



WORSHIP OFFICE

Archdiocese of Newark

SEPTEMBER 14 - FEAST OF THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS Day of Prayer in Reparation for Sins of Abuse

Liturgical Resource for a Prayer Service

The Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross (September 14) is observed in the Archdiocese of Newark as a *Day of Prayer in Reparation for Sins of Abuse*.

The following is a sample Prayer Service for use on September 14, or whenever appropriate. It should be adapted as needed. It may be used as part of a Holy Hour.

OPENING SONG

An appropriate song should be chosen. (See suggestions below.)

SIGN OF THE CROSS AND GREETING

The service begins with the Sign of the Cross and Greeting:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

℟️ Amen.

**Grace, mercy, and peace
from God the Father
and Christ Jesus our Savior
be with you all.**

℟️ And with your spirit.

INTRODUCTION

The Leader introduces the Prayer Service in these or similar words:

**My brothers and sisters in Christ,
saddened by the sins of ministers of the Church
we come together in reparation,
asking forgiveness for ourselves
and peace and comfort for victims of abuse.
May we all know of God's love and the healing power of Christ.**

PENITENTIAL ACT

**God calls us to conversion;
let us, therefore, ask him for the grace of sincere repentance.**

A brief pause for silent prayer follows.

**I confess to almighty God
and to you, my brothers and sisters,
that I have greatly sinned,
in my thoughts and in my words,
in what I have done and in what I have failed to do,
through my fault, through my fault,
through my most grievous fault;
therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,
all the Angels and Saints,
and you, my brothers and sisters,
to pray for me to the Lord our God.**

**May almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us our sins and bring us to everlasting life.**

℟️ Amen.

LORD, HAVE MERCY

Lord, have mercy.

℟️ Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

℟️ Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

℟️ Lord, have mercy.

The Lord, have mercy (Kyrie) may be sung.

COLLECT

Let us pray.

All pray in silence for a while.

**O Lord,
graciously hear the cries of those who call upon you.**

**May our brothers and sisters, victims of abuse,
know that they are united to Christ in his suffering
for the salvation of the world.**

**May they obtain justice for the wrongs done to them,
faith in their despair
and restoration of integrity.**

**Forgive the sins of the repentant who have inflicted harm.
In your kindness grant that all
may walk more readily in your ways.**

**Mercifully come to our aid in this time of crisis,
so that, receiving gladly from you a message of peace,
we may serve your will to restore all things in Christ.
Who lives and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.**

R: *Amen.*

READINGS

The scripture readings for the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross may be used on September 14 (Lectionary #638).

OR:

*Any suitable readings from the *Lectionary for Mass* may be used (see: Lectionary #887-896, 938-942, 948-952, etc.).*

REFLECTION

A brief reflection may be given. It should be drawn from (the theme of the feast and) the scriptures, connecting the sufferings of Christ with those abused by ministers of the church.

SONG

After the reflection, all may stand and sing an appropriate song or hymn. (See below.)

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

Leader:

Let us bring our prayers before God, asking that the Cross of his Son may redeem our sins and heal those abused by ministers of the church.

Some or all of the following petitions may be used.

Deacon or another suitable minister:

1. For those who have suffered abuse by ministers of the church. May they know beyond any doubt that they are God's sons and daughters, worthy of God's love. Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**
2. For victims of abuse who have carried the pain of their suffering for many years; for those whose pain caused them to take their own lives; for redemption and healing of all physical, emotional and spiritual scars. Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**
3. For victims of abuse who reached out as children but were silenced or not believed. May their stories be known and our hearts be opened to respond to the suffering of others. Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**
4. For victims and survivors who no longer see the church as a home but as a place of tears. May the church become for them once again a place where they are healed and nourished by the Lord. Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**
5. For the courage and strength to find forgiveness in our hearts for those who have abused the innocent. May we learn to seek justice, not revenge, and lighten our suffering through the power of forgiveness. Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**
6. For all members of the church who have been scandalized by the crisis of abuse; for those who have become disheartened with the church and her ministers. May they recognize themselves as members of the Body of Christ, standing as witnesses for all that is good in the church. Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Leader:

May the mercy of God be upon us as we pray for healing and comfort in the words our Savior gave us:

Our Father . . .

CONCLUDING PRAYER

'Let us pray' is not said.

Leader:

**Almighty and most gentle God,
your Son loved children and held them up
as an example of purity and innocence.
Hear our prayers this day
and bring comfort to all who suffer,
especially those who have been abused
by ministers of your church.
Give them healing of body, mind, and spirit.**

**Strengthen the bishops of your church
to enact policies to protect the young and the vulnerable.**

**Forgive those who have sinned.
Heal the broken hearted
and bring justice to those who have been wronged.**

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

℟. Amen.

CONCLUDING RITE

Blessing

For a minister who is a priest or deacon, the following blessing may be used:

The Lord be with you.

Rx. And with your spirit.

**Keep your family, we pray, O Lord,
in your constant care,
so that, under your protection,
they may be free from all troubles
and by good works show dedication to your name.
Through Christ our Lord.**

Rx. Amen.

**And may the blessing of almighty God,
the Father, and the Son, ☩ and the Holy Spirit,
come down on you and remain with you for ever.**

Rx. Amen.

The Solemn Blessing of *The Passion of the Lord (Roman Missal #5)* or another appropriate *Prayer Over the People* may be used instead.

For a minister who is not a priest or deacon, the following is used while all make the sign of the cross:

**May the Lord bless us, protect us from all evil
and bring us to everlasting life.**

Rx. Amen.

Dismissal

Leader (or deacon):

**As a people called to conversion on a journey to new life,
go in peace.**

Rx. Thanks be to God.

Closing Song

An appropriate song may be chosen. (See below.)

SONG SUGGESTIONS

Following are suggestions of songs that may be appropriate for use during a Prayer Service for the *Day of Prayer in Reparation for Sins of Abuse*.

Amazing Grace
Do Not Fear to Hope – Rory Cooney
Envía tu Espíritu – Bob Hurd
Gather Us In – Marty Haugen
Hope of the World – Georgia Harkness
In Christ Alone - Stuart Townend
Lift High the Cross
Lord of All Hopefulness
Love Divine, All Loves Excelling
O Christ the Healer – Fred Pratt Green
O God beyond All Praising
Peace Is Flowing Like a River -
Psalm 23 - Shepherd Me, O God
Psalm 147 - Bless the Lord, My Soul
Sing a New Song - Dan Schutte
The King of Love My Shepherd Is
There Is a Balm in Gilead
We Remember – Marty Haugen

The service may conclude with any appropriate Marian Hymn.