

Litany of Repentance

As followers of Christ, we strive to love all people, respect all people, and work for the good of all people. We must stand alongside God's children of every race, language, and culture, and work together as agents of justice, peace, and reconciliation. In the assurance of our forgiveness through the grace of Christ, let us kneel before God and humbly confess our sins, and particularly our participation in the sin of racism that is woven in the fabric of all human history, including our own.

Silence is then kept for a time. Kneeling is appropriate during this confession, if possible.

God the Father, you freed your people from slavery in Egypt, yet the legacy of slavery deforms our lives today.

Have mercy on us.

God the Son, you prayed that all would be united in your love, yet divisions among us rend your body.

Have mercy on us.

God the Holy Spirit, you inspire us to live peaceably with all, yet prejudice mars our willingness to see God's image in some.

Have mercy on us.

We have harmed one another through negligence, greed, and self-interest.

Have mercy on us.

We have failed to condemn discrimination that leads to injustice.

Have mercy on us.

We have made compromises of conscience for the sake of a false peace.

Have mercy on us.

We have sought comfort for ourselves but been indifferent to the misery of others.

Have mercy on us.

We have claimed credit for our blessings, but blamed the poor for their poverty.

Have mercy on us.

We have been fearful and suspicious of those who are different from us.

Have mercy on us.

We have let cynicism prevent us from helping others in need.

Have mercy on us.

We have preferred order over justice, and been deaf to the cries of the oppressed.

Have mercy on us.

We have quietly held good intentions, but allowed fear to keep us silent too often.

Have mercy on us.

We have failed to act with courage for the sake of justice and reconciliation.

Have mercy on us.

Lord have mercy.

Christ have mercy.

Lord have mercy.

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us of what we have done and what we have left undone, grant us courage and conviction, and strengthen us to love others who are unlike us. May God, the Holy and Undivided Trinity, make us compassionate in our actions and courageous in our works, that we may see Christ's Beloved Community in our own day. **Amen.**