

LENTEN PENANCE SERVICE

2008

Listen to God's Voice

Rite of Reconciliation of Several Penitents
With Individual Confession and Absolution

Introductory Rites

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Greeting
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Opening Prayer

Celebration of the Word of God

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Gospel
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Rite of Reconciliation

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

PREPARATION

- ❖ Hospitality Ministers should be recruited to welcome the assembly as they arrive and to distribute worship aids.
- ❖ At least two readers should be appointed to proclaim the reading(s) and to read the Examination of Conscience. A reader or deacon may lead the Litany of Repentance.
- ❖ A musician and cantor(s) should lead the assembly in song. Instrumental music may be played during individual confession.
- ❖ A Lectionary should be readied with the appropriate readings.
- ❖ Lighting may be subdued. Candle(s) in the sanctuary should be lit.
- ❖ Stations for confessors should be prepared. 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.
- ❖ For the sake of simplicity, the presider alone could be in the procession. Other priests could be seated in a reserved section of pews before the liturgy begins.

INTRODUCTORY RITES

OPENING HYMN

GREETING

Presider: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Jesus Christ his Son be with you in truth and love.

All: And also with you.

INTRODUCTION

Presider: *In these or similar words...*

Every day, in countless ways, we are bombarded by information. E-mails, TV, radio, newspapers, text messages, and the like are constantly updating us with the latest scores, political hype, Hollywood gossip, weather, and so much more. We are told what to buy, what to wear, what to eat, and what car to drive.

In the midst of the clamor, we must listen first and foremost to the voice of God. Through the liturgy, through Scripture, through personal prayer, we must hear God's voice speaking to us. And if we are quiet long enough, if we set aside the world and its temptations, we hear him more clearly. He reminds

us, if we dare to listen, to do what is right, and to follow the way of Jesus.

God has called us here tonight [today],
for he knows our human weakness, our sin,
our unwillingness to listen to him, and he knows our
need for his mercy and forgiveness.
So let us be attentive to the voice
of God who speaks to us this night [day].

OPENING PRAYER

Presider: Let us pray.

Silent prayer.

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 one again;
where sin has brought weakness,

may your power heal and strengthen;
where sin has brought death,
may your spirit raise to new life.

Give us a new heart to love you,
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 who you have sent,
Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

Amen.

CELEBRATION OF THE WORD OF GOD

*The following are suggested readings. Alternative readings may be selected.
The homilist may wish to use one, two, or three readings. If only one is
chosen, it is preferable that it be the gospel.*

First Reading

Jeremiah 7:23–28

(Lectionary Vol. II, no. 240)

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 95: If today you hear his
voice, harden not your hearts.

Second Reading

Hebrews 4:12–16

(Lectionary Vol. II, no. 310)

Gospel Acclamation

Gospel

John 5:17–30

(Lectionary Vol. II, no. 246)

Homily

Examination of Conscience

The assembly is now invited to make an examination of conscience. This can be done in silence or by using the examination of conscience below. One reader alone may read the examination or two readers might alternate between questions. Allow a brief period of silence between each one.

**Presider: Sisters and brothers,
let us call to mind our failings
so that we may seek God's forgiveness.**

Reader 1:

Have I listened to the voice of God in prayer?

- **Do I pray daily?**
- **Do I receive the sacraments regularly?**
- **Do I keep Sundays and holy days sacred?**
- **Do I fulfill my commitments as a member of my faith community?**
- **Have I tried to grow in the life of the Spirit through prayer and reading the Word of God?**

- Do I trust God's goodness and providence, even in times of crisis and doubt?

Reader 2:

In my daily living, do I listen to the voice of God?

- Do I respect my own body as a gift from God?
- Do I control my vices, including abuses of food and drink?
- Have I made good use of the gifts God has given me?
- Do I work too hard and too long? Do I neglect my family and health?
- Have I been lazy and given too much time to leisure or entertainment?

Reader 1:

Have I listened to the voice of God in my relationships with others?

- In my household, have I contributed to the well-being and happiness of the rest of my family? Am I patient? Am I loving?
- Do I treat my parents with respect?
- Am I ever angry with those I love? Am I resentful?
- Have I been faithful in my relationships?

- Have I imposed my will on others without respecting their freedom and rights?
- Am I intolerant of other's ideas or needs?
- Have I perpetuated racism, prejudices, and stereotypes?
- Do I treat people with disabilities with respect?

Reader 2:

Have I listened to the voice of God and brought his love to the world?

- Do I share my time and my treasure with others in need?
- Do I fail to speak out on behalf of the poor or the oppressed?
- Have I accepted suffering as a share in the suffering of Christ?
- Have I indulged in reading, conversation, or entertainments that are contrary to Christian decency and respect for human life?
- Do I use the earth's resources wisely?
- Do I purchase a lot of material goods that I don't really need?

Reader 1:

- Have I listened to the voice of God and followed his will for my life?

- Am I ever afraid to act in a Christian manner, afraid of what others might think?
- Is the hope of eternal life my inspiration for all I do?
- Do I sincerely want to be set free from sin, turn again to God, and resolve to begin again?

Rite of Reconciliation

General Confession of Sins

Presider: Brothers and sisters,
let us call to mind the goodness of God,
and acknowledge our sinfulness,
so that we may receive his merciful
forgiveness.

All kneel.

All: I confess to almighty God,
and to you my brothers and sisters,
that I have sinned through my own fault
in my thoughts and in my words,
in what I have done
and in what I have failed to do;
And 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

(The response, "Lord, have mercy" may be sung.)

All stand.

- 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.
- Deacon/Minister: Your mercy is our hope: welcome us to the sacrament of reconciliation.
Lord, have mercy.
- All: Lord, have mercy.
- Deacon/Minister: Give us the will to change our lives, and the lives of others, by charity, good example and prayer.
Lord, have mercy.
- All: Lord, have mercy.
- Deacon/Minister: Give light to our darkness and lead us by your truth.
Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon/Minister: **Make us a living sign of your love for all to see: people reconciled with you and with each other.
Lord, have mercy.**

All: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon/Minister: **In your redeeming love overcome our sinfulness and the harm it has brought us.
Lord, have mercy.**

All: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon/Minister **Blot out the sins of the past and fit us for the life that is to come.
Lord, have mercy.**

All: Lord, have mercy.

Lord's Prayer

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

Our Father...

Concluding Prayer

Presider: Lord,
draw near to your servants
who in the presence of your Church
confess that they are sinners.
Through the ministry of the Church
free them from all sin
so that renewed in spirit
they may give you thankful praise.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Individual Confession and Absolution

The presider or other minister might tell the assembly where the confessors will be located. Some brief words regarding the manner of confessions should be given. 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.

Proclamation of Praise for God's Mercy

After all have had the opportunity for confession and absolution, the assembly is invited to join in singing/praying a psalm, litany, or hymn of praise. A musical setting of any of the following scripture passages could be used or any other appropriate song.

Psalm 28:6-7
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 119
Psalm 136:1-9, 13-14, 16, 25-29
Psalm 145:1-21
Isaiah 61:10-11
Jeremiah 31:10-14
Daniel 3: 52-57
Luke 1:46-55 (Magnificat)

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. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Adapted from the Liturgy Planning Aid for the Seasons of Lent, Triduum, and the Easter Season 2008, Diocese of Lansing.