

**OPENING SONG** *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy* (or other suitable song)

**GREETING**

**Leader:** In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**All:** Amen.

**Leader:** When Pope Francis, formerly Jorge Bergoglio, became pope he was asked, "Who is Jorge Bergoglio?" and his response was "I am a sinner." He was likely considering the words of Saint Ignatius, the founder of the Jesuits, who said that we are sinners loved by God. That's who we are. That's our identity. But sin is not the ideal – which is why we're gathered here to be repentant and seek forgiveness. And so let's begin with that question for ourselves: *How am I a sinner?* [PAUSE] Let us pray...

*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.*

**Leader:** Please be seated as we listen to God's word.

**FIRST READING** *2 Corinthians 5:17-21*

A reading from Saint Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians.

So whoever is in Christ is a new creation: the old things have passed away; behold, new things have come. And all this is from God, who has reconciled us to himself through Christ and given us the ministry of reconciliation, namely, God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting their trespasses against them and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. So we are ambassadors for Christ, as if God were appealing through us. We

implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who did not know sin, so that we might become the righteousness of God in him.

The Word of the Lord.

**GOSPEL READING** *Luke 15:1-10*

*(Congregation may be invited to stand.)*

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

The tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to listen to him, but the Pharisees and scribes began to complain, saying, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them." So to them he addressed this parable. "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 until he finds it? And when he does find it, he sets it on his shoulders with great joy and, 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.' I 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.

"Or what woman having ten coins and losing one would not light a lamp and sweep the house, searching carefully until she finds it? And 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.' In just the same way, I tell you, there will be rejoicing among the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**REFLECTION**

*(A prepared reflection may be offered at this point.)*

**EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE / COMMUNAL REPENTANCE**

**Leader:** And now let us centre ourselves and make an examination of conscience, making note of those areas in our lives we seek forgiveness from God...

**Reader 1:** Do I have a genuine love for my parents, friends, and teachers? Or, do I use them for my own ends? Have I failed to love by failing to be honest and trustworthy? Do I engage in gossip or other harmful actions?

**Reader 2:** Do I contribute to the happiness of others by my patience and genuine love? Do I show respect for others by listening and by accepting them as they are? Or, am I quick to judge? Do I make hurtful remarks?

**Reader 1:** Does my life reflect the mission I received at Baptism? Do I give my time to prayer and service to help those less fortunate? Or, do I look down on my neighbour, especially the poor, the sick, the elderly, strangers, people of other races?

**Reader 2:** Am I honest and just at school? Am I concerned with the good and prosperity of the wider community? Or, am I only concerned about my well-being?

**Reader 1:** Do I have broken relationships with others because of quarrels, insults, or anger? Have I failed to forgive? Do I harbor hatred and the desire for revenge? Have I been willing to ask forgiveness? Have I been willing to offer forgiveness?

**Leader:** [PAUSE] As we acknowledge our sins, we place ourselves before the goodness and mercy of God and ask for forgiveness...

*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

**Leader:** Please stand. In his great love Christ willingly suffered and died for our sins and for the sins of all humanity. Let us come before the Lord with

faith and hope to pray for the salvation of the world. Our response is *Lord, have mercy. (Lord, have mercy.)*

By your death you reconciled us with the Father and brought salvation. *(Lord, have mercy.)*

You gave yourself up for us to redeem us from all sin and to prepare for yourself a holy people, marked as your own, devoted to good works. *(Lord, have mercy.)*

You told us that the whole law depends on love of God and of our neighbour. *(Lord, have mercy.)*

You give light to our darkness and lead us to your truth. *(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.)*

**Leader:** In the words Christ taught us, we now pray together, *Our Father...*

### **INDIVIDUAL CONFESSION**

*(Explanation may be given for process of individual sacramental confession.)*

### **CONCLUDING PRAYER**

**Leader:** Let us pray...

*Merciful God, you sent your Son to save us from the power of sin. Christ's cross has redeemed us, his death has given us life, and his resurrection has raised us to glory. Fill our hearts with faith, our days with good works, and our lives with your love. In gratitude and trust, we ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Let us go in peace.

### **CLOSING SONG** *Be Forgiven* by Tom Booth (or other suitable song)

*This prayer service comes from IgnatianResources.com, a project of GodInAllThings.com.  
This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International License.*

Scripture texts in this work are taken from the New American Bible with Revised New Testament and Revised Psalms © 1991, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Washington, D.C. and are used by permission of the copyright owner. All Rights Reserved. No part of the New American Bible may be reproduced in any form without permission in writing from the copyright owner.

## EXAMINATION OF MY HEART

*REFLECTING ON MY SINFULNESS...*

- ▶ Have I felt jealous of someone or said something hurtful to a friend or family member?
- ▶ Have I spoken negatively about someone behind their back?
- ▶ How is my relationship with God? With my parents? Teachers? Friends?
- ▶ Have I ignored someone in need? Do I respect other people's dignity?
- ▶ Do I ever hate myself or beat myself up? Do I respect my own human dignity?
- ▶ Are there any bad habits I'm holding on to?
- ▶ Do I make choices that are healthy for me and for others?
- ▶ **In my brokenness, what do I need from God today?**
- ▶ **What do I need to ask forgiveness for?**

### ACT OF CONTRITION

My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart.  
In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good,  
I have sinned against you whom I should love above all things.  
I firmly intend, with your help, to do penance, to sin no more,  
and to avoid whatever leads me to sin.

# There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

Tune: BEACH SPRING

Frederick W Faber (1814-1863)

F C F Dm

1 There's a wide - ness in God's mer - cy, Like the  
 2 There's a wel - come for the sinn - er, and more  
 3 For the love of God is broad - er than the

B $\flat$  C B $\flat$  F C F

1 wide - ness of the sea. There's a kind - ness in God's  
 2 graces for the good. There is mer - cy with the  
 3 measures of the mind. And the heart of the E -

Dm B $\flat$  C B $\flat$

1 jus - tice, which is more than lib - er -  
 2 Sav - iour, there is heal - ing in his  
 3 ter - nal is most won - der - - ful - ly

F Am Dm

1 ty. There is no place where earth's sorr - ows are more  
 2 blood. There is plenti - ful re - demp - tion, in the  
 3 kind. If our love were but more faith - ful, we would

F B $\flat$  F

1 felt than up in hea - ven. There is no place where earth's  
 2 blood that has been shed. There is joy for all the  
 3 glad - ly trust - God's Word, and our lives re - flect thanks -

Dm B $\flat$  C B $\flat$  F

1 fail - ings have such kind - ly judge - ment given.  
 2 mem - bers in the sor - rows of the Head.  
 3 giv - ing for the good - ness of our Lord.

Version 1.0, March 2014