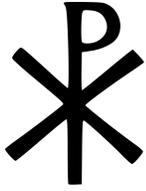


**Lenten Responsive Prayers**  
written to complement  
the Passion Readings for Year B  
from the Gospel of Mark



Lenten Responsive Prayers, Year B

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In *Christian Worship: Occasional Services*<sup>1</sup> (p. 152), readings from Matthew, Mark and Luke are offered as an option for the readings in midweek Lenten services.

Year A	Year B	Year C
Ash Wednesday lessons	Ash Wednesday lessons	Ash Wednesday lessons
Matthew 26:1-35	Mark 14:1-26	Luke 22:1-38
Matthew 26:36-56	Mark 14:27-42	Luke 22:39-54
Matthew 26:57-75	Mark 14:43-65	Luke 22:54-71
Matthew 27:1-26	Mark 14:66–15:15	Luke 23:1-25
Matthew 27:27-66	Mark 15:16-47	Luke 23:26-56

A Litany of Repentance is written for Ash Wednesday.

The responsive Prayers of the Church draw themes and *prayable thoughts* from the assigned passion history readings for each week. An additional prayer for Holy Week is based on two of the Revised Common Lectionary readings for Holy Week Tuesday, 1 Corinthians 1:18-31, John 12:20-36.

The responses are taken from the seven penitential psalms:

Ash Wednesday: Psalm 51

Second Midweek: Psalm 6

Third Midweek: Psalm 32

Fourth Midweek: Psalm 38

Fifth Midweek: Psalm 102

Sixth Midweek: Psalm 143

Holy Week: Psalm 130

The congregation's responses are printed in **bold type**, which by itself is an obvious direction for the congregation to respond. **M:** and **C:** may be added by the user if necessary.

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<sup>1</sup> *Christian Worship: Occasional Services* is a book of seasonal and other special services used in the churches of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

## Ash Wednesday

*To be used with the Lectionary Readings for Ash Wednesday.*

### Litany of Repentance

Lord, **have mercy.**

Christ, **have mercy.**

Lord, **have mercy.**

God, compassionate and gracious Father, **have mercy on us.**

God, the Son, you bought us with your own blood, **have mercy on us.**

God, the Holy Spirit, present with the penitent, **have mercy on us.**

Holy Trinity, merciful God, **have mercy on us.**

Holy Trinity, forgiving God, **have mercy on us.**

You created us in your image.

When our first parents lost your image,

    you restored it with your promise.

You led and trained Abraham in faith.

You were patient with stubborn Israel through their desert journey.

You pronounced forgiveness for David's sin

and restored his soul, **have mercy on us.**

You sent your prophets to restore and guide your people.

You sent John the Baptist as a preacher of repentance.

You sent your only Son as the great Prophet to reveal your will.

You sent him also as our great High Priest who offered himself for our sins,

and he sits at your right hand, interceding for us, **have mercy on us.**

Forgive our worship of self,

our lack of reverence for your name,

our despising of preaching and your Word,

our dishonor of our parents and authorities,

our anger, hate and hurtfulness to our neighbors,

our impurity of thoughts, words and actions,

our misuse of our possessions and our abuse of our neighbors' possessions,

our carelessness in speaking of others,

our thoughts and desires for our neighbors' things,

our thoughts and desires for our neighbors' people.

Have mercy on us, God, according to your unfailing love;

**according to your great compassion, blot out our transgressions.**

Work in us fear, love and trust for you.

Cleanse our lips to pray, praise and give you thanks.

Lead us to regard your Word as holy, and gladly hear and learn it.

Move us to honor, serve and obey those who represent you.

Show the value of all human life, that we regard it as your most precious gift.

Teach us respect for marriage, the foundation of family and society.

Teach us to be good stewards of all your gifts.  
Fill our words about others with care and love.  
Increase holy desires in us,  
to respect the roles and responsibilities you have given other people,  
and to focus on our needs rather than our wants.

Create in us pure hearts, O God,  
**renew right spirits within us.**

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; **have mercy on us.**  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; **have mercy on us.**  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; **grant us your peace.**

Our sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit;  
**a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.**

O Lord, lift us, cleanse us and restore us, that we may know the joy of your salvation, bring glory to you in all things and serve our neighbors in love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

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#### **Notes:**

This litany appears also in *Prayers of the Church: Historic Lectionary*, copyright © 2021 Paul C. Stratman. Used with permission.

The Litany is an ancient form of prayer that recites lists of the attributes or works of God and lists of short petitions. The idea is that the attributes or works of God are the reasons we can ask God to have mercy. Then the list of petitions follows.

In this Litany of Repentance, after one list of the works of God and another list about God sending his messengers to call people to repentance, there is a list of ten petitions for forgiveness corresponding to the Ten Commandments, and another list of ten petitions for strength and guidance in obeying God's Ten Commandments.

Versicles and responses (a verse of Scripture arranged to be read by a leader with a response by the congregation) are very common in litanies. There are three versicles and responses from Psalm 51 in the second half of this litany. Imitating ancient litanies, this litany closes with "Lamb of God," a versicle and response, and a closing collect.

## Second Midweek Wednesday

*To be used with the Passion Reading from Mark 14:1-26*

Jesus Christ, our precious Savior, you were anointed with expensive perfume and you were sold for thirty pieces of silver. You have redeemed us, not with silver or gold, but with your own precious blood.

Turn, Lord, and deliver us; **save us because of your unfailing love.**

You have done a beautiful thing for us by pouring out your life for us, anointing us as children of your heavenly Father.

Turn, Lord, and deliver us; **save us because of your unfailing love.**

Move us to bring you our best, to give in response to what you have given us, and to delight in serving you since you served us with your own sacrifice.

Turn, Lord, and deliver us; **save us because of your unfailing love.**

You have gathered us to yourself just as you gathered your disciples. You have shared your body, blood and forgiveness of sins with us at your table. Gather people from many nations, that they may be counted as children of God.

Turn, Lord, and deliver us; **save us because of your unfailing love.**

*Special prayers and intercessions may follow.*

Hear us, Lord, as we bring you the thoughts and cares from the depths of our hearts.

*Silent prayer.*

Lord Jesus, moved by your love you went forward to suffering, just as the prophets had written. Show us our worth to you, and the new value you have given us since you shed your blood for us; you live and reign, now and forever.

**Amen.**

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### Notes:

Response is adapted from Psalm 6:4.

## Holy Week

*Based on two Revised Common Lectionary readings for Holy Week Tuesday, 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 and John 12:20-36.*

Lord Jesus, King of glory, you showed the glory of your love through shame and suffering. You promised that where you are, your servants also will be. Keep us near you through the hearing of your Word, that we may always be willing and ready to serve you.

We wait for you, Lord. Our souls wait, **and in your Word we have put our hope.**

In a mysterious way, you were fighting and winning the battle against Satan even when it was the darkest and it looked like Satan was winning. Help us to take heart when we see trouble in the world, for you have overcome the world.

We wait for you, Lord. Our souls wait, **and in your Word we have put our hope.**

Let the light of your love shine on us that we may be children of the light and walk in the light of your love.

We wait for you, Lord. Our souls wait, **and in your Word we have put our hope.**

Jesus, you are the wisdom and power of God, and in a display of weakness with your death on the cross, you accomplished our salvation. Strengthen our faith in the wisdom of your gospel promise, that we are saved through faith in you, and that you have chosen what is low and despised in the world to reduce to nothing the proud, wise and mighty.

We wait for you, Lord. Our souls wait, **and in your Word we have put our hope.**

*Special prayers and intercessions may follow.*

Hear us, Lord, as we bring you the thoughts and cares from the depths of our hearts.

*Silent prayer.*

Christ Jesus, you are the source of life, our wisdom, righteousness, holiness and redemption. Show us our worth in your blood, shed for us, that we may always see ourselves as your redeemed people, and boast in you, our Savior and Lord; you live and reign, now and forever.

**Amen.**

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### Notes:

Response is adapted from Psalm 130:5.