

Confession Prayers

Easter, Year B

By Beth Barnett

This is a confession prayer for use in any or all weeks of the Easter to Pentecost season. Use it in an intergenerational context, but specifically in lectionary-based gatherings. This confession uses images based on the lectionary texts of this season to act as a basis for confession time.

You will need:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confession prayer and art images (powerpoint is included in the Risen and Real Resources downloads) • Lead reader, response leader, action demonstrator/s
Time required:	3 minutes

Things to think about beforehand:

Use this Confession each week from Easter to Pentecost, reflecting on the images of the lectionary texts as a basis for confession.

All of the images are used each week, and each image is accompanied in the confession with a suggested action.

Not everyone in your community may be comfortable doing the actions themselves, or find them helpful, but some others may find them a great way to connect with the confession prompts.

Support and encourage this diversity by inviting some members of the community who appreciate action as a means of reflection and prayer to learn the actions and present them as the confession is read each week. This may be an individual or a small team. Perhaps different people will participate each week.

Make the invitation to join in the actions or the words or to participate in stillness to the whole gathering at the beginning of the confession.

Introduction

We come to our prayers of confession. The presence of Jesus challenges us with our failings, comforts us with mercy, and cleanses us with forgiveness. We bring our confessions for the things in our lives that don't align with the ways of God, the things we have said and done and thought, and the things we have neglected.

So we confess with words, with action, with image and with silence.

Join with the words in bold, join with the actions, take in the images, sit or kneel in silence – however you wish bring your confession in this time is welcome.

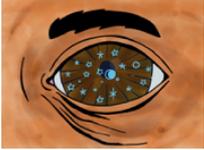
Confession

Text (on screen)	Image (on screen) <i>and action</i>
<p>Risen Lord Jesus We are your disciples, though we have doubted and denied you, and closed our eyes to faith you call us again to forgiveness</p>	 <p>hands over eyes</p>
<p>We bring our confessions to one another and to you... Where we have made you a stumbling block, not a building block for community You call us to forgiveness</p>	 <p>fists on top of each other</p>
<p>Where we have used your name for dividing, excluding and accusing Not uniting and healing or calling together You call us to forgiveness</p>	 <p>Hands together in front of you, then pulled wide apart</p>
<p>Where we have let waters of mercy stagnate and silt up, where we might have let justice roll down like rivers and been baptized in your cleansing grace and renewing life You call us to forgiveness</p>	 <p>Fingers facing in towards each other wiggling like water ripples</p>



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<p>Where we have elevated leadership not laying ourselves down for the sake of others nor lifting up the lowly, You call us to forgiveness</p>	 <p><i>Arms folded across chest; turn back</i></p>
<p>Where we have exchanged your life giving, living word for words of criticism, condemnation and cursing, You call us to forgiveness</p>	 <p><i>Hands like mouths, opening and closing, in conflict</i></p>
<p>Where we have silenced our stories of your spirit of hope, And suppressed the symphonic spirit song of many sounding voices You call us to forgiveness</p>	 <p><i>Fingers raised against lips in 'shhhhhh'</i></p>
<p>Where we have made many rules and neglected the one common liberating law of love. You call us to forgiveness</p>	 <p><i>Hands cupped together in front.</i></p>
<p>Open our eyes to see you again Risen and Real Open our ears to your words of grace Releasing and restoring Open our lives to follow you afresh Repentant and Ready. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9) Thanks be to God. Amen</p>	



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