



*Together  
in  
Prayer*

PRAYER SERVICE

FOR THE HEALING OF CLERGY ABUSE

INVITATION TO PRAYER

*Please stand*

Leader: Come let us worship our God

**All: and bow down before the Holy One.**

Leader: Let us thank God

**All: for all the blessings of this day.**

Leader: Glory to God, our Creator,

**All: to Jesus the Christ,  
and to the Spirit who dwells in the  
eternal unfolding of all. Amen.**

**Opening Hymn**

*Lord, You Give the Great Commission*

*Please be seated*

LAMENT FOR GOD'S PEOPLE

**ALL:**

***O God, hear us in our pain and sorrow.  
If one member of Christ's body suffers,  
all suffer together.***

***Reader:***

Our hearts are broken.  
Emotions of anger and disgust flare up.  
We weep for the youth whose innocence was stolen,  
for those still living with unimaginable pain.

Here in our own city and diocese  
have we been attentive and responsible  
to help protect our youth,  
to respond to those in need of help and healing?

Why, oh why do we have to go through this again?  
The horror of more than seventy years of anguish and pain!  
The betrayal of the ordained called to be servant leaders,  
not perpetrators of criminal abuse of God's children.

We ask: Where is justice and mercy for the vulnerable?  
Why was there silence in the face of evil?  
What can we do to change "all forms  
of the abuse of power,  
sexual abuse and the abuse of conscience."

*Pope Francis 8-20-18*

**ALL:**

***O God, hear us in our pain and sorrow.  
If one member of Christ's body suffers,  
all suffer together.***

*Silent Reflection*

*Antiphon: All*

**A humble, contrite heart  
O God, you will not spurn.**

*Psalm 51*

Side 1: Have mercy on me, O God, in your kindness,  
in the tenderness of your compassion, blot out my sin.  
O wash me more and more from my guilt,  
and cleanse me of every evil.

Side 2: It is you, you alone, I have defied,  
doing what is evil in your sight.  
My sinfulness is always before me.  
And so your reproach and verdict are just.

Side 1: Recreate my heart in sincerity and truth.  
Infuse in me a new and steady spirit.  
Do not banish me from your presence,  
nor take from me your spirit of holiness.

Side 2: But revive me again with the joy of your help.  
Uphold in me a spirit steady and willing.  
And I will guide the wayward home to you.

Side 1: O God, in your goodness, be gracious also to Sion,  
and build anew the walls of your holy city.  
That fitting oblations again be offered,  
worthy offerings arise once more from your altars.

All: We praise you; we bless you; we love you.  
O Holy Three in One!

*Antiphon: All*

**A humble, contrite heart  
O God, you will not spurn.**

*Antiphon: All*

**In your great love, answer me, O God.**

*Psalm 33*

Side 1: From your dwelling in heaven you look down, O God,  
beholding the children of earth.

Side 2: From your holy abode  
you see the dwellers of earth.  
And you who shaped the heart of each,  
you discern whatever they do.

Side 1: No ruler is saved by a mighty army,  
no warrior delivered by great strength.  
Vain to rely on the horse for triumph  
great though its strength, it cannot save.

Side 2: But see how the gaze of God turns towards the lowly,  
towards those who rely on God's faithful love  
to snatch them from death and feed them in famine.

Side 1: Our soul is awaiting the One who keeps faith,  
the Holy One, our helper and shield.  
And in you, our hearts will rejoice,  
for we trust in your Holy Name.

Side 2: May your faithful love, O God, rest on us,  
who have faithfully rested our trust in you.

All: Glory to you, O Living One!  
Trinity whom we adore!

*Antiphon: All*

**In your great love, answer me, O God.**

## READING

*Ephesians 4: 6-8*

I beg you to lead a life worthy of your calling. Always be humble, gentle and patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love. Make every effort to be united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace. For there is one body and one Spirit, just as you have been called to one glorious hope for the future. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God, who is over all and in all and living through all.

Reader: God has spoken

**Response:** *Let the church say, "Amen!"*

## SUNG RESPONSE

*You Gather in the Outcast*  
*Scot Crandal*

## READING

*from the Letter of His Holiness Pope Francis to the People of God*

“If one member suffers, all suffer together with it” (1 Cor 12:26). These words of Saint Paul forcefully echo in my heart as I acknowledge once more the suffering endured by many minors due to sexual abuse, the abuse of power and the abuse of conscience perpetrated by a significant number of clerics and consecrated persons. Crimes that inflict deep wounds of pain and powerlessness, primarily among the victims, but also in their family members and in the larger community of believers and nonbelievers alike. Looking back to the past, no effort to beg pardon and to seek to repair the harm done will ever be sufficient. Looking ahead to the future, no effort must be spared to create a culture able to prevent such situations from happening, but also to prevent the possibility of their being covered up and perpetuated.

It is impossible to think of a conversion of our activity as a Church that does not include the active participation of all the members of God's People. Clericalism nullifies the character of Christians, and also tends to diminish and undervalue the baptismal grace that the Holy Spirit has placed in the heart of our people". Clericalism helps to perpetuate many of the evils that we are condemning today. To say "no" to abuse is to say an emphatic "no" to all forms of clericalism.

It is essential that we, as a Church, be able to acknowledge and condemn, with sorrow and shame, the atrocities perpetrated by consecrated persons, clerics, and all those entrusted with the mission of watching over and caring for those most vulnerable. Let us beg forgiveness for our own sins and the sins of others. An awareness of sin helps us to acknowledge the errors, the crimes and the wounds caused in the past and allows us, in the present, to be more open and committed along a journey of renewed conversion.

*Instrumental musical interlude / Silent reflection*

MAGNIFICAT  
*please stand*

MUSICAL SETTING

*Luke 1: My Soul Rejoices*  
*Owen Alstott*

INTERCESSIONS

Leader: With humility of heart, we turn to God, whose love and faithfulness endures forever.

Let us pray for forgiveness for the crimes and sins of sexual, physical, emotional and spiritual abuse perpetrated by clergy and servants of the Church against children and young people.

***R: God of compassion and love, we ask forgiveness for the failure to love, respect, nurture and cherish your most vulnerable people.***

Let us pray for all the Church, both laity and clergy, whose faith has been shaken by the abuse scandals.

***R: God of compassion and love, heal the hearts of all those in our Church who have been saddened and whose faith has been shaken by the abuse scandals.***

Let us pray that we may be a community that actively cares for and protects children and vulnerable members of our society.

***R: God of compassion and love, help us to cherish, respect and protect the young and the vulnerable at all times.***

Let us pray for those in the healing professions who minister to those who suffer violence and abuse.

***R: God of compassion and love, give them an abundance of wisdom, compassion and love as they care for the abused.***

Let us pray that we may be instruments of your peace and healing that all to whom we minister may experience your loving care for them.

***R: God of compassion and love, help us to reflect your love and respect for all people, especially the most vulnerable.***

Please add your own intentions...

Leader: Gentle Jesus, Shepherd of Peace, hear our cries of distress and repentance. Steady our shaken spirits with faith and restore our hearts with hope. Show us the way to justice and wholeness as we recommit ourselves to the service of your beloved people.

***R: Amen.***

Leader: Let us now pray together the prayer that Jesus taught us:

OUR FATHER

## CLOSING PRAYER

Gentle Jesus, Shepherd of Peace,  
help us to move beyond this painful time  
to renewed hope and trust in your Spirit  
ever-present and at work among us.  
Inflame our hearts with a desire to serve your people  
with renewed courage, wisdom, humility and grace.  
This we ask this in the name of Jesus, your Son.

**R: *Amen.***

## CLOSING SONG

***A Rightful Place***  
*Steve Angrisano*

### *Acknowledgments*

Lament for God's People: Carmelite Monastery, Reno, NV.

Psalm translations: Carmelite Monastery, Reno, NV.

Ephesians translation: *The Inclusive New Testament*, © 1996, Priests for Equality,  
Brentwood, MD. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

Intercessions from: <https://towardspeace.ie/resources/>. Columba Centre, St. Patrick's  
College, Maynooth, Co Kildare