

## **Litany of Confession**

Have mercy on me, O God, from your unfailing love.

Blot out my transgressions, O God, from your great compassion.

**Have mercy on me, O God, from your unfailing love.**

Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.

**Have mercy on me, O God, from your unfailing love.**

For I know my transgressions; my sin is always before me.  
In all my sins I have sinned against you, and done what is evil in your sight.

**Have mercy on me, O God, from your unfailing love.**

I know that you are justified when you judge me, O God.  
I have been sinful right from the start.

**Have mercy on me, O God, from your unfailing love.**

You have desired faithfulness from the start, and have always taught me wisdom that I should have followed.

**Have mercy on me, O God, from your unfailing love.**

Do not cast me from your presence, or take your Holy Spirit from me.

**Have mercy on me, O God, from your unfailing love.**

Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.  
Let me hear joy and gladness again; let the bones you have crushed rejoice again.

**Have mercy on me, O God, from your unfailing love.**

**Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.  
Amen.**

(Written by Walter Riggans; based on Psalm 51:1-12)

## **Resisting the Adversary**

Lord,

You know our weakness in the face of the Adversary.

**You know how hard it is at times for us to keep our faith strong and certain.**

You know how easy it can be for us to compromise our faith in you, to waver in our trust in you.

**You know how hard it is at times for us to keep our commitment to you strong and definite.**

You know how easy it can be for us to compromise by shying away from taking a stand for you and your way.

**You know how hard it is at times for us to stay on the narrow way, to resist temptations, to pick up our cross and walk with Jesus.**

You know how easy it is for us to compromise our witness and to look for easy options in life.

**Help us to be alert and of sober mind.**

Strengthen us to be strong against our enemy the devil as he prowls around like a roaring lion.

**Help us to stand firm in our faith, alongside all our brothers and sisters throughout the world, as we share in one another's sufferings.**

Support us, Lord, so that our faith will not fail.

**Help us to be ready to strengthen our sisters and brothers in their faith.**

Lord, we want to be ready to go with you to prison and to death.

**Forgive us for the times when we have compromised our trust in you and our love for you, denying you in so many ways in our lives.**

Lord,

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**You know how hard it is at times for us to keep our faith strong and certain.**

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You know how easy it can be for us to compromise by shying away from taking a stand for you and your way.

**You know how hard it is at times for us to stay on the narrow way, to resist temptations, to pick up our cross and walk with Jesus.**

You know how easy it is for us to compromise our witness and to look for easy options in life.

**Help us to understand more deeply what your suffering and rejection meant for you and means for us.**

We thank you, Lord, that you are the God of all grace, and that you called us to your eternal glory in Christ.

**We thank you, Lord, that after we have suffered a little while, you will restore us and make us strong, firm and steadfast.**

**To you be the power for ever and ever. Amen.**

(Written by Walter Riggans; inspired by 1 Peter 5:8-11, Luke 22:31-34, Mark 8:31-33)

## **Prayer in Dark Times**

You, God, are my God,  
earnestly I seek you;

**I will praise you as long as I live,  
and in your name I will lift up my hands.**

I thirst for you,  
my whole being longs for you,  
in a dry and parched land  
where there is no water.

**I will praise you as long as I live,  
and in your name I will lift up my hands.**

I have seen you in the sanctuary  
and beheld your power and your glory.

**I will praise you as long as I live,  
and in your name I will lift up my hands.**

Because your love is better than life,  
my lips will glorify you.

**I will praise you as long as I live,  
and in your name I will lift up my hands.**

On my bed I remember you;  
I think of you through the watches of the night.

**I will praise you as long as I live,  
and in your name I will lift up my hands.**

Because you are my help,  
I sing in the shadow of your wings.

**I will praise you as long as I live,  
and in your name I will lift up my hands.**

I cling to you;  
your right hand upholds me.

**I will praise you as long as I live,  
and in your name I will lift up my hands.**

(Written by Walter Riggans; based on Psalm 63)

## **Fearing and Loving the Light**

Lord, at this time of reflection and repentance, we can fear the brightness of your light.

**It shines on our lives and exposes our self-centred attitudes and behaviours.**

Help us, Lord, not to fear your light, but to be grateful for your compassionate revealing of our need for repentance.

**Help us, Lord, to know the joy of true repentance in our lives, as we are overwhelmed by your presence, love and light.**

And Lord, we thank you that this is not a time of dark despair.

**We thank you that what we feared was the defeat of Jesus, and the brutal taking of his life from us, was not the end of his life, and is not the end of ours.**

Lord, we love the brightness of the life and light of Jesus.

**Lord, we love the brightness of the life and light of Jesus, and we hold on to the promise of Easter.**

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Lord, at this time of quiet introspection and re-evaluation of our lives, we can fear the brightness of your light.

**It shines on our lives and exposes our mortality and our weaknesses.**

Help us, Lord, not to fear your light, but to be grateful for your compassionate understanding of our frailty, our fears and our failures.

**Help us, Lord, to know the joy of laying our lives down before you, depending on you, and being overwhelmed by your presence, love and light.**

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Lord, at this time of reflection and repentance, we can fear the brightness of your light.

**It reveals all the dark injustice, corruption and violence in our community, and our failure always to tackle it as best we could.**

Lord, your light shines out and shows us the way in which Jesus walked with you, into the wilderness and on to the cross.

**Lord, we fear that light which shames us in our reluctance to follow his way.**

Help us, Lord, not to fear your light, but to be grateful for your compassionate understanding of our frailty, our fears and our failures.

**Help us, Lord, to know the joy of taking our cross and following Jesus, and being overwhelmed by your presence, love and light.**

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Lord, at this time of quiet introspection and re-evaluation of our lives, we fear the brightness of the glory of Jesus' resurrection.

**His face and body are full of such love for us that it might break our hearts.**

Lord, help us to love the brightness of the life and light of Jesus.

**Lord, help us to love the brightness of the life and light of Jesus, as we hold on to the promise of Easter.**

(Written by Walter Riggans; inspired by Proverbs 9:10a and John 1:4-5)