

**24 HOURS FOR THE LORD - JUBILEE OF MERCY  
LITURGY OF RECONCILIATION (1) – LENT 2016**

**Song**                    **Bless the Lord, My Soul (Taizé)**

**All sing:**            Bless the Lord, my soul and bless God's holy name.  
Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life.

**Opening Prayer**    **Let us pray,**

**All say:**            Compassionate and understanding God, we ask your help  
as we journey home to you on the road of reconciliation.  
Open our hearts to your boundless love and mercy.  
Give us the courage to walk into your loving embrace  
where we can be restored, refreshed and renewed.  
We ask this, through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

**Prayer**                    ***Is peacach bocht mé (Trad. Irish)***

*Is peacach bocht mé faoi ualach trom  
Is méid mo pheacaí is aithreach liom;  
Ach admhaím creideamh Dé de shíor  
Le grá ó mo chroí is dóchas fíor.  
Ó bhun na croiche glaoím suas;  
A Íosa, a Thiarna, claon anuas.*

*A poor sinner under a heavy burden,  
sorry am I that my sins are so many;  
but I confess always my faith in God  
with heartfelt love and steadfast hope;  
from the foot of the cross my cry goes up:  
O Jesus, Lord, look down on me.*

**All sing:**            Bless the Lord, my soul and bless God's holy name.  
Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life.

**Reading**                **Luke 15:1-3. 11-13**

The tax collectors and the sinners were all seeking the company of Jesus to hear what he had to say, and the Pharisees and the scribes complained. 'This man' they said 'welcomes sinners and eats with them.' So he spoke this parable to them: 'A man had two sons. The younger said to his father, "Father, let me have the share of the estate that would come to me." So the father divided the property between them. A few days later, the younger son got together everything he had and left for a distant country where he squandered his money on a life of debauchery.

**Song****My Son Has Gone Away (Bob Dufford)**

My son has gone away, left me, gone astray.  
But I have seen the way he went and I will bring him back.  
Jerusalem, Jerusalem, how could you run away?  
Jerusalem, how long my son? I'll wait for you, I'll stay.

**Examen**

Have I wasted time, money and energy on my own pleasures?  
Have I wasted my gifts by not using them for the service of others?  
Have I wasted the opportunities to build strong relationships with others?

**Chant****Kyrie (Taizé)**

**All sing:** Kyrie, Kyrie eleison, Christe, Christe eleison, Kyrie, Kyrie eleison

**Silence****Reading****Luke 15:14-20**

'When he had spent it all, that country experienced a severe famine, and now he began to feel the pinch, so he hired himself out to one of the local inhabitants who put him on his farm to feed the pigs. And he would willingly have filled his belly with the husks the pigs were eating but no one offered him anything. Then he came to his senses and said, "How many of my father's paid servants have more food than they want, and here am I dying of hunger! I will leave this place and go to my father and say: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as one of your paid servants." So he left the place and went back to his father.

**Song ctd.**

Perhaps my son is weary and cold. Perhaps he's tired and sad.  
Tonight I'll go and watch again, and wait for his return.  
Jerusalem, Jerusalem, how could you run away?  
Jerusalem, how long my son? I'll wait for you, I'll stay.

**Examen:**

I realise that I have made mistakes, hurt others by my actions and words. I want to walk that road of reconciliation back home to you. I know you are waiting for my return. I don't need to rehearse my apology as if you were a judge and I am facing you in court. Help me make a good confession so that I can truly let go of the weight I carry around with me – the weight of my faults, the burden of my guilt, the opinion of others, my pride, my low self-esteem and my anger. Encourage me when I think of you in human terms as one looking for vengeance to see instead your open arms and the unconditional face of your mercy.

**All sing:** Kyrie, Kyrie eleison, Christe, Christe eleison, Kyrie, Kyrie eleison

**Reading**                    **Luke 15:21-24**

‘While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with pity. He ran to the boy, clasped him in his arms and kissed him tenderly. Then his son said, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son.” But the father said to his servants, “Quick! Bring out the best robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the calf we have been fattening, and kill it; we are going to have a feast, a celebration, because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life; he was lost and is found.” And they began to celebrate.

**Silence**

**Thought**                    **Brother Roger of Taizé**

‘Bless us, Lord Christ; by your forgiveness you place on our finger the ring of the prodigal son.”

**Song**                            **God of Second Chances (David Haas)**

**All sing:**                    Come now, O God, of second chances; open our lives to heal.  
Remove our hate, and melt our rage. Save us from ourselves.  
Come now, O God, release our demons; open our eyes to see  
the shame within, our guilt and pain. Mend us; make us whole.

**Reading**                    **Luke 15: 25-32**

Now the elder son was out in the fields, and on his way back, as he drew near the house, he could hear music and dancing. Calling one of the servants he asked what it was all about. “Your brother has come” replied the servant “and your father has killed the calf we had fattened because he has got him back safe and sound.” He was angry then and refused to go in, and his father came out to plead with him; but he answered his father, all these years I have slaved for you and never once disobeyed your orders, yet you never offered me so much as a kid for me to celebrate with my friends. But for this son of yours, when he comes back after swallowing up your property – he and his women – you kill the calf we had been fattening.”

‘The father said, “My son, you are with me always and all I have is yours. But it is only right we should celebrate and rejoice, because your brother here was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found.”

**Song ctd.**

**All sing:**                    Come now, O God, and still our anger; open our minds to peace.  
Embrace our fear, and hold us close. Calm the storm within.  
Come now, O God, shake our resentment; open our way to  
choose the way of love over the revenge. Show us a new way.

**Reflection**            **Ronald Rolheiser**

‘Unless we mourn properly our hurts, our losses, life’s unfairness, our shattered dreams...and all life that we once had but that has now passed us by, we will live either in an unhealthy fantasy or an ever-intensifying bitterness. Spiritually we see this in the older brother of the prodigal son. His bitterness and inability to dance points to what he is still clinging to life – life’s unfairness, his own hurt, and his unfulfilled fantasies. He is living in his father’s house but he is no longer receiving the spirit of that house.’

**Prayer**

**Let us pray,**

**All say:** Almighty and most gentle God,  
who brought forth from the rock a fountain of living water  
for your thirsty people, bring forth, we pray,  
from the hardness of our heart, tears of sorrow and repentance  
and receive forgiveness from your mercy.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns  
with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever.  
**Amen.**

**Act of Sorrow**

**All say:** O My God, I thank you for loving me, I am sorry for all my sins.  
Help me to live like Jesus and not sin again.

**Individual Confession and Absolution**

**Psalm**

***Like the Deer that Yearns (Joseph Walshe)***

**All sing:** *Like the deer that yearns for running streams so my soul is  
yearning for you my God*

**Litany**

***Kyrie (Sean Ó Riada)***

*For our failure to respect the gifts of God’s creation*

*For our wasteful use of limited natural resources*

*For our neglect of those most vulnerable to climate change*

***A Thiarna déan trócaire***

*For our failure to show love and compassion to others*

*For our harsh judgements of the actions of others*

*For our reluctance to forgive others*

***A Chríost déan trócaire***

*For our failure to welcome strangers*

*For our intolerance of people from other faiths and traditions*

*For our lack of openness to the opinions and views of others*

***A Thiarna déan trócaire***

***Prayer for Protection (11<sup>th</sup> c. Maol Íosa Ó Brolcháin trans. from Irish)***

*Protect for me my eyes  
O Jesus, Son of Mary  
That it not make me greedy  
To see another's wealth*

*Protect for me my ears  
That they will pay no heed to backbiting  
And that they will not regularly listen  
To foolish talk in the world*

*Protect for me my tongue  
That it slander no one  
That I criticise no one  
That I am not boastful*

*Protect for me my heart  
O Christ, that through your love,  
I may not pursue any  
Perverse desire*

*Let there be no hatred in my heart  
Nor envy nor blindness  
Nor pride, nor disrespect  
Nor corruption, nor harm.*

*Protect my good belly  
That it be filled with due temperance  
That I may not stuff it without care*

*Protect for me my hands  
That they be not stretched out in conflict  
That they pursue nothing shameful*

*Protect for me for feet  
Upon the good ground of Ireland  
That they stir not out of place  
On no good business*

*Protect my sexuality  
In wholesome purity of desire  
Let lust not overcome me*

*Let me not fall into any of the  
Notorious great chief sins  
O Christ come to me to aid me with them*

*I give myself totally to you  
To protect me  
By your great grace O Lord, Protect me.*

**Concluding Prayer Let us pray,**

**All say:** Merciful and gentle God,  
We thank you for the gift of your forgiveness: that lightens our  
step and lifts the burden of guilt from our shoulders.  
We thank you for the gift of your forgiveness: that inspires us to  
open our hearts to others in a spirit of reconciliation.  
We thank you for the gift of your forgiveness: that encourages us  
to walk your path of truth and justice. We ask this through Christ,  
our Lord. Amen.

**Concluding Blessing**

God of mercy, love and understanding, we praise you for the gift  
of this Sacrament of Reconciliation. We are happy to have been  
blessed at the well of your forgiveness. As a forgiven people may  
we be a forgiving people. **Amen.**

God of wisdom and insight, we praise you for the gift of your  
Word that opened our hearts to your generosity and care. May  
we carry your words in our hearts and live them in our lives.  
**Amen.**

God of providence, you care for all your people may we be  
faithful to our mission to be your presence in the world today.  
May we work together to build up your kingdom of mercy,  
justice, love and peace. **Amen.**

**Final Song**

**All sing:** **The Peace of the Earth (Guatamalan Arr. J. Bell/M. Haugen)**  
The peace of the earth be with you,  
the peace of the heavens too.  
The peace of the rivers be with you, the peace of the oceans too.  
Deep peace flowing over you, God's peace dwelling in you.

*(Feel free to shape your own service from this resource - optional material in italics  
Pat O'Donoghue - Dublin Diocesan Liturgy Resource Centre 2016)*

**24 HOURS FOR THE LORD - JUBILEE OF MERCY  
LITURGY OF RECONCILIATION (2) – LENT 2016**

**Gathering Song**      **Come Back to Me (Gregory Norbet)**  
**All sing:**            Long have I waited for your coming home to me  
and living deeply our new life.

**Opening Prayer**      **Let us pray,**  
Compassionate and loving God,  
Open our hearts to the grace of forgiveness that flows so  
generously from yours.  
May your patient love and acceptance encourage us to take this  
step along the bridge of reconciliation.  
Sustain us on that journey especially when we are tempted to  
give up. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

**Song**                      **Lord, Show Us Your Mercy (Jeanne Cotter)**  
**All sing:**            Lord, show us your mercy and love

**Scripture**              **‘This son of mine was dead and has come back to life; he was  
lost and is found (Luke 15:24)**

**A Thought**              **Pope Francis**  
I think when the Prodigal son returned home, his father didn't say: 'But you, listen,  
sit down. 'What did you do with the money?' No he held a party. Then, maybe,  
when the son wanted to talk, he talked.'

**All sing:**            Lord, show us your mercy and love

**Scripture**              **My offences truly I know them (Psalm 50)**

**Examination of Conscience**

**What I have done...What I have failed to do**

I have neglected my relationship with God in prayer  
I have made a God of my ambition and my pride  
I have spent too little quality time with family and friends

**All sing:**            Kyrie, Kyrie eleison, Christe, Christe eleison Kyrie, Kyrie eleison

I have spoken unkindly or untruthfully about others  
I have been jealous of the gifts of friends and neighbours  
I have been unfaithful in honouring my commitments to others

**All sing:**            Kyrie, Kyrie eleison, Christe, Christe eleison Kyrie, Kyrie eleison

I have passed by my neighbour in their time of need  
I have failed to speak up for justice and truth  
I have been dishonest in my dealings with others

**All sing:** Kyrie, Kyrie eleison, Christe, Christe eleison Kyrie, Kyrie eleison  
I have held on to grudges and refused the apologies of others  
I have not said sorry to those who I know I have hurt  
I have encouraged others to be stubborn and heartless

**All sing:** Kyrie, Kyrie eleison, Christe, Christe eleison Kyrie, Kyrie eleison  
I have been impatient with those who have disabilities  
I have been thoughtless in my use of limited resources  
I have been careless in my use of the road

**All sing:** Kyrie, Kyrie eleison, Christe, Christe eleison Kyrie, Kyrie eleison

## **Act of Sorrow**

### **Individual Confession and Absolution**

*As people come forward for confession some reflections and music help to maintain the spirit of quiet. After the absolution people are invited to wash their hands in bowls held for them by members of the community.*

**Reflection**            **Liberator God (Edward Hays)**  
How often we find ourselves  
In a prison of our own making,  
Held by resentment and hostility  
Or cultural pressures to look good.  
Pressed by the need to be right,  
Caught up in heartless criticism  
Or useless apprehensions.  
You free us from one prison cell,  
But then we move to another.  
Help us to be fully liberated.

**Blessing**            May the God the creator shine mercy on your face  
May Christ the healer touch you with love  
May the Holy Spirit fill you with courage to change  
Go in peace to share the forgiveness you have received. **Amen.**

**Song**                **Lead us to the Water (Tom Kendzia)**  
**All sing:** Lead us to the water, bring us to the feast.  
Wash us in the river and fill us with your peace.

*(Feel free to shape your own service from this resource -  
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