ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE
Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.
2011

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
  General Confession of Sin
  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
• Hospitality ministers should be scheduled to welcome the assembly as they arrive and to distribute worship aids.

  ▪ Lectors should be scheduled to proclaim the readings and assist in the proclamation of the Examination of Conscience.

  ▪ A musician and cantor should lead the assembly in song. Instrumental music could be played quietly during individual confession.

  ▪ The lectionary should be placed at the ambo with the readings prepared ahead of time.

  ▪ Stations for confessors should be designated ahead of time. 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.

  ▪ Lighting may be subdued. Candles should be lit near the ambo (and altar if desired). The appropriate number of candles on the Advent Wreath should be lit as well.

  ▪ For the sake of simplicity, the presider (with the deacon if he is present) alone could walk in the procession, and other priests could be seated in reserved pews or all can walk in the procession.
INTRODUCTORY RITES

Opening Hymn

Greeting

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

All:  And with your Spirit.

Introduction

Presider:  My brothers and sisters, Advent is a time of preparation, when we make ready 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. Let us prepare the way of the Lord by recognizing our sin, seeking forgiveness, so that we may prepare the way of the Lord.
Opening Prayer

Presider: Let us pray.

(Pause for a moment of silence)

Lord our God, maker of the heavens, as we look forward to the coming of our redeemer grant us the forgiveness of our sins. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

CELEBRATION OF THE WORD OF GOD

The following are suggested readings. Alternative readings may be selected.

First Reading  Isaiah 43: 18-19, 21-22, 24b-25  
(Lect. no. 80, Vol. 1)

Responsorial Psalm  Psalm 41 or Psalm 25

Second Reading  Ephesians 5:8-14 (Lect. no. 31, Vol. 1)
Gospel Acclamation

Gospel

Matthew 4:12-17 (Lect. no. 67, Vol. I )
Shorter Form.

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 sections. An acclamation/response may be sung between each section.

Reader 1: The Gospel tells us to “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

Have I failed to be patient and understanding? Am I selfish and greedy? Do I seek my own gain? Am I indifferent, lazy, and apathetic? Do I neglect to care for God’s creation? Do I use my power and authority for tearing down or for the building up of others?

We have sinned against you Lord.

[Sung Response – Kyrie Eleison or Be Merciful, O Lord or some other appropriate response]
Reader 2: St. Paul calls us to live as children of the light.

Have I been truthful and fair, or have I injured others by deceit? In my work, am I just, hardworking, serving society out of love for others? Do I stray from God in mind and heart? Do I busy myself with other things? Do I allow my anger and pain to reject God? Do I spend time in prayer? Do I participate at Mass on a weekly basis?

We have sinned against you Lord.

[Sung Response – Kyrie Eleison or Be Merciful, O Lord or some other appropriate response]

Reader 1: The Prophet Isaiah wrote, “It is I who wipe out your offenses, your sins I remember no more.”

Have I failed to forgive? Have I failed to love? Do I hurt others through gossip and rash judgment? Do I indulge myself and neglect the needs of others? Do I neglect to care for the poor? Do I neglect to care for those in my family, my children, my spouse, my parents?

Reader 2:

Have I lived the values of this world, rather than those of the gospel? Have I sought my own will and not the will of God? Have I failed to speak the truth of Jesus Christ?
We have sinned against you Lord
[Sung Response – Kyrie Eleison or Be Merciful, O Lord or some other appropriate response]

RITE OF RECONCILIATION

The deacon or another minister invites all to kneel or to bow.

Presider: My brothers and sisters, confess your sins and pray for each other, that you may be healed.

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.

All stand for the litany of repentance.

Litany of Repentance

Presider: Christ our Savior is our advocate with the Father: with humble hearts let us ask him to forgive us our sins and
cleanse us from every stain.

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

All: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon/Minister: You came to call sinners, not the just.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon/Minister: You forgave the many sins of the woman who showed you great love.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon/Minister: You did not shun the company of outcasts and sinners.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon/Minister: You carried back to the fold the sheep that had strayed.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon/Minister: You called Zacchaeus to repentance and a new life.

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. . .

*The priest concludes:*

**Presider:** Father, our source of life, you know our weakness. May we reach out with joy to grasp your hand and walk more readily in your ways.

**We ask this through Christ our Lord.**

Individual Confession and Absolution

*The presider and other confessors move to their designated locations to hear individual confessions and to offer individual absolution.*

*The presider may wish to invite the assembly to remain in the church if there is to be a common ending.*

Proclamation of Praise for God’s Mercy

*When individual confessions have been completed, the presiding minister invites all present to offer thanks for God’s gracious mercy and encourages*
them to do good works. It is fitting that a hymn or psalm of praise be sung.

**Hymn of Praise:**  
*Canticle of Mary or*  
*Psalm 136*  
*Psalm 32*  
*Psalm 98*  
*Psalm 100*  
*Psalm 145*  
*Psalm 146*

Or some other appropriate hymn of praise.

**Concluding Prayer**

**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 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.
All: 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.

Concluding Hymn: A hymn may be sung.