

## PENITENTIAL RITE

The Eucharist is the Church's thanksgiving for the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. It is the sacrament of God's love, mercy and forgiveness.

So the priest invites the people to call to mind our need for God's mercy and forgiveness.

After a moment of silence he may say:

You were sent to heal the contrite of heart: Lord, have mercy.

Congregation: Lord, have mercy.

You came to call sinners: Christ, have mercy.

Congregation: Christ, have mercy.

You are seated at the right hand of the Father to intercede for us: Lord, have mercy.

Congregation: Lord, have mercy.

The priest says: May Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

Congregation: Amen.



## GLORY TO GOD

The response to God's mercy and forgiveness is a song of praise: Glory to God. The first words echo the heavenly message to the shepherds when Jesus was born: Glory to God in the highest and peace to his people on earth.

The priest then prays the opening prayer for that Sunday, and everyone sits down for the Liturgy of the Word.