

We suggest the following rubric for your bulletins: *On January 22, 2018, our presiding bishop and president of the House of Deputies called the Episcopal Church to make this Ash Wednesday a day of prayer particularly about the sin and brokenness of sexual exploitation in the Church. This Litany of Penitence has been revised in order to respond to our leaders' call to prayers of healing and repentance.*

## **Ash Wednesday Litany of Penitence, Revised for Repentance of Sexual Misconduct in the Church**

*The Celebrant and People together, all kneeling*

**Most holy and merciful Father:**

**We confess to you and to one another,  
and to the whole communion of saints  
in heaven and on earth,  
that we have sinned by our own fault  
in thought, word, and deed;  
by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.**

*All kneel.*

**We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven.**

*People*

**Have mercy on us, Lord.**

*Celebrant*

**We have been deaf to your call to serve, as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.**

*People*

**Have mercy on us, Lord.**

*Celebrant*

**We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness: the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience of our lives,**

*People*

**We confess to you, Lord.**

*Celebrant*

**Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people,**

*People*

**We confess to you, Lord.**

*Celebrant* Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,  
*People* **We confess to you, Lord.**

*Celebrant* Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,  
*People* **We confess to you, Lord.**

*Celebrant* Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,  
*People* **We confess to you, Lord.**

*Celebrant* Accept our repentance, Lord, for the wrongs we have done: for our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,  
*People* **Accept our repentance, Lord.**

*Celebrant* For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,  
*People* **Accept our repentance, Lord.**

*Celebrant* For our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us,  
*People* **Accept our repentance, Lord.**

*Celebrant* Holy Trinity, One God, accept our thanks and praise for all the blessings of this life, especially for those blessings that our present circumstances make difficult to see,  
*People* **Hear us, O Lord of Life.**

*Celebrant* Shed the light of your healing love on all affected by sexual misconduct in your church, that they may find new wholeness illumined by your grace,  
*People* **Hear us, O Lord of Life.**

*Celebrant* Help us to see and accept our own responsibility in the harm that has been done and for which we repent and seek forgiveness. Give us the wisdom to be a healthier and safer church. May we see that we all participate in this holy, hard and good work,

*People* **Hear us, O Lord of Life.**

*Celebrant* Knit together in your love all whose relationships have frayed, that they may find reconciliation and new beginnings,

*People* **Hear us, O Lord of Life.**

*Celebrant* Hold in the palm of your hand all who are most affected by sexual misconduct in your church both in these days and through the generations. May our repentance move us to a renewed life as a community of the beloved,

*People* **Hear us, O Lord of Life.**

*Celebrant* Grant all who turn to you the courage to participate with you in restoring this broken world to wholeness, that everyone and everything may share in the hope of your kingdom,

*People* **Hear us, O Lord of Life.**

*Celebrant* Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us;

*People* **Favorably hear us, for your mercy is great.**

*Celebrant* Accomplish in us the work of your salvation,

*People* **That we may show forth your glory in the world.**

*Celebrant* By the cross and passion of your Son our Lord,

*People* **Bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.**

*The Celebrant stands and says*

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who desires not the death of sinners, but rather that they may turn from their wickedness and live, has given power and commandment to his ministers to declare and pronounce to his people, being penitent, the absolution and remission of their sins. He pardons and absolves

all those who truly repent, and with sincere hearts believe his holy Gospel.

Therefore we beseech him to grant us true repentance and his Holy Spirit, that those things may please him which we do on this day, and that the rest of our life hereafter may be pure and holy, so that at the last we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Petitions revised to address sexual misconduct in the church courtesy of the Rev. Cn. Allisyn Thomas and St. Paul's Cathedral, San Diego, California, and commended by the diocesan task force for compassionate care of victims of sexual misconduct.*