Lord, it's here again; we're here again; this awkward season of Lent, these days about crosses and confession and commitment.

You have called us here to worship, and You call us to go beyond these walls, and worship You with our whole lives. We begin in this place with our praise...with our declaration that You are God, that You are holy, and good, and loving, and powerful to transform us. We are thankful!

Jesus, Saviour, Lord, Beloved Son of God, We say we know who You are. We declare that You are the Christ, God's Son, our Saviour, and our Lord. But the truth is, we often don't live or pray that way.

We want You to make all the pain in the world – especially in our little world- disappear. We don't want to suffer. We don't even want to be inconvenienced. We don't want to sacrifice or give up anything. When troubles come, we often blame You or tumble into doubts.

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PRAYER OF APPROACH AND CONFESSION - LENT 1

Then we see You. See the cross. Listen to Your teaching. Watch how You lived...and died.

Lord, we are sorry. Forgive us for trying to make the world work our way. Forgive our expectations that You serve us, when it is us who are to serve You. We repent of our sin...and turn to You.

The Candle on the Lent Cross is extinguished.

Lord, have mercy,
Christ have mercy,
Lord, have mercy on me.
Lord have mercy,
Christ have mercy,
Lord, have mercy on me.

Steve Merkel CCLI #224940



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