

Lenten Second Rite of Reconciliation

31 March 2021

Opening Song

Come as you are – Deidre Browne

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| 1 Come as you are, that's how I want you.
Come as you are, feel quite at home.
Close to my heart, loved and forgiven;
come as you are, why stand alone? | 3 I came to call sinners, not just the virtuous.
I came to bring peace, not to condemn.
Each time you fail, to live by my promise,
why do you think I'd love you the less? |
| 2 No need to fear, love sets no limits.
No need to fear, love never ends.
Don't run away shamed and dishearten'd.
Rest in my love, trust me again. | 4 Come as you are, that's how I love you.
Come as you are, trust me again.
Nothing can change the love that I bear you.
All will be well, just come as you are. |

Opening Prayer

Celebrant In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

All Amen

Celebrant The Grace and Peace of our Lord Jesus Christ and love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All And with your spirit

Celebrant Let us pray

God, our heavenly Father, we ask you to continue through us the world your Son began. Enlighten our minds and open our hearts to embrace all people. Enrich our lives with your love so that we may be your disciples in bringing peace, reconciliation and justice to our families, our communities and the world around us. Heal the brokenness of your people, the oppressed, the abandoned, those who are cast out of their own land or rejected by others.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All Amen

First Reading

A reading from the book of Joel 2:12-18

'Now, now – it is the Lord who speaks –
come back to me with all your heart,
fasting, weeping, mourning.'

Let your hearts be broken, not your garments torn,
turn to the Lord your God again,
for he is all tenderness and compassion,
slow to anger, rich in graciousness,
and ready to relent.

Who knows if he will not turn again, will not relent,
will not leave a blessing as he passes,
oblation and libation
for the Lord your God?

Sound the trumpet in Zion!
Order a fast,

proclaim a solemn assembly,
call the people together,
summon the community,
assemble the elders,
gather the children,
even the infants at the breast.

Let the bridegroom leave his bedroom
and the bride her alcove.

Between vestibule and altar let the priests,
the ministers of the Lord, lament.

Let them say,

‘Spare your people, Lord!

Do not make your heritage a thing of shame,
a byword for the nations.

Why should it be said among the nations,
“Where is their God?”

Then the Lord, jealous on behalf of his land,
took pity on his people.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm

Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

- 1 Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness.
In your compassion blot out my offence.
O wash me more and more from my guilt
and cleanse me from my sin.

Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

- 2 My offences truly I know them;
my sin is always before me
Against you, you alone, have I sinned;
what is evil in your sight I have done.

Gospel Acclamation

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!
If today you hear his voice,
harden not your hearts.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Gospel Reading

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke 6: 31-38.

He also said, ‘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. ‘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.

Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

- 3 A pure heart create for me, O God,
put a steadfast spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from your presence,
nor deprive me of your holy spirit.

Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

- 4 Give me again the joy of your help;
with a spirit of fervour sustain me,
O Lord, open my lips
and my mouth shall declare your praise.

Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

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.

'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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

Homily

Examination of Conscience

Celebrant Let us examine our way of living in the light of the Gospel.

1. Jesus said: "Repent for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand". Since my last confession, have I made a genuine effort to improve? Have I lived in peace with God and with others?
2. Jesus said: "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart and soul". Do I love God with all my heart? Is there any other God – success, pleasure, wealth, possessions, that comes before him? Do I pray each day? Do I respect and reverence God's Name? Am I faithful to Sunday Mass?
3. Jesus said: "I give you a new Commandment: Love one another". Have I tried to love my neighbour as myself? Have I helped those in need? Have I remembered the sick and those we put on the margins of society? Have I been a faithful and loving member of my family? Have I contributed to building a happy home and family? Have I loved and honoured my parents? Have I sinned against purity?
4. Jesus said: "Happy are those who hunger and thirst for what is right". Am I selfish, self-seeking? Have I respected the rights of others? Do I overcharge? Make false claims? Am I guilty of stealing or damaging other people's property? Do I respect public property? Do I respect life? Am I conscious of other people's safety? Do I drive with care? Have I lied in a serious way?
5. Jesus said: "My peace I leave with you." Am I a person of peace? Do I support or encourage violence in any form? Have I been violent in word or deed? Am I a source of trouble or discontent at home or at the university? In general, am I willing to be counted as a Christian and a genuine follower of Jesus?

Prayer of Sorrow

All O my God, I am sorry that I have sinned against you, because you are so good, and with your help I will try not to sin again.

Individual Confession and Absolution

(The penitents only need to concentrate on two or three areas of difficulty in their lives.)

After Personal Confession

Celebrant At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

All **Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come.
Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us,
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

Celebrant Almighty God, you show us your love and mercy, making us new again. May we always seek the truth and live as people of faith.

All **Amen**

Sign of Peace

Celebrant The Lord has given us the gift of peace, let us now give the same gift to our brothers and sisters.

(All exchange a sign of peace)

Final Blessing

Celebrant Heavenly Father,
you have shown us your mercy
and made us a new creation
in the likeness of Your Son Jesus.
Make us living witnesses of your love and forgiveness
or the whole world to see.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Recessional Song

I Have Loved You – Michael Joncas (Paraphrase of 1 Jeremiah 31:3, Psalm 24:3)

Refrain

I have loved you with an everlasting love,
I have called you and you are mine;
I have loved you with an everlasting love,
I have called you and you are mine.

1 Seek the face of the Lord and long for him:
he will bring you his light and his peace.

Refrain

2 Seek the face of the Lord and long for him:
he will bring you his joy and his hope.

Refrain