

# A SERVICE OF PENANCE AND RECONCILIATION

## OPENING HYMN: HEALER OF OUR EVERY ILL

### Refrain

Heal - er of our ev - 'ry ill, light of each to - mor - row,  
give us peace be - yond our fear, and hope be - yond our sor - row.

### Verses

1. You who know our fears and sad - ness,  
2. In the pain and joy be - hold - ing,  
3. Give us strength to love each oth - er,  
4. You who know each thought and feel - ing,

Grace us with your peace and glad - ness,  
How your grace is still un - fold - ing,  
Ev - 'ry sis - ter, ev - 'ry broth - er,  
Teach us all your way of heal - ing,

D.C.

Spir - it of all com - fort: fill our hearts.  
Give us all your vi - sion: God of love.  
Spir - it of all kind - ness: be our guide.  
Spir - it of com - pas - sion: fill each heart.

Text: Marty Haugen, b.1950  
Tune: Marty Haugen, b.1950  
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## SIGN OF THE CROSS

## APOSTOLIC GREETING

### OPENING COLLECT

God, you are the source of every blessing  
and for this we offer you our thanks and praise.  
Ever aware of our sinfulness,  
we ask that you illuminate the darkness of our hearts,  
with the light of your mercy.  
Through the ministry of your church,  
give us the grace to bear witness to your love.  
We ask this 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.

### FIRST READING: Micah 7:18:19

Who is a God like you,  
who pardons sin and forgives the transgression  
of the remnant of his inheritance?  
You do not stay angry forever  
but delight to show mercy.  
You will again have compassion on us;  
you will tread our sins underfoot  
and hurl all our iniquities into the depths of the sea.  
You will be faithful to Jacob,  
and show love to Abraham,  
as you pledged on oath to our ancestors  
in days long ago.

### PSALM 51

## GOSPEL: JOHN 7:53-8:11

At dawn he appeared again in the temple courts,  
where all the people gathered around him,  
and he sat down to teach them.

The teachers of the law and  
the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery.  
They made her stand before the group and said to Jesus,  
“Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery.  
In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women.  
Now what do you say?”

They were using this question as a trap,  
in order to have a basis for accusing him.

But Jesus bent down  
and started to write on the ground with his finger.  
When they kept on questioning him,  
he straightened up and said to them,  
“Let any one of you who is without sin  
be the first to throw a stone at her.”  
Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground.

At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time,  
the older ones first, until only Jesus was left,  
with the woman still standing there.

Jesus straightened up and asked her,  
“Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?”

“No one, sir,” she said.

“Then neither do I condemn you,” Jesus declared.  
“Go now and leave your life of sin.”

## HOMILY

## INSTRUCTION ON SACRAMENTAL RECONCILIATION

### PERIOD OF PERSONAL PREPARATION AND EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE

Do I make my relationship with God my first priority? Do I take time for prayer and reflection? Do I celebrate the sacraments well prepared and regularly?

Do I assist in the Church's mission? Do I give freely of my time, my resources and my prayer? Do people come to know God through my words and actions?

Do I use the name of God to curse others? Does my language build others up or tear them down? Does my vocabulary give scandal to others?

Do I take time to nourish the relationships in my life? Do I tend to the needs of my parents, my spouse, my children and my friends?

Do I allow the Gospel to influence how I engage the community? Do I allow the Good News to affect my business practices and my engagement in politics?

Do I seek to live with integrity and justice?

Do I appreciate my sexuality as a gift and treat myself and others with dignity and respect? Do I engage in behaviours which belittle others?

Do I work to promote the dignity of life from conception to natural death?

Do I seek to create an environment where life can flourish?  
Do I choose to live simply so that I am able to share God's  
bounty with others?

Do I live in a way which is moderate and balanced through  
what I eat and drink? Do I tend to the needs of my body  
with proper exercise and good living?

Do I engage in gossip or in other conversations which harm  
the reputation of others? Do I belittle others to make myself  
feel bigger or to get ahead?

Do I hold on to grudges or resentments? Do I extend  
forgiveness to others as I seek forgiveness from God?

## THE CONFITEOR

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.

## WORDS OF ABSOLUTION

God the Father of mercies,  
through the death and resurrection of his Son  
has reconciled the world to himself  
and sent the Holy Spirit among us  
for the forgiveness of sins;  
through the ministry of the Church  
may God give you pardon and peace,  
and I absolve you from your sins  
in the name of the Father,  
and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
Amen.

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

## CLOSING COLLECT

God of goodness,  
having experienced your tender care,  
in this time of healing,  
we ask that we might go forth from this place,  
confident in your goodness,  
sure of our identity as your beloved children  
and ever more willing to be messengers of the gospel.  
In a spirit of joy and thanksgiving,  
we make our prayer through Christ our Lord.

## BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

CLOSING HYMN:  
 PRAISE TO THE LORD, THE ALMIGHTY



1. Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the king of cre -  
 2. Praise to the Lord, a - bove all things so might - i - ly  
 3. Praise to the Lord, who shall pros - per our work and de -  
 4. Praise to the Lord— O let all that is in us a -



a - tion! O my soul, praise him, for  
 reign - ing; Keep - ing us safe at his  
 fend - us; Sure - ly his good - ness and  
 dore him! All that has life and breath



he is your health and sal - va - tion!  
 side, and so gent - ly sus - tain - ing.  
 mer - cy shall dai - ly at - tend us.  
 come now with prais - es be - fore him!



Come, all who hear: Broth - ers and sis - ters, draw near,  
 Have you not seen All you have need - ed has been  
 Pon - der a - new What the Al - might - y can do,  
 Let the "A - men!" Sound from his peo - ple a - gain—



Praise him in glad ad - o - ra - tion!  
 Met by his gra - cious or - dain - ing?  
 Who with his love will be - friend us.  
 Glad - ly with praise we a - dore him!

TEXT: *Lobe den Herren, den mächtigen König*; Joachim Neander, 1650-1680; tr. by Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.  
 TUNE: LOBE DEN HERREN, 14 14 47 8; *Stralsund Gesangbuch*, 1665; descant by C. S. Lang, 1891-1971