

LENTEN PENANCE SERVICE

2011

Your Sins Are Forgiven

Rite of Reconciliation of Several Penitents
With Individual Confession and Absolution

Introductory Rites

Opening Hymn
Greeting
Introduction
Opening Prayer

Celebration of the Word of God

First Reading
Responsorial Psalm
Second Reading
Gospel Acclamation
Gospel
Homily
Examination of Conscience

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.

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...*

Often in the gospel accounts, we hear Jesus say, “Your sins are forgiven.” Inevitably, some bystanders would take exception to Jesus’ words, questioning whether he had the “authority” to forgive sins. They did not recognize God in their midst.

Perhaps there are times when we are equally incredulous. Could Jesus forgive me, a sinner? Is Jesus really present to my life today? Could Jesus help me to be a better person, to change my life and try again?

Tonight (today), he has called each of us to this sacrament. He reminds us that he died to save us all, to redeem us from our sins. Once again, and still, he offers us his saving mercy.

Let us then appreciate the great compassion and everlasting mercy that only God can give. In this time and in this place, and through his Church, let us hear Christ's words of forgiveness.

OPENING PRAYER

Presider: Let us pray.

Silent prayer.

Father of mercies and God of all
consolation,
You do not wish the sinner to die
but to be converted and live.
Come to the aid of your people,
that they may turn from their sins
and live for you alone.
May we be attentive to your word,
confess our sins,
receive your forgiveness,
and always be grateful for your loving
kindness.

Help us to grow into the fullness of
Christ, your Son, who lives and
reigns with you and the Holy Spirit
one God forever and ever.

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	Joel 2:12–18 (Lectionary Vol. III, no. 219) <i>Return to me with your whole heart...and the Lord was stirred with concern.</i>
Responsorial Psalm	Psalm 130: <i>With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.</i>
Second Reading	Ephesians 2:4–10 (Lect. Vol. I, no. 32) <i>By grace you have been saved.</i>
Gospel Acclamation	2 Cor. 5:19 <i>God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.</i>
Gospel	Mathew 9:1–8 (Lectionary Vol. III, no.380) <i>Rise and walk... your sins are forgiven.</i>
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:

- 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:

- 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:

- 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:

- 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
our Father,
and acknowledge our sins,
so that we may receive God's 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: The Lord is merciful.
He makes us clean of heart
and leads us into his freedom
when we acknowledge our guilt.
Let us ask him to forgive us
and bind up the wounds inflicted
by our sins.

Deacon/Minister: You were sent with good news for the
poor and healing for the contrite.
Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon/Minister: **You came to call sinners, not the just.
Lord, have mercy.**

All: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon/Minister: **You forgave the many sins of the woman
who showed you great love.
Lord, have mercy.**

All: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon/Minister: **You did not shun the company of
outcasts and sinners.
Lord, have mercy.**

All: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon/Minister: **You carried back to the fold the sheep
that had strayed.
Lord, have mercy.**

All: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon/Minister **You called Zacchaeus to repentance and a
new life.
Lord, have mercy.**

All: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon/Minister You are always interceding for us at the right hand of the Father.

Lord's Prayer

Presider: Let us pray to God our Father in the words our Savior gave us and ask him for forgiveness and protection from all evil.

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)

Continue onto the next page for the concluding prayer of thanksgiving and final blessing.

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 2011, Diocese of Lansing.