

2024

LENTEN COMMUNAL PENANCE SERVICE

LEADER'S GUIDE



Last Judgement

1306 – fresco – Capella Scrovegni (Arena Chapel), Padua.
https://www.wga.hu/support/viewer_m/z.html

INTRODUCTORY RITES

HYMN

STAND

In Christ there is no east or west,
In him no south or north,
But one community of love
Throughout the whole wide earth.

In Christ shall true hearts ev'rywhere
Their high communion find;
His service is the golden cord
Close binding human kind.

Join hands, disciples of the faith,
Whate'er your race may be.
All children of the living God
Are surely kin to me.

In Christ now meet both east and west,
In him meet south and north;
All Christly souls are one in him
Throughout the whole wide earth.

Text: Galatians 3:23; William A. Dunkerly, 1852-1941

Tune: McKEE, CM; African American; adapt. by Harry T. Burleigh, 1866-1949

GREETING

After the song the presider greets the people:

Presider:

Grace and peace be with you
from God the Father
and from Jesus Christ
who loved us
and washed away our sins in his blood.

All: Glory to him for ever. Amen.

BRIEF INTRODUCTION/EXPLANATION

Then the presider or another minister gives a brief introduction to the celebration and explains the order of service.

OPENING PRAYER

Presider:

My brothers and sisters,
we have neglected the gifts of our baptism
and fallen into sin.

Let us ask God to renew his grace within us
as we turn to him in repentance.

After a period of silence the Priest completes the Opening Prayer:

Lord Jesus,
you redeemed us by your passion
and raised us to new life in baptism.
Protect us with your unchanging love
and share with us
the joy of your resurrection,
for you live and reign for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

SIT

*The following reading is not found in the lectionary in this form.
A copy should be made and inserted into the lectionary for the reader.*

FIRST READING

Isaiah 58: 6-7

Reader: A reading from the prophet Isaiah

This, rather, is the fasting that I wish:
releasing those bound unjustly,
untying the thongs of the yoke;
Setting free the oppressed,
breaking every yoke;
Sharing your bread with the hungry,
sheltering the oppressed and the homeless;
Clothing the naked when you see them,
and not turning your back on your own.

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 Lent, cycle "B".

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 25: 4-5a, 6-7, 8-9

R. Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth,
to those who keep your covenant.

Make known to me your ways,
LORD; teach me your paths.
Guide me in your truth and teach me,
for you are God my savior.

R.

Remember your compassion and love, O LORD;
for they are ages old.

Remember no more the sins of my youth;
remember me only in light of your love.

R.

Good and upright is the LORD,
who shows sinners the way,
Guides the humble rightly,
and teaches the humble the way.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

STAND

If the acclamation is not sung, it is omitted.

R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, King of endless glory!

Whatever you did for the least of my people,
you did for me.

R.

The following reading is not found in the lectionary in this form. A copy should be made and inserted into the lectionary for the reader.

GOSPEL

Matthew 25: 34-40

Deacon: The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

Deacon: + A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew.

All: Glory to you, Lord.

Then the king will say to those on his right,
'Come, you who are blessed by my Father.
Inherit the kingdom prepared for you
from the foundation of the world.

For I was hungry and you gave me food,
I was thirsty and you gave me drink,
a stranger and you welcomed me,
naked and you clothed me,
ill and you cared for me,
in prison and you visited me.'

Then the righteous will answer him and say,
'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you,
or thirsty and give you drink?

When did we see you a stranger and welcome you,
or naked and clothe you?

When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you?'

And the king will say to them in reply,
'Amen, I say to you, whatever you did
for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.'

Deacon: The gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE

The assembly is now invited to make an examination of conscience.

This may be done in silence or by using the text below.

One reader alone may read the questions or two readers might alternate.

Allow a brief period of silence between each one.

Reader(s):

- Do you renounce Satan and all the spiritual forces of wickedness that rebel against God?
- Do you persevere in resisting evil and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?
- Do you renounce the evil powers of this world which corrupt and destroy the creatures of God?
- Do you proclaim by word and example the good news of God in Christ?
- Do you renounce all the sinful desires that draw you from the love of God?
- Do you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?
- Do you turn to Jesus Christ as your Savior, and put your whole trust in his grace and love?
- Do you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?
- Do you obey Jesus Christ as your Lord?

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

STAND

GENERAL CONFESSION OF SINS

Presider:

Directing the assembly.

Please kneel, as you are able.

Christ our Lord came to call sinners
into his Father's kingdom.

Let us now make an act of sorrow in our hearts
and resolve to avoid sin in the future.

After a brief period of silence, 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,
[All strike their breast]
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.**

Presider:

Directing the assembly.

Please stand.

Presider:

The Lord is merciful.
He makes us clean of heart
and leads us out into his freedom
when we acknowledge our guilt.

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.

Presider:

Directing the assembly.

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 for this liturgy:

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:

At the end of the song
I invite you to go to the Priest of your choice
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.

STAND

Presider:

Directing the assembly.

Please stand.

Lord,

your sons and daughters stand before you
in humility and trust.

Look with compassion on us
as we confess our sins.

Heal our wounds; stretch out a hand of pity
to save us and raise us up.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit
one God for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

Confessors process to their stations during the song.

HYMN

My life flows on in endless song;
Above earth's lamentation
I hear the sweet though far off hymn
That hails a new creation:
Through all the tumult and the strife
I hear the music ringing;
It finds an echo in my soul-
How can I keep from singing?

What though my joys and comforts die?
The Lord my Savior liveth;
What though the darkness gather round!
Songs in the night He giveth:
No storm can shake my inmost calm
While to that refuge clinging;
Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth,
How can I keep from singing?

I lift mine eyes; the cloud grows thin;
I see the blue above it;
And day by day this pathway smoothes
Since first I learned to love it:
The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart,
A fountain ever springing:
All things are mine since I am His-
How can I keep from singing?

Text: Robert Lowry, 1826-1899

Tune: HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING, 8 7 8 7 D; Ira David Sankey, 1840-1908

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.