

ADVENT COMMUNAL PENANCE SERVICE

2025



Jesus, King of Glory – Icon. 7th c., Russia.

INTRODUCTORY RITES

HYMN

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates;
behold the King of glory waits!
The King of kings is drawing near;
the Savior of the world is here.

O blest the land, the city blest,
where Christ the ruler is confessed!
O happy hearts and happy homes
to whom this King of triumph comes!

Fling wide the portals of your heart;
make it a temple, set apart
from earthly use for heaven's employ,
adorned with prayer and love and joy.

Redeemer, come, with us abide;
our hearts to thee we open wide;
Thy Holy Spirit lead us on
until our glorious goal is won.

Text: Based on Ps. 24; *Macht hoch die Tür*; George Weissel, 1590-1635; Tr. by Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.
Tune: TRURO, LM, Williams' *Psalmody Evangelica*, 1789
In the public domain.

This hymn text may be sung to the tune it is usually paired with (TRURO), above, or it would also fit with the following hymn tunes that share the LM meter:

*WINCHESTER NEW
OLD HUNDREDTH
DUKE STREET*

On Jordan's Bank
Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow
Jesus Shall Reign

GREETING

After the song the presider greets the people:

Presider:

May God open your hearts to his law
and give you his peace;
may he answer your prayers
and restore you to his friendship.

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, we look forward to celebrating the mystery of Christ's coming on the feast of Christmas. When he comes again to rule the earth with justice, may he may find us awake and ready to receive him.

OPENING PRAYER

Presider:

Let us pray.

All pray in silence for a brief period.

Keep us alert, we pray, O Lord our God,
as we await the advent of Christ your Son,
so that, when he comes and knocks,
he may find us watchful in prayer
and exultant in his praise.
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

Malachi 3:1-7a

This reading is taken from Appendix II of the Penance section of The Rites of the Catholic Church. A copy should be made and inserted into the Lectionary from which the lector will read.

Reader: A reading from the book of the Prophet Malachi

Thus says the LORD:

Now I am sending my messenger—

he will prepare the way before me;

And the lord whom you seek will come suddenly to his temple;

The messenger of the covenant whom you desire—

see, he is coming! says the LORD of hosts.

But who can endure the day of his coming?

Who can stand firm when he appears?

For he will be like a refiner's fire,

like fullers' lye.

He will sit refining and purifying silver,

and he will purify the Levites,

Refining them like gold or silver,

that they may bring offerings to the LORD in righteousness.

Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem

will please the LORD,

as in ancient days, as in years gone by.

I will draw near to you for judgment,

and I will be swift to bear witness

Against sorcerers, adulterers, and perjurers,

those who deprive a laborer of wages,

Oppress a widow or an orphan,

or turn aside a resident alien,

without fearing me, says the LORD of hosts.

For I, the LORD, do not change,

and you, sons of Jacob, do not cease to be.

Since the days of your ancestors you have turned aside

from my statutes and have not kept them.

Return to me, that I may return to you,

says the LORD of hosts.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 98: 5-6, 7-8, 9

This is the proper responsorial psalm for the 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle "C."

R. The Lord comes to rule the earth with justice.

Sing praise to the LORD with the harp,
with the harp and melodious song.
With trumpets and the sound of the horn
sing joyfully before the King, the LORD.

R. The Lord comes to rule the earth with justice.

Let the sea and what fills it resound,
the world and those who dwell in it;
let the rivers clap their hands,
the mountains shout with them for joy.

R. The Lord comes to rule the earth with justice.

Before the LORD, for he comes,
for he comes to rule the earth,
He will rule the world with justice
and the peoples with equity.

R. The Lord comes to rule the earth with justice.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

I am coming quickly, says the Lord,
and I will repay each man. Come, Lord Jesus.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL

Mark 13:33-37

This is the proper gospel reading for the First Sunday of Advent, Cycle "B."

Deacon: The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

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

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to his disciples:

Be watchful! Be alert!

You do not know when the time will come.

It is like a man traveling abroad.

He leaves home and places his servants in charge,

each with his work,

and orders the gatekeeper to be on the watch.

Watch, therefore;

you do not know when the lord of the house is coming,

whether in the evening, or at midnight,

or at cockcrow, or in the morning.

May he not come suddenly and find you sleeping.

What I say to you, I say to all: 'Watch!'"

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 a lector reading the examination of conscience below:

- Do I harbor unreasonable suspicions or unfair judgments against my neighbors?
- Have I spoken uncharitably about another's defects or shortcomings?
- Have I been lazy or neglectful in my prayer life or in my attendance at Mass?
- Are my affections for others disordered in any way?
- Am I vain in esteem for myself, or in things that pertain to me?
- Have I received the Sacraments in a careless way, without serious preparation?
- Have I been resentful or impatient in accepting disappointments, failing to see them as coming from God's hand?
- Have I put obstacles in the way of God's will for me?
- Have I been involved in activities that blemish my purity and the purity of others?
- Am I dishonest about my own bad inclinations, weaknesses and mortifications?
- Do I seek to pursue virtue guided by my own whims, rather than looking to the teachings of the Church?

Based on the writings of St. Anthony Mary Claret

RITE OF RECONCILIATION

GENERAL CONFESSION OF SINS

Presider:

Directing the assembly.

Please kneel, as you're able.

God who is infinitely merciful
pardons all who are repentant
and takes away their guilt.
Confident in his goodness,
let us ask him to forgive all our sins
as we confess them with sincerity of heart.

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

Presider:

Directing the assembly:

Please stand.

Presider: Let us turn to Christ with confidence and ask his mercy.

Deacon: Help us to prepare to see you face to face.

All: Come, Lord Jesus.

Deacon: Help us to keep watch and pray.

All: Come, Lord Jesus.

Deacon: Help us use our lives to walk in a new direction.

All: Come, Lord Jesus.

Deacon: Help us run to meet you with joy.

All: Come, Lord Jesus.

Deacon: Help us to prepare room to welcome you and those in need.

All: Come, Lord Jesus.

Deacon: Help us to begin again.

All: Come, Lord Jesus.

Presider:

Let us now pray to God our Father
in the words Christ gave us.

All say or sing together:

Our Father...

The presider concludes:

Presider:

Look with favor, Lord God, on our petitions,
and in our trials grant us your compassionate help,
that, consoled by the presence of your Son,
whose coming we now await,
we may be tainted no longer
by the corruption of former ways.
Through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

INVITATION TO INDIVIDUAL CONFESSION

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 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

Presider:

Gesturing for the assembly to stand:

Let us pray.

All pray in silence for a brief period.

Stir up our hearts, O Lord,
to make ready the paths
of your Only Begotten Son,
that through his coming,
we may be found worthy to serve you
with minds made pure.
Through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Confessors process to their stations during the song.

HYMN

Hail to the Lord's anointed, Great David's greater Son!
Hail in the time appointed, His reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression, To set the captive free;
To take away transgression And rule in equity.

He shall come down like showers Upon the fruitful earth;
Love, joy, and hope, like flowers, Spring in His path to birth.
Before Him, on the mountains, Shall peace, the herald, go;
And righteousness, in fountains, From hill to valley flow.

O'er every foe victorious, He on His throne shall rest;
From age to age more glorious, All blessing and all blest.
The tide of time shall never His covenant remove;
His Name shall stand forever, His Name to us is Love.

Text: James Montgomery (1771-1854), alt
Tune: ST. THEODULPH, 7 6 7 6 D; Melchior Teschner, 1584-1635
In the public domain.

This hymn text may be sung to the tune above, popularly known as All Glory, Laud and Honor.

This text would also fit with the following hymn tunes that share the 7 6 7 6 D meter:

AURELIA	The Church's One Foundation
ELLACOME	Go Make of All Disciples
PASSION CHORALE	O Sacred Head Surrounded

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, but are otherwise dismissed.

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