

Leader: Blessed Jesus, you offered us all your blessings when you announced: “Blessed are the poor in spirit”

All: But we have been rich in pride.

Leader: You said “Blessed are those who mourn”

All: But we have not known much sorrow for our sin.

Leader: You said “Blessed are the meek”

All: But we are a stiff-necked people.

Leader: You said “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness”

All: But we are filled to the full with other things.

Leader: You said: “Blessed are the merciful”

All: But we are harsh and impatient.

Leader: You said: “Blessed are the pure in heart”

All: But we have impure hearts.

Leader: You said: “Blessed are the peacemakers”

All: But we have not sought reconciliation.

Leader: You said: “Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness”

All: But our lives do not challenge the world.

Leader: You said: “Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me”

All: But we have hardly made it known that we are yours.

Leader: Your Law is holy and your benedictions are perfect, but they are both too great for us. You alone are blessed.

All: We plead with you to forgive our sins and give us the blessing of your righteousness.

Leader: Almighty God, we acknowledge and confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed; we have not loved you with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength; we have not loved our neighbour as ourselves. Deepen within us our sorrow for the wrong we have done, and the good we have left undone.

Lord, you are full of compassion and gracious, slow to anger, and abundant in mercy; there is always forgiveness with you. Restore to us the joy of your salvation; bind up that which is broken, give light to our minds, strength to our wills, and rest to our souls. Speak to each of us, and let your word abide with us until it has wrought in us your holy will. Amen.