

LENTEN COMMUNAL PENANCE SERVICE

2026

INTRODUCTORY RITES

HYMN

**How firm a foundation, you saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in his excellent Word!
What more can he say than to you he has said,
To you, who for refuge to Jesus have fled?**

**Fear not, I am with you, O be not dismayed,
For I am your God, and will still give you aid;
I'll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand,
Upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.**

**When through the deep waters I call you to go,
The rivers of woe shall not you overflow;
For I will be with you, your troubles to bless,
And sanctify to you your deepest distress.**

**The soul that on Jesus still leans for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no never, no never forsake.**

Text: 2 Peter 1:4; “K” in Rippon’s *A Selection of Hymns*, 1787, alt.

Tune: FOUNDATION, 11 11 11 11; Funk’s *Compilation of Genuine Church Music*, 1832.

Most hymn tunes with the metrical marking “11 11 11 11” will fit with this text.
Examples include:

ST. DENIO (*Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*)
CRADLE SONG (*Away in a Manger*)

GREETING

OPENING PRAYER

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

2 Samuel 12: 7-10, 13

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 32: 1-2, 5, 7, 11

R. Lord, forgive the wrong I have done.

LENTEN GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

If the acclamation is not sung, it is omitted.

GOSPEL

Luke 7: 36-50

HOMILY

EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE

RITE OF RECONCILIATION

GENERAL CONFESSOR OF SINS

**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.**

LITANY OF REPENTANCE

LORD'S PRAYER

INVITATION TO INDIVIDUAL CONFESSION

PRAYER AND BLESSING

HYMN

**O for a heart to praise my God,
A heart from sin set free,
A heart that always feels your blood
So freely shed for me.**

**A heart resigned, submissive, meek,
My great Redeemer's throne,
Where only Christ is heard to speak,
Where Jesus reigns alone.**

**A humble, lowly, contrite, heart,
Believing, true and clean,
Which neither life nor death can part
From Him that dwells within.**

**A heart in ev'ry thought renewed
A heart whose love endures,
So perfect, right and pure and good,
A copy, Lord, of yours.**

**Your nature, gracious Lord, impart;
Come quickly from above;
Write your new name upon my heart,
Your new, best name of Love.**

Text: Psalm (50) 51; Charles Wesley, 1707, 1788, alt.
Tune: O FOR A HEART, CM; Malcom Williamson, b. 1943.

Most hymn tunes with the metrical marking “CM” (Common Meter – 86 86) will fit with this text.
Examples include:

LAND OF REST (*Jerusalem, My Happy Home*)
NEW BRITIAN (*Amazing Grace*)
ST. AGNES (*Shepherd of Souls*)
ST. ANNE (*O God, Our Help in Ages Past*)

INDIVIDUAL CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Then the penitents 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 or her absolution. Everything else which is customary in individual confession is omitted.

After receiving absolution the penitents may return to the main body of the church and spend some time in private prayer, but are otherwise dismissed.

Soft, unobtrusive instrumental music may be played for a time during the transition to individual confession.