

Blessed Are They ...

A Penance Service based upon
the beatitudes

Opening Hymn
(*All stand.*)

Presider: May the mercy and peace of our
loving God be with all of you.

All: And also with you.

P O God, we trust in you. No one who waits
for you will ever have to feel ashamed. O
Lord, teach us your ways; lead us in your
paths. You can help us, Lord, because of
your great mercy. O Lord, forgive our
sins. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

A **Amen.**

(*All sit.*)

Gospel Reading Matthew 5:1-12

Psalm Response
(*All kneel.*)

P Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

A **Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.**

P You are kind, God! Please have pity on
me. You are always merciful! Please wipe
away my sins. Create pure thoughts in me
and make me faithful again.

A **Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.**

P Make me as happy as you did

when you saved me;

Make me want to obey! Help me to speak,

and I will praise you, Lord.

A **Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.**

Examination of Conscience

(*All sit.*)

Student 1: God blesses those people who
make peace. They will be called his chil-
dren!

Teacher 1: In my world, have I tried to bring
peace to my family, friends, classmates?
Or have I instead brought anger and trouble,
sometimes even causing friend to turn
against friend?

(*Pause for reflection.*)

P For the times we have failed to bring
peace,

A **We ask your forgiveness, Lord.**

Student 2: God blesses those people who are
merciful. They will be treated with mercy.

Teacher 2: Have I refused to forgive someone
for what he or she did, saying instead, "I'll
get even with you"?

(*Pause for reflection.*)

P For the times we have failed to grant
forgiveness to our family and friends,

A **We ask your forgiveness, Lord.**

Student 3: God blesses those people who are
treated badly for doing right. They belong
to the kingdom of heaven.

Teacher 3: Sometimes it is hard to do the right
thing. Sometimes our friends even tease
us for being good. Have I given in to the
pressure of my friends and joined them in

being mean to someone else? Have I re-
mained silent when my friends were plan-
ning something wrong?

(*Pause for reflection.*)

P For the times we went along with our
friends and did the wrong thing because
we were afraid to say what we really
believed,

A **We ask your forgiveness, Lord.**

Student 4: God blesses those people whose
hearts are pure. They will see him!

Teacher 4: Have I noticed that someone was
lonely, and yet refused to be friendly?
Have I only wanted to be friends with
those who are popular or somehow impor-
tant? Have I neglected others who need
my friendship?

(*Pause for reflection.*)

P For the times we hurt others because we
closed them out from our friendship,

A **We ask your forgiveness, Lord.**

Student 5: God blesses those people who are
humble. The earth will belong to them!

Teacher 5: All the world belongs to God.
Have I treated the earth and all the crea-
tures on it with care? Do I take good care
of my pets and my belongings? Do I re-
spect other people's property?

(*Pause for reflection.*)

P For the times we have been careless or
disrespectful of the things that belong to us
or to others,

A **We ask your forgiveness, Lord.**

Student 6: God blesses those people who
want to obey him. They will be given what
they want!

Teacher 6: Have I attended Mass every week-

end and actively participated in the prayers and the singing? Have I remembered to pray every day?

(Pause for reflection.)

- Ⓟ For the times we have neglected God by not paying attention during Mass or at times of prayer,

Ⓐ **We ask your forgiveness, Lord.**

Act of Contrition

*(All kneel for a moment
of quiet thought and prayer.)*

- Ⓐ **O 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. Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

(All sit. The priest(s) goes to various assigned places in the assembly. The children approach one at a time and stand before the priest.)

Penitent: I know that I have sinned. I am sorry for all my sins, especially for . . .

(Here the penitent mentions one or two sins for which he or she most needs to be forgiven. The priest then lays hands on the child's head and says the words of absolution.)

- Ⓟ . . . in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Penitent: Amen.

Concluding Rites

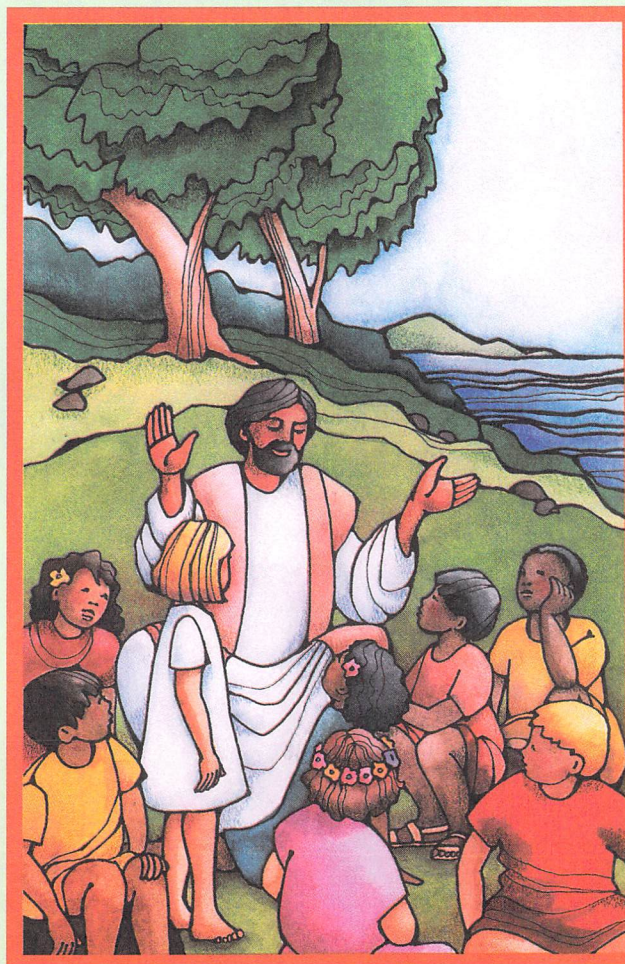
- Ⓟ Let us now, brothers and sisters, call upon our God in prayer in the words that Jesus gave us:

Ⓐ **Our Father, who art in heaven . . .**

- Ⓟ As we have been reconciled with our God, with each other and with the Church, may Christ's peace always be in our hearts. Let us greet each other now with a sign of that peace.

Closing Hymn

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