

SACRAMENTAL RECONCILIATION SERVICE

LENT Cycle C

**“God has reconciled us to himself through Christ.
We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.” (2Cor 5:19-20)**

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.*

Presider: God’s Spirit is at work, when understanding puts an end to strife, when hatred is quenched by mercy, and vengeance gives way to forgiveness. May the reconciliation and peace brought about by Christ make us a united and reconciled church with God our Father and may his grace and forgiveness be always with you.

R. And also with you.

INTRODUCTION

Presider welcomes everyone in these or similar words.

Presider: Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ: The eternal gift of forgiveness with which God loves us demands a personal inner renewal, and reminds us of the need to reestablish authentic, vital, and satisfactory relationships with him and all his children. For us, a broken humanity, this call to renewal and reconciliation merges with the most sincere aspirations for freedom, justice, unity, and peace. This

is the permanent state of the Church herself, holy and at the same time seeking purification; hence each one of us is urged to an exceptional commitment to penance and renewal, to be true ambassadors of this reconciliation.

OPENING PRAYER

Presider: Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ: God does not see our world as hopeless. God is our hope. The Kingdom of God is all truth, all justice, all love, all forgiveness, all goodness, that there is and could exist in and among us. To be expectant of our Savior is to let his presence usher in our hearts and in our relationships; remove our own obstacles to God's vision of a reconciled humanity; renew our commitment to God's loving design for ourselves and for our world. A few days before celebrating the birth of Christ we have come together to make a profession of hope. Hope as God sees it, hope for ourselves, hope for the world, hope over injustice, hope over hate, despair and evil.

OPENING PRAYER

Presider: Let us pray to the Father of Jesus, the Father of hope. Let us pray for the healing power of God over our sins. *Pause*

O God, you sent your Son to take upon himself the sorrow of the world. Listen to our petitions, and, by the power of his cross, permit suffering humanity to cross the threshold of hope and so recognize by faith that you are love. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen

CELEBRATION OF THE WORD OF GOD

1st Reading 2Cor 5:17-21 God reconciled us to himself through Christ (Sunday Lectionary. Fourth Sunday of Lent C)

Responsorial Psalm Psalm 103:1-4,8,10,12-13 The Lord is kind and merciful (Sunday Lectionary. Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time C)

Responsorial Psalm Psalm 23

Gospel Acclamation "I will get up and go to my Father and shall say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you".

Gospel Acclamation The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor.

Gospel Luke 15:1-3,11-32 Your brother was dead and has come to life again (Sunday Lectionary. Fourth Sunday of Lent C)

HOMILY

Homily Suggestion:

The Church forgiven and forgiving. We are forgiving because we have first been forgiven. We are a church of sinners, a sin-full church. And the sinner in each of us is called to be a new creation, to be sympathetic, to extend a reconciling hand and an open, forgiving heart to each brother and sister.

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. Have I a genuine love for my neighbors? Or do I use people for my own ends, or do to them what I would not want done to myself? Have I given grave scandal by my words or actions?
2. In my family life, have I contributed to the well-being and happiness of the rest of the family by patience and forgiveness? Have I been obedient to parents? Have I been careful to give a Christian upbringing to my children? Have I been faithful to my spouse in my heart and in my relations with others?
3. Do I share my possessions with the less fortunate or do I look down on them?
4. Does my life reflect the mission I received at baptism and in confirmation, by sharing in the apostolic and charitable works of the Church and in the life of my parish?
5. Am I concerned for the good and prosperity of the human community in which I live, or do I spend my life caring only for myself?
6. In my work or profession am I just and honest, serving society out of love for others?
7. Do I obey legitimate authority and give it due respect? If I am in a position of authority, do I use it for the good of others, or for my own advantage?
8. Have I been truthful and fair, or have I injured others by deceit, calumny, detraction, rash judgment, or violation of a secret?
9. Have I done violence to others? Am I estranged from others through quarrels, hatred, insults or anger?
10. Have I stolen the property of others? If so, have I made restitution and made good their loss?
11. If I have been injured, am I willing to make peace for the love of Christ and to forgive, or do I harbor hatred and the desire for revenge?
12. When I have been asked for forgiveness, have I given it freely or have I refused?

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.

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

Presider: Christ our Savior is our mediator and advocate with the Father. With humble hearts let us ask him to be reconciled and be reconcilers:

In your mercy free us from the slavery of sin and guide us back into the way of holiness.

R. Reconcile us with you and with one another.

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

R. Reconcile us with you and with one another.

Make us grow in your peace and seek to spread it throughout the world.

R. Reconcile us with you and with one another.

In forgiving our sins: help us to love others and to forgive their sins against us.

R. Reconcile us with you and with one another.

Give light to our darkness and lead us by your truth.

R. Reconcile us with you and with one another.

By your redeeming love overcome our sinfulness and the harm it has brought us.

R. Reconcile us with you and with one another.

Fashion a new heart in us and restore us to full communion with you and with our brothers and sisters.

R. Reconcile us with you and with one another

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 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.