

## Confession and Pardon for the Season of Lent, Year C

*The following Calls to Confession and Declarations of Forgiveness are designed to be spoken at the baptismal font. The baptismal font should be open and in full view of the congregation. The font may already contain water, provided that there is sufficient room to add an ample amount of water at the Declaration of Forgiveness.*

*All of these texts are drawn from the scriptures of the Revised Common Lectionary for the season of Lent, Year C. The scripture references indicate the particular lectionary passage from which the text is derived. It is not necessary to follow the lectionary to use these texts; however, when used with the lectionary, they will help to reinforce the proclamation of the scriptures for the day.*

*A single Confession of Sin is provided, based on Psalm 51:1-17 (the psalm for Ash Wednesday). This prayer is designed for use throughout the season of Lent, so that worshipers may enter more deeply into the words of the prayer as the season progresses. However, worship planners may substitute other Confessions of Sin where more variety from week to week is desired. Another possibility is to use different selections from the psalm at each service during Lent—for instance, using the first stanza and one of the following six during each of the six weeks of Lent (see suggestion below).*

*These materials are provided in two formats: the first demonstrates the progression of the texts through the season; the second is divided into individual weeks or services.*

### ***Format One: Overview of Lent***

#### **CALL TO CONFESSION**

*Standing at the baptismal font, the minister speaks these words as a gracious invitation for all to reflect on their lives, to repent of their sins, and to receive God's abundant mercy and love.*

Ash Wednesday

On behalf of Christ, we entreat you:           2 Cor. 5:20b—6:10  
be reconciled to God.

For our sake, God made him to be sin who knew no sin,  
so that in Christ we might become the righteousness of God.  
For God says, "At an acceptable time I have listened to you,  
and on the day of salvation I have helped you."

See, now is the acceptable time;  
see, now is the day of salvation!

With faith and hope, let us confess our sin.

First Sunday in Lent

Thus says the LORD:   Ps. 91:1-2, 9-16

Those who love me, I will deliver;  
I will protect those who know my name.  
When they call to me, I will answer them;  
I will be with them in trouble,

I will rescue them and honor them.  
With long life I will satisfy them,  
and show them my salvation.

With faith and hope, let us confess our sin.

Second Sunday in Lent

Brothers and sisters, there are many *Phil. 3:17—4:1*  
who live as enemies of the cross of Christ.  
Their end is destruction; their god is the belly;  
and their glory is in their shame.  
But our citizenship is in heaven,  
and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior,  
the Lord Jesus Christ.

He will transform the body of our humiliation  
that it may be conformed to the body of his glory.

With faith and hope, let us confess our sin.

Third Sunday in Lent

Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; *Isa. 55:1-9*  
you that have no money, come, buy and eat!  
Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,  
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?  
Listen carefully to me, says the LORD;  
eat what is good and delight yourselves in rich food.  
Incline your ear, and come to me;  
listen, so that you may live.

With faith and hope, let us confess our sin.

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, *Ps. 32*  
whose sin is covered.  
Happy are those to whom the LORD imputes no iniquity,  
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.  
Therefore, let all who are faithful offer prayer to God;  
at a time of distress,  
the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them.

With faith and hope, let us confess our sin.

Fifth Sunday in Lent

When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, *Ps. 126*  
we were like those who dream.  
Our mouths were filled with laughter,  
and our tongues with shouts of joy.  
The LORD has done great things for us.  
Restore our fortunes again, O LORD,  
like the watercourses in the wilderness.  
May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.

With faith and hope, let us confess our sin.

Passion / Palm Sunday

The Lord GOD helps me;  
therefore I have not been disgraced.  
I know that I shall not be put to shame;  
the one who redeems me is near.  
Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together.  
Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me.  
It is the Lord GOD who helps me;  
who will declare me guilty?  
  
With faith and hope, let us confess our sin.

*Isa. 50:4-9a*

### CONFESSION OF SIN

*Consider singing some version of the response: "Create in me a clean heart, O God; put a new and right spirit within me." You might also have a cantor sing the leader parts. A time of silence for personal confession may be provided before or after the prayer.*

Create in me a clean heart, O God;  
**put a new and right spirit within me.**

(Ash Wednesday and  
each week in Lent)

Have mercy on me, O God,  
according to your steadfast love;  
according to your abundant mercy  
blot out my transgressions.  
Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,  
and cleanse me from my sin.

Create in me a clean heart, O God;  
**put a new and right spirit within me.**

(First Sunday in Lent)

For I know my transgressions,  
and my sin is ever before me.  
Against you, you alone, have I sinned,  
and done what is evil in your sight.

Create in me a clean heart, O God;  
**put a new and right spirit within me.**

(Second Sunday in Lent)

You are justified in your sentence  
and blameless when you pass judgment.  
Indeed, I was born guilty,  
a sinner when my mother conceived me.

Create in me a clean heart, O God;  
**put a new and right spirit within me.**

(Third Sunday in Lent)

You desire truth in the inward being;  
therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.  
Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;  
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

Create in me a clean heart, O God;  
**put a new and right spirit within me.**

(Fourth Sunday in Lent)

Let me hear joy and gladness;  
let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.  
Hide your face from my sins,  
and blot out all my iniquities.

Create in me a clean heart, O God;  
**put a new and right spirit within me.**

(Fifth Sunday in Lent)

Do not cast me away from your presence,  
and do not take your Holy Spirit from me.  
Restore to me the joy of your salvation,  
and sustain in me a willing spirit.

Create in me a clean heart, O God;  
**put a new and right spirit within me.**

(Passion / Palm Sunday)

For you have no delight in sacrifice;  
if I were to give a burnt offering, you would not be pleased.  
The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit;  
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

Create in me a clean heart, O God;  
**put a new and right spirit within me.**

#### **DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

*Still standing at the baptismal font, the minister speaks these words with confidence and joy. At this sign \*, pour water generously, slowly, visibly, and audibly into the font.*

Ash Wednesday

You shall call, and the LORD will answer; *Isa. 58:1-12*  
you shall cry for help, and God will say, Here I am.  
The LORD will guide you continually,  
and satisfy your needs in parched places,  
\* and you shall be like a watered garden,  
like a spring of water, whose waters never fail.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

**Thanks be to God!**

First Sunday in Lent

\* For those who are baptized in Christ Jesus *Rom. 10:8b-13*  
there is no distinction between Jew and Greek;  
Jesus Christ, the same Lord, is Lord of all  
and is generous to all who call on him.  
Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

**Thanks be to God!**

Second Sunday in Lent	<p>The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? * I believe that I will see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.</p> <p>In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. <b>Thanks be to God!</b></p>	<i>Ps. 27</i>
Third Sunday in Lent	<p>I will bless you, O God, as long as I live; I will lift up my hands and call on your name. * My soul is satisfied as with a rich feast, and my mouth praises you with joyful lips, for you have been my help, and in the shadow of your wings I sing for joy.</p> <p>In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. <b>Thanks be to God!</b></p>	<i>Ps. 63:1-8</i>
Fourth Sunday in Lent	<p>* If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All of this is from God, who was reconciled to us through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation.</p> <p>In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. <b>Thanks be to God!</b></p>	<i>2 Cor. 5:16-21</i>
Fifth Sunday in Lent	<p>Thus says the LORD, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters: Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; * now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. I will give drink to my chosen people, the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise.</p> <p>In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. <b>Thanks be to God!</b></p>	<i>Isa. 43:16-21</i>
Passion / Palm Sunday	Let the same mind be in you	<i>Phil. 2:5-11</i>

that was in Christ Jesus,  
who, though he was in the form of God,  
did not regard equality with God  
as something to be exploited,  
\* but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave,  
being born in human likeness.  
And being found in human form,  
he humbled himself  
and became obedient to the point of death—  
even death on a cross.  
Therefore God also highly exalted him  
and gave him the name that is above every name,  
so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.  
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.  
**Thanks be to God!**

*The sharing of signs of peace and reconciliation in Christ may follow.*

*Format Two: Week by Week*

**Ash Wednesday**

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

*Standing at the baptismal font, the minister speaks these words as a gracious invitation for all to reflect on their lives, to repent of their sins, and to receive God's abundant mercy and love.*

On behalf of Christ, we entreat you:  
be reconciled to God.

*2 Cor. 5:20b—6:10*

For our sake, God made him to be sin who knew no sin,  
so that in Christ we might become the righteousness of God.  
For God says, "At an acceptable time I have listened to you,  
and on the day of salvation I have helped you."  
See, now is the acceptable time;  
see, now is the day of salvation!

With faith and hope, let us confess our sin.

**CONFESSION OF SIN**

*Consider singing some version of the response: "Create in me a clean heart, O God; put a new and right spirit within me." You might also have a cantor sing the leader parts. A time of silence for personal confession may be provided before or after the prayer.*

Create in me a clean heart, O God;  
**put a new and right spirit within me.**

Have mercy on me, O God,  
according to your steadfast love;  
according to your abundant mercy  
blot out my transgressions.

Create in me a clean heart, O God;  
**put a new and right spirit within me.**

Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,  
and cleanse me from my sin.

Create in me a clean heart, O God;  
**put a new and right spirit within me.**

**DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

*Still standing at the baptismal font, the minister speaks these words with confidence and joy. At this sign \*, pour water generously, slowly, visibly, and audibly into the font.*

You shall call, and the LORD will answer;  
you shall cry for help, and God will say, Here I am.  
The LORD will guide you continually,  
and satisfy your needs in parched places,  
\* and you shall be like a watered garden,  
like a spring of water, whose waters never fail.

*Isa. 58:1-12*

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

**Thanks be to God!**

*The sharing of signs of peace and reconciliation in Christ may follow.*



## **First Sunday in Lent**

### **CALL TO CONFESSION**

*Standing at the baptismal font, the minister speaks these words as a gracious invitation for all to reflect on their lives, to repent of their sins, and to receive God's abundant mercy and love.*

Thus says the LORD:

*Ps. 91:1-2, 9-16*

Those who love me, I will deliver;  
I will protect those who know my name.  
When they call to me, I will answer them;  
I will be with them in trouble,  
I will rescue them and honor them.  
With long life I will satisfy them,  
and show them my salvation.

With faith and hope, let us confess our sin.

### **CONFESSION OF SIN**

*Consider singing some version of the response: "Create in me a clean heart, O God; put a new and right spirit within me." You might also have a cantor sing the leader parts. A time of silence for personal confession may be provided before or after the prayer.*

Create in me a clean heart, O God;  
**put a new and right spirit within me.**

Have mercy on me, O God,  
according to your steadfast love;  
according to your abundant mercy  
blot out my transgressions.  
Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,  
and cleanse me from my sin.

Create in me a clean heart, O God;  
**put a new and right spirit within me.**

For I know my transgressions,  
and my sin is ever before me.  
Against you, you alone, have I sinned,  
and done what is evil in your sight.

Create in me a clean heart, O God;  
**put a new and right spirit within me.**

### **DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

*Still standing at the baptismal font, the minister speaks these words with confidence and joy. At this sign \*, pour water generously, slowly, visibly, and audibly into the font.*

\* For those who are baptized in Christ Jesus  
there is no distinction between Jew and Greek;  
Jesus Christ, the same Lord, is Lord of all  
and is generous to all who call on him.  
Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.

*Rom. 10:8b-13*

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

**Thanks be to God!**

*The sharing of signs of peace and reconciliation in Christ may follow.*

## Second Sunday in Lent

### CALL TO CONFESSION

*Standing at the baptismal font, the minister speaks these words as a gracious invitation for all to reflect on their lives, to repent of their sins, and to receive God's abundant mercy and love.*

Brothers and sisters, there are many  
who live as enemies of the cross of Christ.  
Their end is destruction; their god is the belly;  
and their glory is in their shame.  
But our citizenship is in heaven,  
and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior,  
the Lord Jesus Christ.  
He will transform the body of our humiliation  
that it may be conformed to the body of his glory.  
With faith and hope, let us confess our sin.

*Phil. 3:17—4:1*

### CONFESSION OF SIN

*Consider singing some version of the response: "Create in me a clean heart, O God; put a new and right spirit within me." You might also have a cantor sing the leader parts. A time of silence for personal confession may be provided before or after the prayer.*

Create in me a clean heart, O God;  
**put a new and right spirit within me.**

Have mercy on me, O God,  
according to your steadfast love;  
according to your abundant mercy  
blot out my transgressions.  
Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,  
and cleanse me from my sin.

Create in me a clean heart, O God;  
**put a new and right spirit within me.**

You are justified in your sentence  
and blameless when you pass judgment.  
Indeed, I was born guilty,  
a sinner when my mother conceived me.

Create in me a clean heart, O God;  
**put a new and right spirit within me.**

### DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

*Still standing at the baptismal font, the minister speaks these words with confidence and joy. At this sign \*, pour water generously, slowly, visibly, and audibly into the font.*

The LORD is my light and my salvation;  
whom shall I fear?

*Ps. 27*

The LORD is the stronghold of my life;  
of whom shall I be afraid?

\* I believe that I will see the goodness of the LORD  
in the land of the living.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

**Thanks be to God!**

*The sharing of signs of peace and reconciliation in Christ may follow.*

## Third Sunday in Lent

### CALL TO CONFESSION

*Standing at the baptismal font, the minister speaks these words as a gracious invitation for all to reflect on their lives, to repent of their sins, and to receive God's abundant mercy and love.*

Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters;  
you that have no money, come, buy and eat!  
Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,  
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?  
Listen carefully to me, says the LORD;  
eat what is good and delight yourselves in rich food.  
Incline your ear, and come to me;  
listen, so that you may live.

*Isa. 55:1-9*

With faith and hope, let us confess our sin.

### CONFESSION OF SIN

*Consider singing some version of the response: "Create in me a clean heart, O God; put a new and right spirit within me." You might also have a cantor sing the leader parts. A time of silence for personal confession may be provided before or after the prayer.*

Create in me a clean heart, O God;  
**put a new and right spirit within me.**

Have mercy on me, O God,  
according to your steadfast love;  
according to your abundant mercy  
blot out my transgressions.  
Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,  
and cleanse me from my sin.

Create in me a clean heart, O God;  
**put a new and right spirit within me.**

You desire truth in the inward being;  
therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.  
Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;  
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

Create in me a clean heart, O God;  
**put a new and right spirit within me.**

### DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

*Still standing at the baptismal font, the minister speaks these words with confidence and joy. At this sign \*, pour water generously, slowly, visibly, and audibly into the font.*

I will bless you, O God, as long as I live;  
I will lift up my hands and call on your name.  
\* My soul is satisfied as with a rich feast,  
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,  
for you have been my help,  
and in the shadow of your wings I sing for joy.

*Ps. 63:1-8*

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

**Thanks be to God!**

*The sharing of signs of peace and reconciliation in Christ may follow.*

## **Fourth Sunday in Lent**

### **CALL TO CONFESSION**

*Standing at the baptismal font, the minister speaks these words as a gracious invitation for all to reflect on their lives, to repent of their sins, and to receive God's abundant mercy and love.*

Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven,  
whose sin is covered.

*Ps. 32*

Happy are those to whom the LORD imputes no iniquity,  
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

Therefore, let all who are faithful offer prayer to God;  
at a time of distress,  
the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them.

With faith and hope, let us confess our sin.

### **CONFESSION OF SIN**

*Consider singing some version of the response: "Create in me a clean heart, O God; put a new and right spirit within me." You might also have a cantor sing the leader parts. A time of silence for personal confession may be provided before or after the prayer.*

Create in me a clean heart, O God;  
**put a new and right spirit within me.**

Have mercy on me, O God,  
according to your steadfast love;  
according to your abundant mercy  
blot out my transgressions.  
Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,  
and cleanse me from my sin.

Create in me a clean heart, O God;  
**put a new and right spirit within me.**

Let me hear joy and gladness;  
let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.  
Hide your face from my sins,  
and blot out all my iniquities.

Create in me a clean heart, O God;  
**put a new and right spirit within me.**

### **DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

*Still standing at the baptismal font, the minister speaks these words with confidence and joy. At this sign \*, pour water generously, slowly, visibly, and audibly into the font.*

\* If anyone is in Christ,  
there is a new creation:  
everything old has passed away;  
see, everything has become new!  
All of this is from God,  
who was reconciled to us through Christ,  
and has given us the ministry of reconciliation.

*2 Cor. 5:16-21*

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

**Thanks be to God!**

*The sharing of signs of peace and reconciliation in Christ may follow.*



## **Fifth Sunday in Lent**

### **CALL TO CONFESSION**

*Standing at the baptismal font, the minister speaks these words as a gracious invitation for all to reflect on their lives, to repent of their sins, and to receive God's abundant mercy and love.*

When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,  
we were like those who dream.  
Our mouths were filled with laughter,  
and our tongues with shouts of joy.  
The LORD has done great things for us.  
Restore our fortunes again, O LORD,  
like the watercourses in the wilderness.  
May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.  
With faith and hope, let us confess our sin.

*Ps. 126*

### **CONFESSION OF SIN**

*Consider singing some version of the response: "Create in me a clean heart, O God; put a new and right spirit within me." You might also have a cantor sing the leader parts. A time of silence for personal confession may be provided before or after the prayer.*

Create in me a clean heart, O God;  
**put a new and right spirit within me.**

Have mercy on me, O God,  
according to your steadfast love;  
according to your abundant mercy  
blot out my transgressions.  
Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,  
and cleanse me from my sin.

Create in me a clean heart, O God;  
**put a new and right spirit within me.**

Do not cast me away from your presence,  
and do not take your Holy Spirit from me.  
Restore to me the joy of your salvation,  
and sustain in me a willing spirit.

Create in me a clean heart, O God;  
**put a new and right spirit within me.**

### **DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

*Still standing at the baptismal font, the minister speaks these words with confidence and joy. At this sign \*, pour water generously, slowly, visibly, and audibly into the font.*

Thus says the LORD,  
who makes a way in the sea,  
a path in the mighty waters:  
Do not remember the former things,  
or consider the things of old.  
I am about to do a new thing;  
\* now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?  
I will make a way in the wilderness  
and rivers in the desert.  
I will give drink to my chosen people,  
the people whom I formed for myself  
so that they might declare my praise.

*Isa. 43:16-21*

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

**Thanks be to God!**

*The sharing of signs of peace and reconciliation in Christ may follow.*

## Palm / Passion Sunday

### CALL TO CONFESSION

*Standing at the baptismal font, the minister speaks these words as a gracious invitation for all to reflect on their lives, to repent of their sins, and to receive God's abundant mercy and love.*

The Lord GOD helps me;  
therefore I have not been disgraced.  
I know that I shall not be put to shame;  
the one who redeems me is near.  
Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together.  
Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me.  
It is the Lord GOD who helps me;  
who will declare me guilty?

*Isa. 50:4-9a*

With faith and hope, let us confess our sin.

### CONFESSION OF SIN

*Consider singing some version of the response: "Create in me a clean heart, O God; put a new and right spirit within me." You might also have a cantor sing the leader parts. A time of silence for personal confession may be provided before or after the prayer.*

Create in me a clean heart, O God;  
**put a new and right spirit within me.**

Have mercy on me, O God,  
according to your steadfast love;  
according to your abundant mercy  
blot out my transgressions.  
Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,  
and cleanse me from my sin.

Create in me a clean heart, O God;  
**put a new and right spirit within me.**

For you have no delight in sacrifice;  
if I were to give a burnt offering, you would not be pleased.  
The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit;  
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

Create in me a clean heart, O God;  
**put a new and right spirit within me.**

### DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

*Still standing at the baptismal font, the minister speaks these words with confidence and joy. At this sign \*, pour water generously, slowly, visibly, and audibly into the font.*

Let the same mind be in you

*Phil. 2:5-11*

that was in Christ Jesus,

who, though he was in the form of God,

did not regard equality with God

as something to be exploited,

\* but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave,

being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form,

he humbled himself

and became obedient to the point of death—

even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him

and gave him the name that is above every name,

so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend,

in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

**Thanks be to God!**

*The sharing of signs of peace and reconciliation in Christ may follow.*