

I CAME TO CALL THE SINNER



A PENANCE SERVICE FOR ADVENT 2022 (Year A)

Rite of Reconciliation of Several Penitents with Individual Confession and Absolution
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INTRODUCTORY RITES

- Opening Hymn
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- Opening Prayer

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- Gospel
- Homily
- Examination of Conscience

RITE OF RECONCILIATION

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- Litany of Repentance
- Lord's Prayer
- Concluding Prayer
- Individual Confessions of Sin and Absolution
- Proclamation of Praise for God's Mercy
- Concluding Prayer of Thanksgiving

CONCLUDING RITE

- Blessing
- Dismissal
- Closing Hymn

PREPARATIONS FOR THE RITE

- Hospitality Ministers should be recruited to welcome the assembly as they arrive and to distribute worship aids (if one is printed).
- At least two readers should be appointed to proclaim the reading(s), to read the Examination of Conscience, and to lead the Litany of Repentance. They should be seated in the assembly before the liturgy begins.
- If a deacon is present, he proclaims the gospel reading, and could read the Examination of Conscience and lead the Litany of Repentance.
- A musician and cantor(s) should lead the assembly in song – a list of music suggestions is included on Page 19 of this booklet. Instrumental music may be played softly during the time for individual confessions.
- A Lectionary or a three-ring binder should be readied at the ambo with the appropriate readings.
- The environmental lighting may be subdued. Candle(s) should be lit at the ambo. The appropriate number of candles should be lit on the Advent Wreath.
- The stations for the confessors should be prepared and be easily identified. Priests might stand or sit in isolated areas around the main body of the church to receive penitents. In this way, the communal nature of the rite is maintained. Candles may light these stations.
- For the sake of simplicity, the presider alone or the presider and preacher (if this person is different than the presider) could participate in the procession. Other priests could be seated in the sanctuary or in a reserved area before the liturgy begins.

INTRODUCTORY RITES

OPENING HYMN

See suggestions on Page 19

GREETING

Presider: Grace, mercy, and peace be with you
from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior.

All: And with your spirit.

GREETING

In these or similar words.

Presider: Brothers and sisters,
Advent is a time of preparation,
when we ready ourselves to celebrate the mystery
of our Lord's coming as man,
the beginning of our redemption.
Advent also moves us to look forward with renewed hope
to the second coming of Christ,
when God's plan of salvation will be brought to fulfillment.
We are reminded too of our Lord's coming
to each one of us at the hour of our death.
We must make sure that he will find us prepared for his coming.
As the gospel tells us:

*"Blessed are those servants,
who are found awake when the Lord comes."*

This service of penance and reconciliation
is meant to assist us to prepare ourselves
and to be ready in mind and heart for the coming of Christ,
which we are soon to celebrate in the Mass of Christmas.

OPENING PRAYER

Presider: My brothers and sisters,
as we look forward to celebrating the mystery
of Christ's incarnation,
let us pray that when he comes again,
he may find us awake and ready to receive him.

Pause in silence

Almighty and merciful God,
you have brought us together in the name of your Son
to receive your mercy and grace in our time of need.
Open our eyes to see the evil we have done.
Touch our hearts and convert us to yourself.
Where sin has divided and scattered,
may your love make us one again;
where sin has brought weakness,
may your power heal and strengthen us;
where sin has brought death,
may your Spirit raise us to new life.

Give us a heart to love you, Lord,
so that our lives may reflect the image of your Son.
May the world see the glory of Christ
revealed in your Church,
and come to know that he is the One whom you have sent,
Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

All: Amen.

CELEBRATION OF THE WORD OF GOD

The following are suggested readings. Alternative readings may also be selected (cf. Page 17 of this booklet for suggestions). The preacher may wish to use one, two, or three readings. If only one is chosen, it is preferable that it be the gospel.

The readings are printed elsewhere in this booklet (cf. Pages 14-16), for ease of rehearsal. A Lectionary or a three-ring binder with the readings printed should be used during the liturgy.

FIRST READING

Wisdom 11:22 – 12:2 (LFM no. 153C)
You have mercy on all because you love all things that are.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 51:3-21
Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 1:3-9 (LFM no. 2B)
We wait for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Verse: *Come, O Lord, do not delay;
forgive the sins of your people.*

GOSPEL

Matthew 9:9-13 (LFM no. 643)
*I did not come to call the righteous,
but sinners.*

HOMILY

EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE: OPTION A

After the homily, the assembly is invited to make an examination of conscience. The following option could be used. Two readers might alternate, allowing a brief period of silence between each section.

During a December 22, 2014 meeting with Vatican employees, Pope Francis thanked them for their dedicated service and then encouraged them to examine areas of their lives. The following examination of conscience is adapted from his remarks.

Presider: We now continue this celebration with an examination of conscience.

“Care for your spiritual life, your relationship with God” (pause)

- Am I a Christian who is not nourished by prayer and the sacraments?
- Do I read or study the Word of God?

“Care for your family life...” (pause)

- Do I give to my family my time, my attention, my love?
- Do I care for their daily needs?

“Heal the wounds of the heart with the oil of forgiveness...” (pause)

- Have I forgiven others who have hurt me?
- Have I said, “I’m sorry” to those whom I have hurt? Have I tried to make amends with them?

“Watch how you speak...” (pause)

- Do I need to purify my everyday language from offensive words, vulgarities, and phrases that are used in the decadence of the world?
- Do I gossip about others?
- Do I tell lies?

Care for your work...” (pause)

- Do I work with enthusiasm and passion?
- Am I humble enough to thank the Lord for my accomplishments?
- Do I use my God-given skills and talents in the service of others?

“Avoid envy, lust, hatred, and negative feelings...” (pause)

- Are my thoughts and actions destructive toward my relationships?
- Do my thoughts destroy my inner peace?
- Do I say insulting things when it would be better to remain silent?
- Do I surround myself with angry or destructive people?

Continue →

“Reach out to those who need you...this is how you will be judged” (pause)

- Do I assist the weak, the elderly, the sick?
- Do I stand up for foreigners, immigrants or for those who are oppressed?
- Do I feed the hungry and shelter the homeless?

“Let go of...”

- The bitterness that brings us to revenge.
- The finger-pointing that leads to pride.
- The complaining that leads us to despair.

THE RITE OF RECONCILIATION **with the General Confession of Sins follows.**



ADVENT

EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE: OPTION B

After the homily, the assembly is invited to make an examination of conscience. The following option could be used. Two readers might alternate. Allow a brief period of silence between each question.

Presider: The following examination of conscience is based upon the Confiteor. Please reflect quietly as each part is read.

I CONFESS TO ALMIGHTY GOD

- Do I sincerely want to be set free from sin and turn again to God?
- Do I seek a deeper relationship with God in this sacrament of reconciliation?

AND TO YOU, MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS

- Do I have a genuine love for my family and friends, neighbors and co-workers, or fellow students?
- Have I contributed to the well-being and happiness of others at home?
- Am I aware of my global relationship to those suffering and dying in other parts of the world?
- Am I committed to seek peace and promote justice for every person?

THAT I HAVE GREATLY SINNED

- Do I blame others for my wrongdoing or for the misfortune that befalls me?
- Do I accept responsibility for the commitments I have made to others – my spouse? My parents? My children? My parish?
- Do I accept that society's evils are within my power to change?

IN MY THOUGHTS AND IN MY WORDS

- Have I harbored ill thoughts against another person?
- Have my addictions affected my judgment or behavior?
- Have my fears or prejudices prevented me from speaking out on behalf of the poor, the unborn, or people of other races?
- Have my words caused others hurt? Has my silence caused others harm?

IN WHAT I HAVE DONE

- Do I seek to be the center of attention? Have I imposed my will on others without respecting their needs or freedoms?
- Am I focused on my needs to the detriment of the needs of others?
- Am I obsessed with having the perfect body, making more money, or having the latest technology?
- Do I need to be in control of all people and all situations?
- Do I work more than is healthy for my mind or body?

Continue →

AND IN WHAT I HAVE FAILED TO DO

- Have I neglected my responsibilities to my family?
- Have I neglected my health?
- Have I neglected my prayer life and faith?
- Do I use the earth's resources wisely?

THROUGH MY FAULT, THROUGH MY FAULT, THROUGH MY MOST GREIVIOUS FAULT

- Do I recognize my own sins?
- Does my ego or my self-righteousness prevent me from seeing my own errors?
- Do I blame broken relationships on others?

THEREFORE I ASK BLESSED MARY, EVER-VIRGIN, AND ALL THE ANGELS AND SAINTS

- Do I appreciate the great gift of the Eucharist?
- Do I worship with my Community each and every Sunday?
- Do I reflect often on what God is calling me to do?

AND YOU MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS

- Am I so independent that I refuse to ask for help or let others assist me?
- Do I support and defend other members of my family?
- Do I give others the opportunity to share their gifts and talents?
- Do I treat those who wait on me, or who work with me, with the dignity they deserve as fellow human beings?

TO PRAY FOR ME TO THE LORD OUR GOD.

- Do I promise prayers for people and situations and not follow through?
- Do I remember to pray for others in my parish, especially for those who are preparing to receive the sacraments?
- Do I pray for the living and the dead?

THE RITE OF RECONCILIATION **with the General Confession of Sins follows.**



ADVENT

RITE OF RECONCILIATION

GENERAL CONFESSION OF SINS

Presider: God who is infinitely merciful
pardons all who are repentant
and takes away their guilt.
Confident in his goodness,
let us ask him to forgive all our sins
as we confess them with sincerity of heart.

All: I confess to almighty God
and to you, my brothers and sisters,
that I have greatly sinned,
in my thoughts and in my words,
in what I have done and in what I have failed to do,
through my fault, through my fault
through my most grievous fault;
therefore I ask blessed Mary, ever-Virgin,
all the Angels and Saints,
and you, my brothers and sisters,
to pray for me to the Lord our God.

LITANY OF REPENTANCE

Presider: Let us turn to Christ with confidence and ask for his mercy.

Minister: The response to the litany is “Lord, have mercy.”

Minister: You came into the world to seek and save what was lost.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Minister: You came to give us life, life in its fullness.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Minister: You became the source of salvation for all who obey you.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Minister: Once and for all you died for our sins,
the innocent One for the guilty.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Continue →

Minister: In your mercy free us from the past
and enable us to begin a new life of holiness.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Minister: Make us a living sign of love for all to see:
people reconciled with you and with each other.

All: Lord, have mercy.

LORD'S PRAYER

Presider: Now, in obedience to Christ himself,
let us join in prayer to the Father,
asking him to forgive us as we forgive others.

All: Our Father . . .

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Presider: Almighty and eternal God,
you sent your only-begotten Son
to reconcile the world to yourself.
Lift from our hearts the oppressive gloom of sin,
so that we may celebrate the approaching
dawn of Christ's birth with fitting joy.
Through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

INDIVIDUAL CONFESSIONS AND ABSOLUTION

The presider or other minister might inform the assembly where the confessors will be located. Some brief words regarding the manner of confession should be given. The people may be encouraged to accept one of the penances which are found in the worship aid (cf. Page 18 of this booklet) or the confessors may give a penance suited to the individual.

The assembly may be advised to remain in church if there is to be a common ending.

Quiet instrumental music might be played during this time.

PROCLAMTION OF PRAISE FOR GOD’S MERCY

If the assembly has been invited to remain in church for a common ending to the celebration, it is fitting for all to sing a psalm, a hymn or litany in acknowledgment of God’s power and mercy, for example, the Canticle of Mary (Luke 1:46-55) or Psalm 136: 1-9, 13-14, 16, 25-26. Other suggested scripture texts include:

Psalm 32:1-7, 10-11

Psalm 54

Psalm 66

Psalm 95

Psalm 98:1-9

Psalm 100:1-5

Psalm 103:1-4, 8-18

Psalm 145:1-21

Psalm 146:2-10

Isaiah 12:1b-6

Isaiah 61:10-11

Jeremiah 31:10-14

Daniel 3:52-57

Ephesians 1:3-10

Revelation 15:3-4

CONCLUDING PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Presider: Lord God,
Creator and ruler of your kingdom of light,
in your great love for this world
you gave up your only Son for our salvation.
His cross has redeemed us,
his death has given us life,
his resurrection has raised us to glory.
Through him we ask you
to be always present among your family.
Teach us to be reverent in the presence of your glory;
fill our hearts with faith
our days with good works,
our lives with your love.
May your truth be on our lips
and your wisdom in all our actions,
that we may receive the reward of everlasting life.
Through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Continue →

CONCLUDING RITE

BLESSING

Presider: May the Lord guide your hearts in the way of his love,
and fill you with Christ-like patience.

All: Amen.

Presider: May he give you strength to walk in newness of life
and to please him in all things.

All: Amen.

Presider: May almighty God bless you,
the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

DISMISSAL

Presider: The Lord has freed you from your sins. Go in peace.

All: Thanks be to God.

CONCLUDING HYMN

See suggestions on Page 19

READINGS

FIRST READING

Wisdom 11:22 – 12:2
(LFM no. 153C)

A reading from the Book of Wisdom

Before the LORD the whole universe is as a grain from a balance
or a drop of morning dew come down upon the earth.
But you have mercy on all, because you can do all things;
and you overlook people's sins that they may repent.
For you love all things that are
and loathe nothing that you have made;
for what you hated, you would not have fashioned.
And how could a thing remain, unless you willed it;
or be preserved, had it not been called forth by you?
But you spare all things because they are yours,
O LORD and lover of souls,
for your imperishable spirit is in all things!
Therefore you rebuke offenders little by little,
warn them and remind them of the sins
they are committing,
that they may abandon their wickedness
and believe in you, O LORD!

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 51 or another selection

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 1:3-9
(LFM no. 2B)

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

Brothers and sisters:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always on your account
for the grace of God bestowed on you in Christ Jesus,
that in him you were enriched in every way,
with all discourse and all knowledge,
as the testimony to Christ was confirmed among you,
so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift
as you wait for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ.
He will keep you firm to the end,
irreproachable on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.
God is faithful,
and by him you were called to fellowship with his Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

The word of the Lord.

VERSE BEFORE THE GOSPEL

*Come, O Lord, do not delay;
forgive the sins of your people.*

GOSPEL

Matthew 9:9-13
(LFM no. 643)

✠ **A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew**

As Jesus passed on from there,

he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the customs post.

He said to him, "Follow me."

And he got up and followed him.

While he was at table in his house,

many tax collectors and sinners came

and sat with Jesus and his disciples.

The Pharisees saw this and said to his disciples,

"Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?"

He heard this and said,

"Those who are well do not need a physician, but the sick do.

Go and learn the meaning of the words,

I desire mercy, not sacrifice.

I did not come to call the righteous but sinners."

The Gospel of the Lord.

RECONCILIATION SERVICE: OTHER READINGS

OLD TESTAMENT

Isaiah 25:6-10a	The Lord will save us
Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10	God himself will come to save us
Isaiah 40:1-11	God consoles his people
Isaiah 45:6c, 8,18, 21c-25	This is no just and saving God but me
Isaiah 54:1-10	The Lord call you back
Isaiah 63:16b-17, 19b;64:2-7	O, that you would rend the heavens and come down
Jeremiah 7:21-26	Listen to my voice...I will be your God and you will be my people
Jeremiah 23:5-8	I will raise up a righteous shoot to David
Hosea 2:16-25	I will make a covenant for you that day
Joel 2:12-19	For gracious and merciful is he, slow to anger, rich in kindness
Zephaniah 3:14-18a	The Lord has removed judgment against you

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalms 25	Teach me your ways, O Lord
Psalms 36	How precious is your unfailing love, O Lord
Psalms 72	Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever
Psalms 80	Lord, make us turn to you and we will be saved
Psalms 85	Our God will come and save us
Psalms 103	The Lord is kind and merciful
Psalms 130	With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption
Psalms 145	The Lord is gracious and merciful
Psalms 147	Blessed are all who wait for the Lord

NEW TESTAMENT

Romans 3:22-26	Justified by the gift of God, Christ Jesus
Romans 6:2-14	You must think of yourselves as dead to sin and living for God
Romans 12:1-2, 9-19	Rejoice in hope, endure in affliction
2 Corinthians 5:17-21	God reconciled the world to himself through Christ
Ephesians 1:3-14	The Father's plan of salvation
Ephesians 2:1-10	But God who is rich in mercy...brought us to life with Christ
Ephesians 4:22-32	Forgiving one another as God has forgiven you in Christ
Ephesians 5:1-14	You were once in darkness; now you are light in the Lord,
Philippians 1:4-11	Show yourself pure and blameless for the day of Christ
Philippians 4:6-9	Have no anxiety at all
1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2	May the Lord strengthen your hearts for the coming of the Lord Jesus
James 1:22-27	Be doers of the word and not merely listeners
James 5:7-10	Make your hearts firm, the coming of the Lord is at hand
1 Peter 1:13-23	You have been redeemed...by the precious blood of Christ
1 John 1:5-2:2	If we acknowledge our sins he is faithful and just

GOSPEL

Matthew 3:1-12	Reform your lives, the reign of God is at hand
Matthew 9:1-8	[Healing the paralytic] Have confidence, my son, your sins are forgiven
Matthew 18:12-14	The shepherd seeks one lost sheep
Matthew 21:28-32	John came and sinners believed in him
Luke 7:18b-23	Go tell John what you have seen and heard
Luke 18: 9-14	God be merciful to me, a sinner
Luke 19:1-10	The Son of Man has come to search out and save what was lost
John 1:29-34	Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world
John 5:33-36	I have testimony greater than John's
John 15:9-14	You will live in my love, if you keep my commandments

SAMPLE PENANCES

Choose one of the following penances as a way of accepting God's mercy.

- During the next week, spend an hour in prayer for those who are victims of abuse or neglect. Read Matthew 25:31-46.
- As a family, prepare a basket of food or toiletries and give it to a family in need.
- Skip a meal at your favorite restaurant. Use the money to purchase a Christmas gift for a person served by a parish organization or local charity.
- Identify a person whom you have offended since your last confession and pray for them each day for a week.
- Think of someone you have been especially uncharitable towards and send a Christmas card with a note of kindness attached to it.
- Work at a soup kitchen or food pantry during Advent for a couple of hours.
- Reflect on the Beatitudes...find someone who meets one of those needs, such as one who mourns, and send them a note or visit them during Advent.
- Speak a word of affirmation to each member of your household this week. Make an effort to “help carry someone’s burden” among your friends or family.
- Offer to share something you have – or something you’re doing – with someone who would appreciate it.
- Take a “prayer time” of ten minutes or so...and ask God if there is something God would like to say to you...and LISTEN.
- Call or write a note to someone who may be lonely or in need of “comfort & joy”.
- Gather your family for a reading of the “Christmas Story” from the Gospel of Matthew or Luke. Discuss what it means to them and to you.
- Include a weekday Mass in your plans during Advent.
- Every morning until Christmas, say a Hail Mary for peace.
- For one whole week, do the dishes or set the table without being asked.

MUSIC SUGGESTIONS – ADVENT 2022

HYMNODY

Amazing Grace	Newton (various)
Clear the Voice	Hagan (OCP)
Come, O Long Expected Jesus	Wesley (various)
Comfort, Comfort, O My People	Winkworth (tr.) (OCP)
Cry out with Joy and Gladness	Paul Tate (WLP, 007381)
Cry out with Joy and Gladness	Rudy Borkowski (WLP, 006272)
Find Us Ready	Tom Booth (GIA)
Lead Us to Your Light	Carol Browning (GIA)
Let Us Sing to the Lord/ <i>Cantemos al Señor</i>	Alonzon/Maher (GIA, G-6129 [collection])
My Soul in Stillness Waits	Marty Haugen (GIA)
Sion, Sing	Lucien Deiss (WLP)
The Advent of Our God	Coffin/Chandler (WLP; various hymnals)
There's a Wideness in God's Mercy	Faber (various)
When the King Shall Come	Christopher Idle (various)

HYMNODY AND RELATED SCRIPTURE

(Is. 25) Praise to the Lord, My Soul	Tom Parker (GIA)
(Is. 25) God's Holy Mountain We Ascend	(WLP)
(Is. 35) Walk in the Reign	Rory Cooney (GIA)
Is. 35) Ready the Way	Bob Hurd (OCP0)
(Is. 35) Come, Emmanuel	Light/Tate (WLP)
(Is. 35) Let Desert Wasteland Now Rejoice	Delores Dufner (GIA)
(Is. 40) Comfort, Comfort, O My People	(various)
(Is. 40) A Voice Cries Out	Michael Joncas (GIA)
(Is. 40) Treasures Out of Darkness/ <i>Tesoros Ocultos</i>	Alan Revering (WLP)
(Joel 2) Let Justice Roll Like a River	Marty Haugen (GIA)
(Rom. 6) I Know That My Redeemer Lives	(various)
(Rom. 6) We Know That Christ is Raised	(various)
(Rom. 12) Christians, Let Us Love One Another	Foltz/Nigro (OCP)
(2 Cor.) Where Charity and Love Prevail	Benoit (various)
(Eph. 1) Ephesians 1:3-10	Eugene Englert (GIA, WIII)
(1 John 1) I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light	Kathleen Thomerson (various)
(1 John 1) Our Darkness	Taize (GIA)
(Matt. 3) Wild and Lone the Prophets Voice	(GIA, Hymns for the Gospel)
(Matt. 13) Come, Ye Thankful People, Come	(various)
(Matt. 13) Faith and Truth and Life Bestowing	(GIA, Hymns for the Gospel)
(Matt. 13) The Reign of God	Delores Dufner (GIA)
(John 15) Where Charity and Love Prevail	Benoit (various)
(John 15) No Greater Love	Michael Joncas (GIA)
(John 15) The Master Came to Bring Good News	Ralph Finn (GIA, various hymnals)