

2023 ADVENT COMMUNAL PENANCE SERVICE



INTRODUCTORY RITES

HYMN

The Advent of our King
Shall be our time for prayer;
Come, let us meet him on the road
A place for him prepare.

The everlasting Son
Incarnate comes to be,
Himself a servant's form puts on
To set his people free.

As judge, on clouds of light,
He soon will come again,
And all his scattered saints unite
With him on high to reign.

All glory to the Son,
Who comes to set us free,
With Father, Spirit, ever one
Through all eternity.

Text: *Instantis adventum Dei*, Charles Coffin, 1676-1749
Translation: John Chandler, 1806-1876, alt.
Tune: SWABIA, SM; Johan M. Speiss, 1715-1772

GREETING

After the song the presider greets the people:

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

All: Amen.

Then the presider or another minister speaks briefly about the importance and purpose of the celebration in these or similar words:

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. We are reminded too of our Lord's coming to each one of us at the hour of our death. We must make sure that he will find us prepared for his coming, as the gospel tells us: "Blessed are those servants who are found awake when the Lord comes" [Luke 12:37]. This service of penance is meant to make us ready in mind and heart for the coming of Christ, which we are soon to celebrate in the Mass of Christmas.

OPENING PRAYER

Presider: Let us pray.

All pray in silence for a brief period.

Eternal Son of God,
creator of the human family and our redeemer,
come at last among us
as the child of the immaculate Virgin,
and redeem the world.
Reveal your loving presence
by which you set us free from sin
in becoming one like us in all things but sin,
for you live and reign for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

The following reading may be found in the Lectionary at number 202 as the first reading for the Fifth Day in the Octave of Christmas.

FIRST READING

1 John 2:3-11

Those who love their brother remain in the light.

Reader: A reading from the first Letter of Saint John

Beloved:

The way we may be sure that we know Jesus
is to keep his commandments.

Whoever says, "I know him," but does not
keep his commandments
is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

But whoever keeps his word,
the love of God is truly perfected in him.

This is the way we may know that we are
in union with him:
whoever claims to abide in him ought to walk
just as he walked.

Beloved, I am writing no new commandment
to you
but an old commandment that you had
from the beginning.

The old commandment is the word
that you have heard.

And yet I do write a new commandment to you,
which holds true in him and among you,
for the darkness is passing away,
and the true light is already shining.

Whoever says he is in the light,
yet hates his brother, is still in the darkness.

Whoever loves his brother remains in the light,
and there is nothing in him to cause a fall.

Whoever hates his brother is in darkness;
he walks in darkness
and does not know where he is going
because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God

The psalm should be sung.

The following suggested psalm is the proper psalm for the First Sunday of Advent, year "B".

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 80: 2-3, 15-16, 18-19

R. Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

O shepherd of Israel, hearken,
from your throne upon the cherubim, shine forth.
Rouse your power,
and come to save us.

R. Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

Once again, O LORD of hosts,
look down from heaven, and see;
take care of this vine,
and protect what your right hand has planted
the son of man whom you yourself made strong.

R. Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

May your help be with the man of your right hand,
with the son of man whom you yourself made strong.
Then we will no more withdraw from you;
give us new life, and we will call upon your name.

R. Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

If the acclamation is not sung, it is omitted.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Stay awake and be ready!
For you do not know on what day the Son of Man will come.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

The following reading may be found in the Lectionary at number 511 as the gospel for the Memorial of St. Raymond of Peñafort.

GOSPEL

Luke 12: 35-40

You also must be prepared.

Deacon: The Lord be with you.
All: And with your spirit.
Deacon: + A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke.
All: Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to his disciples:
“Gird your loins and light your lamps
and be like servants who await their master’s return
from a wedding,
ready to open immediately when he comes and knocks.
Blessed are those servants
whom the master finds vigilant on his arrival.
Amen, I say to you, he will gird himself,
have them recline at table, and proceed to wait on them.
And should he come in the second or third watch
and find them prepared in this way,
blessed are those servants.

“Be sure of this:
if the master of the house had known the hour
when the thief was coming,
he would not have let his house be broken into.
You also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect,
the Son of Man will come.”

Deacon: The gospel of the Lord.
All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

HOMILY

EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE

*The assembly is now invited to make an examination of conscience.
This may be done in silence or by using the examination of conscience below.
One reader may read it alone, or two readers might alternate sections.
If read aloud, allow a brief period of silence between each section.*

For failings in our private life:

- Abusing or neglecting the gift of our body, a temple of the Holy Spirit
- Overindulging in food or alcohol
- Engaging in sinful sexual practices
- Becoming complacent or self-satisfied

For failings in our families:

- Hurting or neglecting our families
- Withholding our love from those closest to us
- Withdrawing into our own pursuits
- Arguing too easily
- Failing to say we were sorry
- Failing to say we were wrong

For failures in our communities:

- Being a disruptive force because of our own ego
- Failing to be a peacemaker
- Intentionally excluding others
- Being greedy in the face of poverty

For our failures with our God:

- Failing to put our relationship with God first
- Failing to make time for regular private prayer and for worship with others
- Making important choices in our life without listening for God's voice
- Holding back when God was calling us to be an instrument of grace
- Failing to offer back to God the gifts he has given us

If read aloud, this Examination of Conscience should conclude with a period of silence so that each person may personally examine his or her conscience.

RITE OF RECONCILIATION

GENERAL CONFESSION OF SINS

Directing the assembly.

Presider: [Please kneel.]

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

All say together:

**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.**

LITANY OF REPENTANCE

Directing the assembly.

Presider: [Please stand.]
By human weakness
we have disfigured the holiness of the Church:
pardon all our sins
and restore us to full communion with our brothers and
sisters.

Presider: In your goodness,
forgive our sins against the unity of your family,
All: --make us one in heart, one in spirit.

Presider: Touch our hearts and change our lives,
All: --make us grow always in your friendship.

Presider: Receive us
as we come before you with humble and contrite hearts,
All: --with your pardon give us also your peace.

Presider: Restore us, Lord, to your favor,
and give us joy in your presence,
All: --may our glory be to serve you with all our hearts

LORD’S PRAYER

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

All say or sing together:

Our Father...

The presider 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.

All: Amen.

INVITATION TO INDIVIDUAL CONFESSION

Directing the assembly.

Presider: [Please be seated.]
Before we begin the Sacrament of Reconciliation, I’d like
to take this opportunity to thank our priests who have
joined us this afternoon.

Frs. _____,
_____,
_____,
_____,
_____,
_____.

I would also like to thank all of you who have come together to pray, seeking Christ's mercy.

While we sing the next song, our confessors will process to their confessional stations. They are located in these places in the church:

Fr. _____ will be _____.

Fr. _____ will be _____.

Fr. _____ will be _____.

Fr. _____ will be _____.

Fr. _____ will be _____.

Fr. _____ will be _____.

I will be _____.

At the end of the song I invite you to stay and to line-up at one of the confessional stations.

After your confession is heard you may remain here to pray for a time if you wish, but are otherwise dismissed.

For those of you who decide not to partake of the sacrament at this time, I invite you to go to individual confession at your earliest convenience.

Confessions are regularly heard at:

_____ (parish)

on _____ (day)

from _____

to _____ (time)

PRAYER

Gesturing for the assembly to stand.

Presider: Let us pray.

All pray in silence for a brief period.

Lord our God,
on the first day of creation
you made the light that scatters all darkness.
Let Christ, the light of lights,
hidden from all eternity,
shine at last on your people
and free us from the darkness of sin.
Fill our lives with good works as we prepare to meet your
Son,
so that we may give him a fitting welcome.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Confessors process to their stations during the song.

HYMN

Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding;
"Christ is near," we hear it say;
"Cast away the works of darkness
All you children of the day!"

Wakened by the solemn warning,
From earth's bondage let us rise;
Christ, our sun, all sin dispelling,
Shines upon the morning skies.

See the Lamb, so long expected,
Comes with pardon to bestow.
Let us haste, with tears of gladness,
So his mercy all may know.

Honor, glory, might and blessing
To the Father and the Son,
With the everlasting Spirit
While unending ages run!

Text: *Vox clara ecce intonat*, Latin hymn, 5th century
Translator: Edward Caswall, 1814-1878, alt.
Tune: STUTTGART, 8 7 8 7; Christian F. Witt, 1660-1716

INDIVIDUAL CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Then the penitents go to the priests designated for individual confession, 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 over the penitent's head (or at least extends his right hand) and gives him or her absolution. Everything else which is customary in individual confession is omitted.

After receiving absolution the penitents may return to the main body of the church and spend some time in private prayer.

Soft, unobtrusive instrumental music may be played for a time during the transition to individual confession.