourselves as we share our lives.

ALL: Loving God, we are grateful.

ALL: Loving and merciful God, you who know our hearts' innermost movements, our good intentions yet our waywardness, look on us now with forgiveness. Remind us constantly of our godliness. Embrace us in your love and bind us together so that we may be one as you are one.

God Cares Through Us

In us, God can be generous, loving, creative, happy, delighted, sad, and disappointed as nowhere else.

God loves in us; God cares through us; God laughs in us; God cries in us as nowhere else.

We are privileged to know this connectedness with God. We are privileged to give God human expression.

We express our sorrow and ask God's forgiveness for the limits we have put on God's Spirit at work in us, by our unbelief and lack of understanding of God's presence in us, by acting as if we were disconnected from God, our neighbor, and our world, by our deliberate words and actions that have ruptured connectedness, and by our lack of concern for social justice and the environment.

We open our minds and hearts to the presence of God in us. May God-in-us find generous and courageous expression in our words and actions as we undertake to make the reign of God evident in our world. Amen

Source: Michael Morwood (adapted)

Holy God

Holy God, we grieve for what we have done and left undone.

Holy God, we grieve that we have made ourselves disordered and our lives unfocused.

Holy God, we grieve over sin's horror on earth and the vanity and emptiness of human affairs.

Holy God, forgive us and draw us to your Holy Self.

Seeds Of Faith

Leader: Our God provides the seed and tends the growth. Let us call to mind our failures and God's goodness to us.

ALL: God, open us to your goodness and truth. God, have mercy.

Leader: God, bless us with seed of faith and hope and love, Christ, have mercy.

ALL: God, give us opportunities and grant new beginnings. God, have mercy.

ALL: May our God of all goodness have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us home to everlasting life. Amen

Let The Healing Begin

Leader: Father-Mother of us all, we gather as those blest that you temper judgment with patience, else we could not gather at all.

ALL: So we bring to you not only our bungling and betrayals, but those we wounded by our faithlessness and indifference.

Leader: We bring to you those we love but less fully than we would were we not so defensive or so easily frightened by intimacy.

ALL: We bring to you those with whom we work but less well than we would were we not so obsessed with power or so arrogantly ready to judge.

Leader: We bring to you those we live with in this society but less closely than we would were we not so fearfully suspicious or so insistent on measuring them by our comfortable biases and certainties.

ALL: O, God, by your mercy, forgive us for our failures and heal the wounds we have inflicted on others and ourselves. Let that healing begin with us in the knowledge that with mercy comes the power and pressure to risk the honesty and humility that will move us toward wholeness within each and among all through reclaiming and rejoicing in our common humanity, as your beloved family, through our brother, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Compassionate God

Leader: Compassionate God, our community is gathered here in your name.

ALL: We are standing ready to be filled with your word.

Leader: Guide us to emulate Christ in living the cycle of life and death and resurrection.

For the times our fear of dying has kept us from learning how to live.

ALL: Show us your mercy.

Leader: For the times our attachment to this life has caused us to push life with Christ into some distant future place.

ALL: Show us your mercy.

Leader: For the times we have failed to accept that our resurrection has started; that the kingdom is now.

ALL: Show us your mercy.

We Stand Before You

ALL: We stand before you today, God, as a community called together in your name. We bring with us our lives, full with joys and fears of our recent days and nights. We stand ready to listen to your word as we ponder the turning points in our lives. We want to listen. We want to hear. We want to nurture the seeds of life that are within.

We have difficulty doing this, God. We are separated, alienated, in exile. We look to you, O God, for succor and support – help us be whole.

Leader: For those times when we create our own exile, we ask:

ALL: **Heal us, O God.**

Leader: For those times when we create our own alienation, we pray:

ALL: **Be gentle with us and show us your mercy.**

Leader: For those times when we create our own separateness, we ask:

ALL: **Heal us, O God.**

ALL: **We are here, God. Help us chip away the walls which keep us from you and from each other. Open our hearts and our hands so that we can move into the sunlight of community. Fill us with your healing power and grace. Aware of our weakness and confident of your mercy, O just and compassionate God, we beseech you to be with us today as we look to our future, to the days ahead of us.**

Loving God

Loving God, you know our weakness and the extent of our failure to love you and one another.

You see the sincerity of our efforts as well.

Look upon us who have been offended and lift up our hearts.

Look upon us who have given offense and help us heal the hurt we have caused.

As we willingly, with your help, forgive one another, we ask you to forgive us and fill us with your healing power and grace.

God-Power, Spirit-Presence

Leader: God-power, Spirit-presence, we call upon you this day.
Descend upon us. Remain with us. We ask:

ALL: Show us your Love.

Leader: For our unwillingness to trust your powerful Spirit within
ourselves, we ask:

ALL: Show us your Way.

Leader: For our fearful hesitation to follow the Spirit-presence wherever
it leads us, we ask:

ALL: Show us your Light.

**ALL: Compassionate God, we seek to be a church. We seek to
be a lantern of your Light.**

**Be gentle with us and know the sincerity of our efforts, our
fears and our attachments.**

Lead us so we may become all that we are meant to be.

**Make us women and men of your Spirit, that the hopes and
dreams you have for the world, can and will be more fully
realized in our lives. Amen.**