

CHAPTER 5 PRAYER SERVICE

All: In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Leader: Have mercy on me, God, in accord with your merciful love.

Group 1: Have mercy on me, God, in accord with your merciful love;
in your abundant compassion blot out my transgressions.
Thoroughly wash away my guilt;
and from my sin cleanse me.
For I know my transgressions;
my sin is always before me.

Group 2: Against you, you alone have I sinned;
I have done what is evil in your eyes
So that you are just in your word,
and without reproach in your judgment.

Group 1: Behold, I was born in guilt,
in sin my mother conceived me.
Behold, you desire true sincerity;
and secretly you teach me wisdom.
Cleanse me with hyssop, that I may be pure;
wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.

Group 2: You will let me hear gladness and joy;
the bones you have crushed will rejoice.
Turn away your face from my sins;
blot out all my iniquities.
A clean heart create for me, God;
renew within me a steadfast spirit.

Group 1: Do not drive me from before your face,
nor take from me your holy spirit.
Restore to me the gladness of your salvation;
uphold me with a willing spirit.

Group 2: For you do not desire sacrifice or I would give it;
a burnt offering you would not accept.
My sacrifice, O God, is a contrite spirit;
a contrite, humbled heart, O God, you will not scorn.

Group 1: Glory to the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Group 2: As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

All: Have mercy on me, God, in accord with your merciful love.

Leader: When we come to God with our mistakes and failures, he meets us with merciful love. Let us take a moment now to consider our recent choices in light of the commandments to love God and each other. With the help of the Holy Spirit, we ask ourselves . . .

(Pause for a few moments in between each question.)

Have I treated anything in my life like an idol, valuing it more than God?

Have I made daily prayer and Sunday Mass attendance a priority?

Have I been obedient to my parents, teachers, and those in authority?

Have I been kind in word and deed to my peers?

Have I been compassionate to those less fortunate than me?

Have I treated my body with honor and respect?

Have I been grateful for what I have?

Have I been truthful in what I have said and not said?

Let us bring our sins to the Lord in the silence of our hearts. Trusting in His merciful love, we pray . . .

All: 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. Amen.

All: In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.