

# Sample Liturgies for Atonement and Healing

Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection U.SCCB April 2012

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## Introduction

As we continue to move through this tenth year of implementing the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*, we pause to reflect on how far we, as Church, have come and how far we have yet to travel. The bishops of the USCCB and their dioceses and eparchies have come a long way in dealing with the victims and survivors of clergy sexual abuse. In the past ten years over 16,000 people have come forward to tell their stories. After learning that the unthinkable did indeed happen, victim assistance resources were put into place and the journey of providing healing was begun.

The work of the Church is not yet over. She cannot sit back and say all is well, look at what we've done. There is still much healing to be done. Healing can take place when we, as a Church, can acknowledge the sin in our midst, ask forgiveness and pledge to protect against this sin again. This collection of Masses, prayer services, prayers and songs is to help bishops reach out to the faithful in their own dioceses/eparchies and to show atonement and offer healing.

The Church owes a debt of gratitude to the victims' groups that didn't quit until their voices were heard. Many of today's bishops were not personally responsible while the abuse was occurring or first reported; however, in making sure the victims/survivors are treated compassionately, all are accountable. Many of our bishops have taken to heart the moral responsibility and obligation of making sure that our story of overcoming sin not be forgotten.

Too many of the faithful have not yet seen the work of the Church in this area. It is critical to restore their trust in the leadership of the Church. Giving concrete examples of how the diocese has reached out to the victims/survivors of sexual abuse can only help restore that trust.





## I lay down my life for my sheep

John 10:15



## Mass of Atonement From Archdiocese of Milwaukee

Father of endless love, ever caring, ever strong, always present, always just: You gave your only Son to save us by the blood of His cross.

Gentle Jesus, shepherd of peace, join to your own suffering the pain of all who have been hurt in body, mind, and spirit by those who betrayed the trust placed in them.

Hear our cries as we agonize over the harm done to our brothers and sisters. Breathe the spirit of wisdom into our prayers, soothe restless hearts with hope, steady shaken spirits with faith: Show us the way to justice and wholeness, enlightened by truth and enfolded in your mercy.

Holy Spirit, comforter of hearts, heal your people's wounds and transform our brokenness. Grant us courage and wisdom, humility and grace, so that we may act with justice and find peace in you.

Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

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#### INTRODUCTORY RITES

#### Prelude

Processional Hymn Sign of the Cross and Greeting Hear Us, Almighty Lord

#### **Penitential Rite**

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,

*And, striking their breast, they say:* through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault;

*Then they continue:* 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.

**Kyrie** 

**Opening Prayer** 

#### LITURGY OF THE WORD

#### **First Reading**

Ezekiel 34:1, 11-16

John 10: 11-18

Psalm 23

"I myself will pasture my sheep; I myself will give them rest—oracle of the Lord GOD."

#### **Psalm Response**

**Gospel Acclamation** 

#### Gospel

"I am the good shepherd. A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."

#### Homily

#### **Prayers of the Faithful**

#### LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

#### Preparation of the Altar and Presentation of the Gifts

Eucharistic Acclamations "Mass of New Life"

Sanctus

Mystery of Faith

Great Amen

The Lord's Prayer

Sign of Peace

**Agnus Dei** 

**Communion Procession** 

You Are Mine

#### Thanksgiving

Pie Jesu

Pie Jesu, Pie Jesu. Agnus Dei, Agnus Dei Sacred be all of life Filled with light divine

Heal our world, heal our worl From despair and ignorance Jesu Christe, Come, inspire compassion

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#### **Prayer after Communion**

#### **CONCLUDING RITE**

#### **Final Blessing and Dismissal**

**Archbishop:** The Lord be with you. **People:** And with your spirit.

Archbishop: Blessed be the name of the Lord.

**People:** Now and forever.

**Archbishop:** Our help is in the name of the Lord.

**People:** Who made heaven and earth.

**Closing Hymn** 

We Cannot Measure How You Heal

### ATONEMENT

Atonement – "at-one-ment" – comes through Jesus Christ. Through Him, in his loving act of sacrifice, we receive the gift of reconciliation with God and one another.

*Reconciliation through atonement – the unity of men and women with God and with one another – is pure gift from God, not earned by us.* 

We are invited to respond to this grace and show gratitude for God's work in Christ by renouncing whatever is the source of pride and sin, so that the harmony of creation may be restored.

As a Church we are called to move forward in God's loving embrace. The Church can do so only by seeking pardon for the sins of her past that grew out of pride.

Christ stretched out His arms on the cross and reconciled us to one another and to the Father. He brought God and humanity together in His body. As the Good Shepherd, he wraps His arms around our broken lives and restores us to the harmony that exists in His love.



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## Archdiocese of Milwaukee Penitential Rite at the beginning of Mass

As faithful, we come together united in Jesus Christ. As we gather, we acknowledge that we are human and we sin. Because we acknowledge and trust in God's mercy are we able to admit our faults and failings. In order to put ourselves in the proper disposition for the celebration of the Mass we confess our sins and pray for forgiveness, acknowledging our complete dependence on Christ.

As the faithful call to mind their sins, during the Penitential Rite, the (arch)bishop will prostrate himself in front of the altar. The assembly will be invited to kneel.

Immediately before this moment, he will be handed the symbols of his episcopal ministry.

- When handed his crosier, he will lay it down.
- When handed his miter, he will lay it down.
- He will remove his pallium, he will lay it down.
- He will remove his episcopal ring, he will lay it down.
- Then he will prostrate himself as we all recite the Confiteor (I confess to you...).
- He will remain prostrate for the recitation of this prayer of contrition and the singing of the Kyrie (Lord, Have Mercy Christ Have Mercy Lord, Have Mercy).



## **Prayer Service for Healing**

Opening Song: Here I am, Lord

#### **Opening Prayer:**

Priest/deacon: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **R.** And with your spirit.

No one is far from you, O God. We come together in joy – mindful of the burdens we carry, the hurts and sorrows we have. We come together in gladness – never forgetting God's love. We come together with praise – for each other and those who assist us on this journey.

No one is far from you O God and we call upon your power in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Reading:

Isaiah 59:6b-8, 15-18

Their webs cannot serve as clothing, nor can they cover themselves with their works. Their works are evil works, and deeds of violence come from their hands. Their feet run to evil, and they are quick to shed innocent blood; Their thoughts are destructive thoughts, plunder and ruin are on their highways. The way of peace they know not, and there is nothing that is right in their paths; Their ways they have made crooked, whoever treads them knows no peace.

Honesty is lacking, and the man who turns from evil is despoiled.

The LORD saw this, and was aggrieved that right did not exist. He saw that there was no one, and was appalled that there was none to intervene; So his own arm brought about the victory, and his justice lent him its support. He put on justice as his breastplate, salvation, as the helmet on his head; He clothed himself with garments of vengeance, wrapped himself in a mantle of zeal.



He repays his enemies their deserts, and requites his foes with wrath.

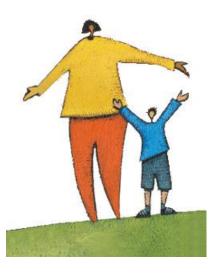
#### **Responsorial Psalm:**

Psalm 142

**R:** You, O Lord, are my refuge

With a loud voice I cry out to the LORD; with a loud voice I beseech the LORD. My complaint I pour out before him, before him I lay bare my distress. **R** When my spirit is faint within me, you know my path. In the way along which I walk they have hid a trap for me. **R** I look to the right to see, but there is no one there who pays me heed. I have lost all means of escape; there is no one who cares for my life. I cry out to you, O LORD: I say, "You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living." **R** Attend to my cry, for I am brought low indeed. Rescue me from my persecutors, for they are too strong for me. **R** Lead me out of my prison, that I may give thanks to your name. The just shall gather around me when you have been good to me. **R** 

Other suggested readings: Job 3:1-26 - Lamentation of Job. Lamentations 3:1-24 - I am one who knows affliction. Lamentations 3:49-59 - When I called, you came to my aid. Micah 4:1-4 - Every person shall sit undisturbed.



#### The Gospel reading:

#### Matthew: 10:28-33 - Do Not Fear

Jesus said to his disciples: "Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather, be afraid of the one who can destroy both soul and body in Gehenna. Are not two sparrows sold for a small coin? Yet not one of them falls to the ground without your Father's knowledge. Even all the hairs of your head are counted. So do not be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows. Everyone who acknowledges me before others I will acknowledge before my heavenly Father. But whoever denies me before others, I will deny before my heavenly Father."

Other suggested readings Matthew 5:1-10 - The beatitudes. Matthew 5:43-48 -Love your enemies, pray for those who persecute you. Luke 10:25-37 - The Good Samaritan

#### Homily helps:

#### God is with us, he will not abandon us Act 2:24-28 God is Love, God is not hate. (God is there to help us not stop us) Faith and Hope (1 peter 1:3-9)

#### **Intercessions:**

For community and political leaders to model justice and right living; .**Christ hear us.** For priests to truly mirror Christ's goodness and love; **Christ hear us.** For families to nourish and foster their children; **Christ hear us.** For teachers to respect and call forth the goodness and wholeness in children; **Christ hear us.** For all adults to enrich the lives of children; **Christ hear us.** For all who support and contribute to our ministry; **Christ hear us.** 

For all the needs of the world; **Christ hear us.** 

#### Litany for Healing:

(During the Litany candles can be lit)

Our response will be: Save, heal and protect them, O Lord!

For children wounded and tearful; **save, heal and protect them, O Lord!** For children confused or alone; **save, heal and protect them, O Lord!** For children afraid or abandoned; **save, heal and protect them, O Lord!** For children beaten; **save, heal and protect them, O Lord!** For children who sleep in fear; **save, heal and protect them, O Lord!** For children afraid to go home; **save, heal and protect them, O Lord!** For children afraid of their abusers; **save, heal and protect them, O Lord!**  For children assaulted and for children who assault; **save, heal and protect them, O** Lord!

For children whose innocence has been stolen; **save, heal and protect them, O Lord!** For those who cannot trust; **save, heal and protect them, O Lord!** 

For those who cannot love; save, heal and protect them, O Lord!

For those whose hearts are filled with fear; save, heal and protect them, O Lord!

After the intercessions and litany the minister, in the following or similar words, invites all present to sing or say the Lord's Prayer.

The Lord heals our wounds and strengthens us in our weakness; let us pray as Christ has taught us:

All: Our Father...

#### **Blessing and Dismissal:**

Lord God, your own Son was delivered into the hands of the wicked, yet he prayed for his persecutors and overcame hatred with the blood of the cross. Relieve the suffering of those present today (or name); grant them (him/her) peace of mind and a renewed faith in your protection and care.

Protect us all from the violence of others, keep us safe from the weapons of hate, and restore to us tranquility and peace.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

May God bless us with his mercy, strengthen us with his love, and enable us to walk in charity and peace. **R.** Amen.

Song: Be not Afraid, or Prayer of St. Francis

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#### **BLESSING FOR VICTIM OF CRIME OR OPPRESSION**

#### INTRODUCTION

430 The personal experience of a crime, political oppression, or social oppression can be traumatic and not easily forgotten. A victim often needs the assistance of others, and no less that of God, in dealing with this experience.

This blessing is intended to assist the victim and help him or her come to a state of tranquility and peace.

These orders may be used by a priest or a deacon, and also by a layperson, who follows the rites and prayers designated for a lay minister.

#### A. ORDER OF BLESSING

#### **INTRODUCTORY RITES**

433 When the community has gathered, a suitable song may be sung. After the singing, the minister says:

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

All make the sign of the cross and reply:

#### Amen.

434 A minister who is a priest or deacon greets those present in the following or other suitable words, taken mainly from sacred Scripture.

May the grace and peace of Christ be with you.

And all reply:

#### And with your spirit.

435 A lay minister greets those present in the following words:

May the Lord grant us peace, now and forever.

#### R. Amen.

436 In the following or similar words, the minister prepares those present for the blessing.

Throughout history God has manifested his love and care for those who have suffered from violence, hatred, and oppression. We commend N. to the healing mercy of God who binds up all our wounds and enfolds us in his gentle care.

#### READING OF THE WORD OF GOD

437 A reader, another person present, or the minister reads a text of sacred Scripture.

Brothers and sisters, listen to the words of the holy gospel according to Matthew: 10:28-33

#### Do not fear.

Jesus said to his disciples: "Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather, be afraid of the one who can destroy both soul and body in Gehenna. Are not two sparrows sold for a small coin? Yet not one of them falls to the ground without your Father's knowledge. Even all the hairs of your head are counted. So do not be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows. Everyone who acknowledges me before others I will acknowledge before my heavenly Father. But whoever denies me before others, I will deny before my heavenly Father."

438 Or:

Isaiah 59:6b-8, 15-18—*The Lord is appalled by evil and injustice.* 

Job 3:1-26—Lamentation of Job.

Lamentations 3:1-24—*I* am one who knows affliction.

Lamentations 3:49-59—When I called, you came to my aid.

Micah 4:1-4—Every person shall sit undisturbed.

Matthew 5:1-10—The beatitudes.

Matthew 5:43-48—Love your enemies, pray for those who persecute you.

Luke 10:25-37—The good Samaritan.

439 As circumstances suggest, one of the following responsorial psalms may be sung, or some other suitable song.

**R.** The Lord is my strength and my salvation.

Psalm 140

Deliver me, O LORD, from evil men; preserve me from violent men, From those who devise evil in their hearts, and stir up wars every day. R.

Save me, O LORD, from the hands of the wicked;

preserve me from violent men Who plan to trip up my feet—

the proud who have hidden a trap for me;

They have spread cords for a net; by the wayside they have laid snares for me. R.

Grant not, O LORD, the desires of the wicked;

further not their plans. Those who surround me lift up their heads:

may the mischief which they threaten overwhelm them.

I know that the LORD renders justice to the afflicted, judgment to the poor. Surely the just shall give thanks to your name; the upright shall dwell in your

presence. R.

Psalm 142:2-3, 4b-5, 6-7

#### R. (v. 6) You, 0 Lord, are my refuge.

Psalm 31:2-3a, 4-5, 15-16, 24-25

**R.** (v. 6) Into your hands I commend my spirit.

440 As circumstances suggest, the minister may give those present a brief explanation of the biblical text, so that they may understand through faith the meaning of the celebration.

#### INTERCESSIONS

441 The intercessions are then said. The minister introduces them and an assisting minister or one of those present announces the intentions. From the following those best suited to the occasion may be used or adapted, or other intentions that apply to the particular circumstances may be composed.

The minister says:

Let us pray to the Lord God, the defender of the weak and powerless, who delivered our ancestors from harm.

#### **R.** Deliver us from evil, O Lord.

Assisting minister:

For N., that he/she may be freed from pain and fear, we pray to the Lord. **R**.

Assisting minister:

For all who are victims of crime/oppression, we pray to the Lord.

Assisting minister:

For an end to all acts of violence and hatred, we pray to the Lord. **R**.

Assisting minister:

For those who harm others, that they may change their lives and turn to God, we pray to the Lord. **R**.

442 After the intercessions the minister, in the following or similar words, invites all present to sing or say the Lord's Prayer.

The Lord heals our wounds and strengthens us in our weakness; let us pray as Christ has taught us:

All:

Our Father...

#### PRAYER OF BLESSING

443 A minister who is a priest or deacon says the prayer of blessing with hands outstretched over the person to be blessed; a lay minister says the prayer with hands joined.

Lord God,

your own Son was delivered into the hands of the wicked, yet he prayed for his persecutors and overcame hatred with the blood of the cross.

Relieve the suffering of N.; grant him/her peace of mind and a renewed faith in your protection and care.

Protect us all from the violence of others,

keep us safe from the weapons of hate, and restore to us tranquility and peace.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

#### R. Amen.

As circumstances suggest, the minister in silence may sprinkle the person with holy water.

#### **CONCLUDING RITE**

444 A minister who is a priest or deacon concludes the rite by saying:

May God bless you with his mercy, strengthen you with his love, and enable you to walk in charity and peace.

#### R. Amen.

Then he blesses all present.

And may almighty God bless you all, the Father, and the Son, + and the Holy Spirit.

#### R. Amen.

445 A lay minister concludes the rite by signing himself or herself with the sign of the cross and saying:

May God bless us with his mercy, strengthen us with his love, and enable us to walk in charity and peace.

#### R. Amen.

446 It is preferable to end the celebration with a suitable song.

#### **B. SHORTER RITE**

447 All make the sign of the cross as the minister says: Our help is in the name of the Lord.

#### All reply:

Who made heaven and earth.

448 One of those present or the minister reads a text of sacred Scripture, for example:

Brothers and sisters, listen to the words of the holy gospel according to Matthew: 10:28-33

#### Do not fear.

Jesus said to his disciples: "Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather, be afraid of the one who can destroy both soul and body in Gehenna. Are not two sparrows sold for a small coin? Yet not one of them falls to the ground without your Father's knowledge. Even all the hairs of your head are counted. So do not be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows. Everyone who acknowledges me before others I will acknowledge before my heavenly Father. But whoever denies me before others, I will deny before my heavenly Father."

449 Or:

Isaiah 59:6b-8, 15-18—*The Lord is appalled by evil and injustice.* Job 3:1-26—*Lamentation of Job.* Lamentations 3:1-24—*I am a man who knows affliction.* Lamentations 3:49-59—*When I called, you came to my aid.* Matthew 5:1-10—*The beatitudes.* Luke 10:25-37—*The good Samaritan.* 

450 A minister who is a priest or Relieve the suffering of N.; deacon says the prayer of blessing with grant him/her peace of mind hands outstretched over the person; a lay and a renewed faith in your protection minister says the prayer with hands and care. joined. Protect us all from the violence of Lord God. others. your own Son was delivered into the keep us safe from the weapons of hate, hands of the wicked and restore to us tranquility and peace. yet he prayed for his persecutors and overcame hatred with the blood of We ask this through Christ our Lord. the cross.

## A Rosary for Healing & Protection of the Vulnerable Among Us

Prelude: Instrumental Music on the Celtic Harp

Gathering Song: Jesus, Heal Us

**Opening Prayer:** "A Prayer for Victims of Abuse" (From SCYP)

First Reading: Amos 5:4, 14-15, 21-24

Response: Our God is Compassion

**Gospel Acclamation:** 

Gospel Luke 7:36-50

**Pray the Rosary** 

**Moment of Silence** 

Sprinkling Hymn: Come to the Water

#### A Litany for Healing

Lord, Have mercy Christ, have mercy Lord, have mercy

Protect all children, Lord Grant us the grace Preserve our nation For children wounded and tearful For children confused or alone For children afraid or abandoned For children beaten For children who sleep in fear For children afraid to go home For children afraid of their abusers For children assaulted and for children who assault For children whose innocence has been stolen For those who cannot trust For those who cannot love



Lord, have mercy Christ, have mercy Lord, have mercy

With Your enduring love Lord To protect & nourish the innocent Lord To be chaste & pure in love Save, heal and protect them, O Lord! Save, heal and protect them, O Lord!

Save, heal and protect them, O Lord! Save, heal and protect them, O Lord! For those whose hearts are filled with fear

For bishops, called to be Good Shepherds

For Priests, conformed to the person of Christ For all ministers of the Church, called to live the Gospel For priests who abuse children For parents or relatives who abuse their children For teachers & coaches who abuse children For all who abuse children To doctors & therapists To houses of healing & renewal To men & women of the media To lawyers & judges To those imprisoned for abuse Holy Mary, Mother of God Saint Peter & Saint Paul Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Saint Brigid of Kildare All you holy saints

Lord, have mercy Christ, have mercy Lord, have mercy Make them vigilant defenders of the weak, O Lord!

Save, heal and protect them, O Lord!

Grant them purity and Christ---like love, O Lord!

Grant them a love of Christian virtues, O Lord! Grant them repentance, O Lord!

Grant them repentance, O Lord!

Grant them repentance, O Lord! Grant them repentance, O Lord! Lord Grant compassion and skill Lord Grant wisdom and dedication Lord Grant a love for the truth alone Lord Grant wisdom and conviction Lord Grant repentance and healing Pray for us! Pray for us! Pray for us! Pray for us!

Pray for us!

Lord have mercy Christ have mercy Lord have mercy.

Closing Song: How Can I Keep From Singing



O, Lord....

Make me cynical enough for Schadenfreude, and take away this horror and nausea I feel.

Help me to believe (even if it's not true) that it has all been worth it, and that after all this time

and all this pain there really is an institution somewhere that gets it.

And, Lord, having allowed your Church to struggle on this sinful cross, you saw that even this did not communicate to our culture the outrage you feel.

So now you have taken on our very most sacred cow... College Football. Will the cries of the children be heard above the roar of the crowd?

Finally, Lord, forgive me for this poem. I'm just sad, and angry. Today I am not capable of anything more.

Amen.



Diocese of Las Cruces

## Litany for Healing:

(During the Litany candles can be lit)

Our response will be: Save, heal and protect them, O Lord!

For children wounded and tearful; save, heal and protect them, O Lord!

For children confused or alone; save, heal and protect them, O Lord!

For children afraid or abandoned; save, heal and protect them, O Lord!

For children beaten; save, heal and protect them, O Lord!

For children who sleep in fear; save, heal and protect them, O Lord!

For children afraid to go home; save, heal and protect them, O Lord!

For children afraid of their abusers; save, heal and protect them, O Lord!

For children assaulted and for children who assault; save, heal and protect them, O Lord!

For children whose innocence has been stolen; save, heal and protect them, O Lord!

For those who cannot trust; save, heal and protect them, O Lord!

For those who cannot love; save, heal and protect them, O Lord!

For those whose hearts are filled with fear;

save, heal and protect them, O Lord!

Archdiocese of Chicago SEC Conference Liturgy



## **Sample Intercessions:**

• For the Church and its leaders, especially our Holy Father, the bishops and all entrusted with the care of the Lord's flock, that they may truly fill the role of shepherd and protect all in their flock, we pray to the Lord...

• For civic leaders entrusted with upholding the common good and justice for all that they may act in ways that show their commitment to the protection of all, we pray to the Lord...

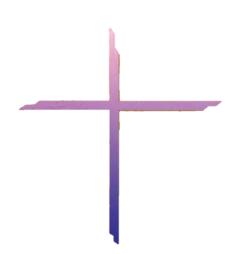
• For parents, mentors, teachers, coaches and all who work with children and young people, that they may look after them with the watchful eye of the shepherd, we pray to the Lord...

• For families who are the first to show God's love, that they may have the necessary support to provide safe and nurturing environments for all members, we pray to the Lord...

• For those who have suffered abuse, that they may experience God's profound love for them and God's healing powers, we pray to the Lord...

• For those who provide help for the abused: counselors, therapists, and advocates that they may act with wisdom and compassion in their healing ministry, we pray to the Lord...

• For those affected by abuse in anyway, that they may have the courage to tell their story, to reach for healing



## **Suggested songs:**

- All Are Welcome
- All That Is Hidden
- Amazing Grace
- As Grains Of Wheat
- Beatitudes
- Blest Are They
- Bread For The World
- Christ Be Our Light
- Come To Me
- Come To The Water
- Come Unto Me
- Companion On The Journey
- Envia Tu, Espiritu
- Eye Has Not Seen
- Flow River, Flow (Hurd)
- God Of Day And God Of Darkness
- Heal Me, O God (Norbet)
- Here I Am, Lord
- I Have Loved You
- I Heard The Voice Of Jesus Say
- If God Is For Us

- In Every Age
- Isaiah 49
- May The Lord Bless You (Grayson Brown)
- Now We Remain
- Our God Is Here
- Peace Is Flowing Like A River
- Prayer Of St. Francis
- Restless Is The Heart
- Shelter Me, O God
- Shepard Me, Oh God
- The Cry Of The Poor
- There Is A Balm In Gilead
- We Are Called
- We Are The Light Of The World
- We Cannot Measure How You Heal
- We Have Been Told
- Whatsoever You Do
- You Are The Healing
- You Know Me, Lord