

## Gospel Acclamation

Chant, Mode VI

**R/. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

### Gospel

Luke 15:1-3, 11-24

The Lord be with you. **And with your spirit.** A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to listen to Jesus, but the Pharisees and scribes began to complain, saying, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

So to them Jesus addressed this parable: “A man had two sons, and the younger son said to his father, ‘Father, give me share of your estate that should come to me.’ So the father divided the property between them. After a few days, the younger son collected all his belongings and set off to a distant country where he squandered his inheritance on a life of dissipation.

When he had freely spent everything, a severe famine struck that country, and he found himself in dire need. So he hired himself out to one of the local citizens who sent him to his farm to tend the swine. And he longed to eat his fill of the pods on which the swine fed, but nobody gave him any.

Coming to his senses, he thought, ‘How many of my father’s hired workers have more than enough food to eat, but here am I, dying from hunger. I shall get up and go to my father and I shall say to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son: treat me as you would treat one of your hired workers.’”

So he got up and went back to his father. While he was still a long way off, his father caught sight of him, and was filled with compassion. He ran to his son, embraced him and kissed him. His son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son.’

But his father ordered his servants, ‘Quickly bring the finest robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Take the fatted calf and slaughter it. Then let us celebrate with a feast, because this son of mine was dead, and has come to life again; he was lost, and has been found.’ Then the celebration began.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

## Homily

### Examination of Conscience

- When have I failed to speak to God in a prayerful way?
- When have I avoided difficult choices and let myself “go with the flow”?
- When have I used my influence to lead others into sin?

Holy Spirit, you speak to us through the Church and in our conscience. You inspire within us the desire to be pure of heart and do good. We are sorry for our sins against you, and for how we have turned away from the call to be your disciple and live in union with you.

### Act of Contrition

**My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good, I have sinned against you whom I should love above all things. I firmly intend, with your help, to do penance, to sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin. Our Savior Jesus Christ suffered and died for us. In his name, my God, have mercy.**

### Individual Confessions

*Please go to the next available priest.*

*After you make your confession, light your electric candle at the center aisle. Once your candle is lit, you may pray quietly by yourself, then go to the Gathering Space in the back of the church.*

### Closing Blessing from the Gathering Space

Let us pray. God, your sons and daughters stand before you in humility and trust. Look with compassion on us and heal our wounds; stretch out a hand of mercy to save us and raise us up. Keep us free from harm as members of Christ’s body, as beloved children of your family who will be anointed as priests, prophets and kings in Confirmation. Do not allow the temptations of sin to triumph over us, or death to claim us forever, for you raised us to new life and call us as your own, holy and chosen. And may almighty God bless us all + in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

## Dismissal from the Gathering Space

Go in the peace of Christ. Thanks be to God.

### **Steps to a good confession:**

1. The priest greets you. You make the Sign of the Cross.
2. The priest may read aloud from the Bible. \*
3. You confess any sins. Be specific: how often, against whom, etc.
4. The priest gives you your penance (“spiritual homework”). It may be a prayer or a good deed to do.
5. You pray the Act of Contrition. \* (*Candidates should be familiar with it and ready to pray it individually with the priest.*)
6. You make the Sign of the Cross silently when the priest gives you absolution (=tells you God forgives you and makes the Sign of the Cross over you). You answer, “Amen.”
7. When the priest says, “Go in peace,” you thank him, shake his hand, and go back to your seat.

As soon as you can afterward, you do the penance the priest has given you.

\* *We already will have done this step as a group.*

# Confirmation Retreat II

## Reconciliation Prayer Service

### Gathering Song

“Refiner’s Fire” (Doerksen)

Purify my heart, let me be as gold and precious silver.

Purify my heart, let me be as gold, pure gold.

**Refiner’s fire, my heart’s one desire is to be holy, set apart for you, Lord. I choose to be holy, set apart for you, my master, ready to do your will.**

Purify my heart, cleanse me from within and make me holy.

Purify my heart, cleanse me from my sin, deep within.

**Refiner’s fire, my heart’s one desire is to be holy, set apart for you, Lord. I choose to be holy, set apart for you, my master, ready to do your will.**

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### Opening Prayer

My brothers and sisters, we sometimes ignore the call of God’s voice and fall into sin. Let us ask God to reach out in mercy and renew his grace within us as we turn to him in sorrow for our sins and intending to change our ways.

Lord Jesus, you redeemed us by your suffering on the cross and raised us to new life. Protect us with your constant love and share with us the joy of your Resurrection, for you live and reign forever and ever. **Amen.**