“Have mercy on me, O God, in your goodness; in the greatness of your compassion wipe out my offenses. Thoroughly wash me from my guilt and of my sin cleanse me.”

Psalm 51

**INTRODUCTORY RITES**

*All stand for the Introductory Rites*

**Opening Hymn**

*Select from one of the following or another suitable hymn:*

*Seek the Lord*
*O Son of Justice*
*The Glory of These Forty Days*
* Attende Domine/ Hear Us, Almighty Lord*
*Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days*
*From Ashes to the Living Font*
*Our Father, We Have Wandered*
*The Master Came to Bring Good News*
Greeting

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

R/: Amen.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

R/: And with your spirit

Opening Prayer

Priest Celebrant:
Brothers and sisters, God calls us to conversion: let us therefore ask him for the grace of sincere repentance.

All pray in silence for a brief period.

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 our Lord Jesus Christ your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever.

R/: Amen

All are seated for the Liturgy of the Word
LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart.

A reading from the Book of Deuteronomy 6:4-13

Moses said to the people:
“Hear, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord alone!
Therefore, you shall love the Lord, your God,
with all your heart,
and with all your soul,
and with all your strength.
Take to heart these words which I enjoin on your today.
Drill them into your children.
Speak of them at home and abroad, whether you are busy or at rest.
Bind them at your wrist as a sign
and let them be as a pendant on your forehead.
Write them on the doorposts of your houses and on your gates.

“When the Lord, your God, brings you into the land which he swore
to your fathers: Abraham, Isaac and Jacob,
that he would give you,
a land with fine, large cities that you did not build,
with houses full of goods of all sorts that you did not garner,
with cisterns that you did not dig,
with vineyards and olive groves that you did not plant;
and when, therefore, you eat your fill,
take care not to forget the Lord,
who brought you out of the land of Egypt, that place of slavery.
The Lord, your God, shall you fear;
him shall your serve, and by his name shall you swear.”

The word of the Lord.
RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R/ The Lord is kind and merciful.
Bless the Lord, O my soul;
and all my being, bless his holy name.
Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and forget not all his benefits.

R/ The Lord is kind and merciful.
He pardons all your iniquities,
he heals all your ills.
He redeems your life from destruction,
he crowns you with kindness and compassion.

R/ The Lord is kind and merciful.
Merciful and gracious is the Lord,
slow to anger and abounding in kindness.
He will not always chide,
not does he keep his wrath forever.

R/ The Lord is kind and merciful.
For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so surpassing is his kindness toward those who fear him.
As far as the east is from the west,
so far has he put our transgressions from us.

R/ The Lord is kind and merciful.

All stand for the proclamation of the Gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

R/. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!
The Kingdom of God is at hand;
Repent, and believe in the Gospel!

R/. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!
Let the person without sin be the first to throw a stone.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. But early in the morning he arrived again in the temple area, and all the people started coming to him, and he sat down and taught them. Then the scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery and made her stand in the middle. They said to him, “Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery. Now in the law, Moses commanded us to stone such a woman. So what do you say?” They said this to test him, so that they could have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and began to write on the ground with his finger. But when they continued asking him, he straightened up and said to them, “Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.” Again he bent down and wrote on the ground. And in response, they went away one by one, beginning with the elders. So he was left alone with the woman before him. Then Jesus straightened up and said to her, “Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?” She replied, “No one, sir.” Then Jesus said, “Neither do I condemn you. Go, and from now on do not sin any more.”

The Gospel of the Lord.
All are seated for the homily.

Homily

The homily which follows is based on the texts of the readings and should lead the penitents to examine their consciences and renew their lives.

Examination of Conscience

Following the homily, a period of time may be spent in making an examination of conscience and in arousing true sorrow for sins. This may take the form of a period of silence or the priest, deacon, or another minister may help the faithful by brief statements.

RITE OF RECONCILIATION

General Confession of Sins

The deacon or another minister invites all to kneel or bow.

Priest Celebrant:

God who is infinitely merciful pardons all who are repentant and takes away their guilt. Confident in his goodness, let us ask him to forgive all our sins as we confess them with sincerity of heart.

All say:
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,
   And striking their breast, they say:
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

All stand for the Litany.

Priest Celebrant:
Let us pray with confidence to Christ, the Good Shepherd, who seeks out the lost sheep and carries it back with joy.

Another designated minister may read the litany texts:

Please respond: “Christ, hear us”.

By your death you reconciled us with the Father and brought us salvation.  
R/: Christ, hear us.

You died and rose again, and sit at the right hand of the Father, to make intercession for us.  
R/: Christ, hear us.

You came from God as our wisdom and justice, our sanctification and redemption.  
R/: Christ, hear us.

You warned us that if we sin against each other we sin against you.  
R/: Christ, hear us.

You gave yourself up for our sins to save us from this evil world.  
R/: Christ, hear us.

You died that those who believe in you may not perish but have eternal life.  
R/: Christ, hear us.

You will come to judge the living and the dead.  
R/: Christ, hear us.

The Lord's Prayer

Priest Celebrant:
Now, in obedience to Christ himself, let us join in prayer to the Father, asking him to forgive us as we forgive others:

All say together:
Our Father, who art in heaven...
The Priest Celebrant Concludes:

Lord our God,
on the first day of creation
you made the light
that scatters all darkness.
Let Christ, the light of lights, hidden from all eternity,
shine at last on your people
and free us from the darkness of sin.
Fill our lives with good works
as we go out to meet your Son, so that we may give him a fitting
welcome.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
R/: Amen.

Individual Confession and Absolution

The penitents now go to the priests designated for individual confession, and confess their sins. Each one
receives and accepts a fitting act of satisfaction and is absolved. After hearing the confession and offering
suitable counsel, the priest extends his hands over the penitent's head (or at least extends his right hand) and
gives him absolution according to the formula proper to the Rite (“God, the Father of Mercies…”).

It is desirable that the penitents remain in the Church after receiving the Sacrament until the final blessing.

Proclamation of Praise for God's Mercy

When the individual confessions have been completed, the other priests stand near the one who is presiding over
the celebration. The assembly stands and the celebrant invites all present to offer thanks and encourages them
to do good works which will proclaim the grace of repentance in the life of the entire community and each of its
members. He may do so in these or similar words:

Brothers and Sisters, God’s grace has come upon us this day. In joyful
thanksgiving, may we proclaim the Good News by all we say and do in
Jesus Christ our Lord.

It is fitting for all to sing a psalm or hymn in acknowledgement of God's power and mercy. A musical setting of
the Canticle of Mary (“Magnificat”) or the Canticle of Zechariah (“Benedictus”) would be most appropriate.
Concluding Prayer of Thanksgiving

Priest Celebrant:

Lord God,
creator and ruler of your kingdom of light,
in your great love for this world
you gave up your only Son
for our salvation.
His cross has redeemed us,
his death has given us life,
his resurrection has raised us to glory.
Through him we ask you
to be always present among your family.
Teach us to be reverent in the presence of your glory;
fill our hearts with faith,
our days with good works,
our lives with your love;
may your truth be on our lips
and your wisdom in all our actions,
that we may receive the reward of everlasting life.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R/: Amen
CONCLUDING RITE

Blessing

Priest Celebrant:
The Lord be with you.
R/: And with your spirit.

Deacon, or the Priest Celebrant:

Bow down for the blessing.

Priest Celebrant:

Hasten to the aid of your faithful people
who call upon you, O Lord, we pray,
and graciously give strength in their human weakness,
so that, being dedicated to you in complete sincerity,
they may find gladness in your remedies
both now and in the life to come.
Through Christ our Lord.

And may the blessing of almighty God,
the Father, and the Son, + and the Holy Spirit,
come down on you and remain with you for ever.
R/: Amen

Dismissal

Deacon, or the Priest Celebrant:
Go in the peace of Christ, glorifying God by your life.

R/: Thanks be to God.

A closing hymn may be sung using the selections suggested at the beginning of this service. Departing in silence may also be appropriate during the Lenten season.

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Office of Divine Worship
Catholic Diocese of Toledo

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