



## Litany for Truth and Healing

*To be used in conjunction with Theology of Church Apologies*

*This litany is based on themes from the Anglican–Roman Catholic Dialogue of Canada’s Theology of Church Apologies (2025). For additional theological and historical insight, visit [www.anglican.ca/resources/theology-apologies](http://www.anglican.ca/resources/theology-apologies) to access the full resource.*

*Planners may select from the petitions provided or may write new petitions specific to the setting where the litany is being used.*

### *Opening prayer*

God of all goodness, your grace calls our churches to reflect upon wrongs committed in your name, to admit our failures, and to seek forgiveness from – and restoration for – those who have been harmed by actions of the church or its members. You are ever faithful, even when we are unfaithful, forgiving our sins and granting that we may bear true witness to you. Gather our prayers and petitions into one; that our confession and repentance will be inspired by the Holy Spirit, that our sorrow will be conscious and deep, and that, humbly viewing the sins committed in the name of the church, we will be converted to your way of justice and reconciliation.

*The Parable of the Prodigal Son, Church of St. Michael Cornhill by Clayton and Bell, London*

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Together, we pray:

Enable us to embrace anew your life-giving promises.  
Open our ears to the cries of the violated and wounded.  
Help us to see the depth of our fault.  
Give us words to confess our sin with integrity.  
Enflame our hearts in the fire of Christ's love,  
And turn us evermore towards truth and righteousness.  
Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy.

### *Petitions*

1. Merciful God, on the night before his passion your Son prayed for the unity of all who believe in Him; yet, the divisions that have emerged within the Christian family have at times devolved even further into acts of persecution and violence against one another. We deeply regret these events and ask forgiveness from you, and from all who have suffered from these shameful actions.

Let us pray that our recognition of the sins that have rent the unity of the body of Christ will facilitate the way to reconciliation and communion among all Christians.

Response: *Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy.*

2. God of our ancestors, you chose Abraham and Sarah to bring your Name to the nations; yet, the history of relations between Christians and Jews is a tormented one. You call Christians to acknowledge the ways in which the churches' own teachings have contributed to laying the foundations for antisemitism and the Holocaust itself. We confess our fault. We implore your pardon for our churches' harm to Jews, our elder siblings in faith.

Let us pray that as we acknowledge our churches' role in contributing to antisemitism and the persecution of Jewish people, we may be moved to ensure that such evils will never happen again.

Response: *Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy.*

3. Holy God, you have created all people in your own image and likeness; yet, we know that this dignity has been violated and faith has been shaken by serious crimes of sexual exploitation and abuse of young or vulnerable persons by clergy and others in positions

of responsibility in our churches. These crimes become even more heinous when church leaders fail to act upon the victims' claims of abuse or to report these crimes to the appropriate civic authorities.

Let us pray for those who have suffered abuse that they may find healing, health, freedom, and joy; and for those who have perpetrated abuse that they may repent of the harm they have done and seek healing and wholeness.

Response: *Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy.*

4. Triune God, you commissioned your disciples to proclaim your gospel to all creation. Your love is shown in the life of Jesus who always invited but never demanded acceptance of his teachings; yet when Christians have settled throughout the world, our presence has often brought harm instead of healing, death instead of life. As we continue to learn and to struggle with the churches' alignment with colonizing powers in Canada, you call us to honesty, humility, a spirit of repentance, and a commitment to right relations between settlers, newcomers, and the first peoples of this land.

Let us pray that our words of truth and reconciliation will be not words alone, but will lead to actions that build new relationships of justice, peace, and friendship among all peoples who call this land home.

Response: *Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy.*

5. God of truth and justice, you are opposed to every type of discrimination; yet many of our churches participated in the residential school system designed to separate Indigenous children from their families, their language, and their culture. While some church leaders have made heartfelt apologies to victims of residential schools and their descendants, you call us to walk together towards a future of healing, ensuring that every child is treated with love, honour, and respect.

Let us pray that residential school victims to the seventh generation will find healing and wholeness, and that all residents of this land will receive and offer dignity to every human being.

Response: *Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy.*

## *Concluding prayer*

Gracious God, trusting in your mercy and forgiveness, we commit here today

to resist and overcome injustices,  
to defend human dignity  
and the integrity of all that you have created,  
to rebuild healthy relationships  
with those who have been harmed by our sinful actions,  
and to the steadfast pursuit of truth and reconciliation.

We pray that our churches will continue to act to heal the wounds of our histories and that you would enable and prepare us to walk together in a good way into the future. In your unfathomable grace, remake us in your image.

Amen.

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