

# SACRAMENTAL RECONCILIATION SERVICE

## LENT Cycle B

*“Dead to sinfulness, alive for God”*

**Rite for reconciliation of several penitents with individual confession and absolution.**

### **Presider’s Guide & Script**

**Environment:** *the Lenten environment of the worship space may be maintained for the reconciliation service, and it is recommended to do so to maintain the connection with the season. If a large cross or crucifix is present in the space, it can be highlighted with lighting - or additional candles could be placed in the sanctuary, near the baptismal font, or in some places in the assembly area. Meditative Lenten music may be played until Presider and ministers gather.*

**Worship Aid:** *Lenten music or references to songs in the parish hymnal or music resources should be included in the worship aid, as well as an explanation of the way the service will be conducted, e.g. that priests will be stationed at various points around the church; after the priest gives each one absolution please return to the body of the assembly until all have finished for the final blessing and dismissal; music will continue softly and reverently throughout the service.*

### **INTRODUCTORY RITES**

*As priests (vested in alb & purple stole) who will assist with individual confessions arrive, they are informed of their stations for individual confession & absolution and then asked to be seated in one or two of the front pews. Candles in front of the ambo may be lit in preparation for the Liturgy of the Word. Presider enters (no formal procession) and Opening Song begins.*

**SONG:** *Choose an appropriate song from the parish repertoire.*

### **GREETING**

**Presider:** Dying to sin, renouncing darkness, detesting bad works. Living for God, choosing truth and true freedom in Christ. May mercy and peace be yours from almighty God and Jesus Christ our savior.  
**R. And with your spirit.**

### **INTRODUCTION**

*Presider welcomes everyone in these or similar words.*

**Presider:** Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ: Lent is our yearly reminder of our need to be in Christ dead to the power of sin and fully open to the life of grace. In baptism we passed from darkness and obscurity to the light of eternal life in Christ. Our Christian life is not always a clear witnessing for truth, light and life. Often enough our “yes” to God is tempered by a halfhearted indifference to live according to the demands of his love to us. May our presence here today be an opportunity to open ourselves to the demands of your compassionate love.

## OPENING PRAYER

**Presider:** Let us pray for the healing power of God over our sins. *pause*

Lord, send your Spirit among us to cleanse us in the waters of repentance. May he make of us a living sacrifice so that in every place, by his life-giving power, we may praise your glory and proclaim by word and deed your loving compassion. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

*R. Amen.*

## CELEBRATION OF THE WORD OF GOD

**1st Reading** Ephesians 2:4-10. *Though dead in your transgressions, by grace you have been saved.*  
(Lectionary: second reading of fourth Sunday of Lent, B)

**Responsorial Psalm** Psalm 103 *“The Lord is kind and merciful”* (Lectionary: resp. Psalm from third Sunday of Lent, C) Choose a setting from the parish repertoire.

**Gospel Acclamation** *“God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so everyone who believes in him might have eternal life”*

**Gospel** John 3:14-21 *God sent his Son so that the world might be saved through him* (Lectionary: Gospel of fourth Sunday of Lent, B)

## HOMILY

### Homily Suggestions:

*Only with the presence of the Spirit in our hearts are we able to turn away effectively from our sinfulness. Without it, our conversion will be superficial. God has loved us first when we were sinners. Only by believing in Jesus, our humanity is ready to embrace the new life he brings and the darkness of separation from God and from one another is effectively overcome.*

## EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE

*(A period of time may be spent in making an examination of conscience and arousing true sorrow for sins. The priest, deacon, or another minister may help the faithful by brief statements or a kind of litany, taking into consideration their circumstances, age, etc.)*

1. Do I honestly worship God above all others - or do I put my faith in other gods, such as money, power, sex, gambling, or self-importance? Am I aware of the fascinating power of such?
2. Do I pray to my God? Am I thankful and grateful for his presence in my life? Do I regularly participate at Sunday Mass? Am I grateful to celebrate the Eucharist with my brothers and sisters in Christ?
3. Do I allow food, alcohol or drugs to interfere with my relationships with God or with others? Would I want to overcome self-destructive habits?
4. Am I willing to stand up for what I believe? Am I fair in my judgements? Do I discriminate against people because of race, gender, age, education or financial status?

5. Do I seek revenge when I feel I have been wronged? Am I willing to forgive those who have hurt me or treated me unjustly? Am I “slow to anger and rich in kindness?”
6. Do I show dignity and respect to those with whom I live or work? Am I judgmental or overly critical of others who do not measure up to my standards of social and moral behavior?
7. Do I choose violence over love by mistreating family members with my words or actions? Must I always be in control? Do I use other people as objects of pleasure?
8. Do I self-righteously blame others and refuse to accept any responsibility for the evils in the world? Do I actively fight the evils of our contemporary world .... poverty, homelessness, abortion, pollution, racism, etc.
9. Do I vote, or am I complacent and passive about my civic and social responsibilities?
10. Am I to make an honest attempt at conversion during this Lenten season?

## **RITE OF RECONCILIATION**

### **GENERAL CONFESSION OF SINS**

*The deacon or another minister invites all to kneel, and to join in saying a general formula for confession.*

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

### **LITANY**

**Presider:** Christ our Savior intercedes with the Father for us to be holy. With humble hearts let us ask him to forgive us our sins: In your mercy free us from a lukewarm heart and the sadness of our emptiness.

**R. Deliver us from evil**

Heal us from the sin of omission and from non cooperation with your grace.

**R. Deliver us from evil**

Restore in us the freedom to love you above all and to love your children, our brothers and sisters.

**R. Deliver us from evil**

Drive away from us our pride, vanity, superstition and violence.

**R. Deliver us from evil**

Free us from deafness to your Word and to the lament of the suffering

**R. Deliver us from evil**

Heal us from unjust deeds and lack of concern for the common good

**R. Deliver us from evil**

Deliver us from our lack of compassion and unwillingness to share.

**R. Deliver us from evil**

## OUR FATHER

**Presider:** Now let us turn to God our Father and ask him to deliver us from all evil:

**All:** Our Father who art in heaven hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from all evil. Amen.

**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.

*R. Amen*

## INDIVIDUAL CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

*The penitents go to the priests designated for individual confessions, and confess their sins. Each one receives and accepts a fitting act of satisfaction and is absolved. After hearing the confession and offering suitable counsel, the priest extends his hands (or at least extends his right hand) and gives the absolution. Everything else which is customary in individual confession is omitted.*

## PROCLAMATION OF PRAISE FOR GOD'S MERCY

*When the individual confessions have been completed, the presider invites all present to offer thanks and encourages them to do good works which will proclaim the grace of repentance in the life of the entire community and each of its members. It is fitting for all to sing a psalm or hymn or to say a litany in acknowledgement of God's power and mercy.*

**Suggestion:** *A psalm, hymn or litany from the parish repertoire*

## CONCLUDING PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**Presider:** All-holy Father, you have shown us your mercy and made us a new creation in the likeness of your Son. Make of us living signs of your love for the whole world to see. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

*R. Amen.*

## CONCLUDING RITE

*The priest blesses all present:*

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

**R. Amen.**

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

**R. Amen.**

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

**R. Amen.**

*The deacon or other ministers or the priest himself dismisses the assembly:*

The Lord has freed you from your sins. With a new heart go in peace.

**R. Thanks be to God.**