

**Communion Sunday**  
**“Specters of Shame”**  
**(John 21:15-19)**

Father, forgive me; I am a sinner in desperate need of your grace.  
Forgive me for the sins I name as less than sinful.  
Forgive me for hating the sin in others more than my own sin.  
Forgive me for every moment when I love what you name as evil.  
Forgive me for loving my pleasure more than I love you.  
Forgive me for those times when I complain to you more than praise you.  
Forgive me for those times when my talk is not shaped by a love  
for you and others.  
Forgive me for those moments when I fail to give others the grace  
you've given me.  
Forgive me for those times I want control rather than resting in your control.  
Forgive me for when I doubt your wisdom, mercy, and love.  
Forgive me for every moment when I am angry because I did not get  
my own way.  
Forgive me for those times I fail to witness to your rescuing grace.  
Forgive me for often loving earthly treasures more than the spiritual treasures  
you have lavished on me.  
Forgive me for those many moments when I have failed to love my spouse as  
you love your church.  
Forgive me for those times when I have used my gifts for my glory and not yours.  
Forgive me when my fantasies are outside of your boundaries.  
Forgive me when I have responded to the weaknesses of others with irritation  
and not grace.  
Forgive me when I am comfortable with a dichotomy between what I profess  
and how I live.  
Forgive me when I allow the distractions of earth to keep me from seeking  
the things above.  
Forgive me when I am not a good steward of my time, energy, and resources.  
Forgive me for every time I battle for my way instead of joyfully submitting to  
your way.  
Forgive me for every moment I fail to seek and celebrate your generous  
forgiveness.  
Forgive me for failing to quest to be holy as you are holy.  
Forgive me for every instance where my heart wanders from your righteous  
path.  
Forgive me for words unsaid that should've been said and for words said that  
should never have been said.  
Forgive me for feeling entitled to be loved while at that same time failing to love.  
Forgive me for carrying a burden of guilt because I have doubted your  
forgiveness.  
Forgive me for those times when I have failed to love justice, mercy,  
and humility.  
So, I bow before your holiness, not because of my righteousness but because  
of the perfect righteousness of the Son.  
Knowing that my penalty has been paid, I come to you for what only you can  
offer.  
Please work to keep my heart tender and may my mouth always be willing  
to confess my need for your forgiveness.