FAILURES OF TRUTH

We sin against You when we sin against ourselves.

For our failures of truth, O Lord, we ask forgiveness.

For passing judgment without knowledge of the facts.

And for distorting facts to fit our theories.

For deceiving ourselves and others with half-truths,

And for pretending to emotions we do not feel.

For using the sins of others to excuse our own,

And for denying responsibility for our own misfortunes.

For condemning in our children the faults we tolerate in ourselves,

And for condemning in our parents the faults we tolerate in ourselves.

FAILURES OF JUSTICE

We sin against You when we sin against ourselves.

For our failures of justice, O Lord, we ask forgiveness.

For keeping the poor in the chains of poverty,

And turning a deaf ear to the cry of the oppressed.

For using violence to maintain our power,

And for using violence to bring about change.

For waging aggressive war,
And for the sin of appeasing aggressors.

For obeying criminal orders,

And for the sin of silence and indifference.

For poisoning the air, and polluting land and sea,

And for all the evil means we employ to accomplish good ends.

FAILURES OF LOVE

We sin against You when we sin against ourselves.

For our failure of love, O Lord, we ask forgiveness.

For confusing love with lust,

And for pursuing fleeting pleasure at the cost of lasting hurt.

For using others as a means to gratify our desires.

And as stepping-stones to further our ambitions.

For withholding love to control those we claim to love,

And shunting aside those whose youth or age disturbs us.

For hiding from others behind an armor of mistrust,

And for the cynicism which leads us to mistrust the reality of unselfish love.