

with the help of your Son, to make up for my sins and to love as I should.

OPPORTUNITY FOR INDIVIDUAL CONFESSION _____

CONCLUDING PRAYER & DISMISSAL _____

Almighty God, we give you thanks and praise for the new life you have given us in Jesus. As we continue our Lenten journey, give us the strength and courage to set things right wherever we see pain or injustice. May we never forget your mercy and may we always forgive as you have forgiven us. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. **Response:** Amen.

The Lord has freed you from your sins. Go in peace and share the love of the Lord. **Response:** Thanks be to God.

CONCLUDING HYMN _____ **As a Fire is Meant for Burning**

As a fire is meant for burning with a bright and warming flame, so the church is meant for mission, giving glory to God's name. Not to preach our creeds or customs, but to build a bridge of care, we join hands across the nations, finding neighbors everywhere.	We are Learners; we are teachers; we are pilgrims on the way. We are seekers; we are givers; we are vessels made of clay., By our gentle, loving actions, we would show that Christ is light.. In a humble, listening spirit, we would live to God's delight..
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As a green bud in the springtime
is a sign of life renewed,
so may we be signs of oneness
'mid earth's peoples, many-hued.
As a rainbow lights the heavens
when a storm is past and gone,
may our lives reflect the radiance
of God's new and glorious dawn.

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Music : Attr. B.F. White, 1800-1879, *The Sacred Harp*, 1844.

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“COME, LET US SET THINGS RIGHT”

Lenten Penance & Reconciliation Service

Presider's Guide

OPENING HYMN _____ **Draw Near, O Lord**

Refrain:

Draw near, O Lord, our God, graciously hear us,
guilty of sinning before you.

Verses:

God of compassion, Lord of might and splendor,
Graciously listen, hear our cries of anguish.
Touch us and heal us where our sins have wounded.

Refrain

Humbly confessing countless sins committed,
Our hearts are broken, laying bare their secrets;
Pardon, Lord Jesus, those your blood has ransomed.

Refrain

Text: Latin, 10th C.: Vs.1 & 2c. Tr. by Ralph Wright, OSB, b. 1938, © 1980, International Committee on English in the Liturgy.
Refrain & Vs. 2 ab: Tr. by Melvin Farrell, 1930-1986, © 1961, World Library Publications. Tune: ATTENDE DOMINE

SIGN OF THE CROSS _____

GREETING _____

May the compassionate mercy and love of God be with you all.

INVITATION TO PENANCE & RECONCILIATION _____

Through our baptism into the Lord's death and resurrection we were set free from sin to live in the fullness of God's love. At times we've said or done things that have become barriers between ourselves and God or between ourselves and others. We come together now to acknowledge our sins and to set things right. We pray

not only for ourselves, but for each other, as we seek pardon and peace from whatever has divided us from God and one another. Come, let us set things right.

OPENING PRAYER _____

Almighty God, you have bought us here in the name of Jesus to receive your mercy and grace in this time of need. Open our eyes to see our sin and touch our hearts to bring us back to you. Give us new life, that we may grow in the fullness of your love. We ask this through Christ, our Lord.

SCRIPTURE READING _____ **ISAIAH 1:16-19**

Wash yourselves clean! Put away your misdeeds from before my eyes; cease doing evil; learn to do good. Make justice your aim. Redress the wronged, hear the orphan's plea, defend the widow. Come now, let us set things right, says the Lord: Though your sins be like scarlet, they may become white as snow; though they be crimson red, they may become white as wool.

REFLECTION _____

EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE _____

Response: Come let us set things right.

Loving God, we are people who seek pardon and peace. May the light of your love shine in our darkness so that we may see you more clearly and know your call to conversion. With you, O Lord, we pray...

The ashes of Lent remind us that only in you, O God, do we have life. Forgive us for the times we haven't respected your gift of life; when we've hurt ourselves

and each other. Help us to embrace the promise of eternal life that you've given to your Church. With you, O Lord, we pray...

O Lord, we know that your own ministry was difficult. People doubted and ridiculed you, turned you in and turned you away. Still, you proclaimed liberty and healing and peace. Forgive us for the times we failed to share your love; when we allowed hurt feelings or painful events to stand in our way; when we were more determined to be right than to be forgiving. With you, O Lord, we pray...

The handicaps of our humanity are always with us, O God. We hurt those we love the most, we get trapped in lies, we say we care and then lose our compassion. May these failings remind us of our dependency on your love; may our own sinfulness prompt us to be more forgiving of others; may we support one another as we strive to become your holy people. With you, O Lord we pray...

O Lord, with you there is mercy and the fullness of redemption. Though we cannot forget the past, we can leave it behind, and look to the future with hope and joy. Help us to forgive even when we fail to see your wisdom; help us to love even when we have no reason to do so. Help us to be more like you. With you, O, Lord we pray...

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 and your Church. I firmly intend,