

# COMMUNAL PENANCE SERVICE

From the *Rite of Penance*, Chapter II: Rite of Reconciliation of Several Penitents with Individual Confession and Absolution

## INTRODUCTORY RITES

### SONG

*When the faithful have assembled, they may sing a psalm, antiphon, or other appropriate song while the priest (along with other confessors) is entering the church.*

### GREETING

PRIEST: **In the name of the Father, and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.**

ASSEMBLY: AMEN.

PRIEST: **Grace, mercy, and peace be with you  
from God the Father  
and Christ Jesus our Savior.**

ASSEMBLY: AND WITH YOUR SPIRIT.

*(The priest may wish to add words of personal welcome to the assembly.)*

### OPENING PRAYER

PRIEST: **Let us pray.**

*(Pause for silent prayer)*

**Lord our God,  
you are patient with sinners  
and accept our desire to make amends.  
We acknowledge our sins  
and are resolved to change our lives.  
Help us to celebrate this sacrament of your  
mercy**

**so that we may reform our lives  
and receive from you  
the gift of everlasting joy.  
Through Christ our Lord.**

ASSEMBLY: AMEN.

## CELEBRATION OF THE WORD OF GOD

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

GOSPEL .....*From the Rite of Penance*

*The Gospel may be read by the deacon or one of the assisting priest-confessors.*

### HOMILY

EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE *(read by a lay reader, deacon, or priest)*

PRIEST: **As we prepare to receive the Lord's forgiveness,  
let us examine our lives.**

*(The assembly remains seated)*

READER: For the times we have hurt you, God...  
through our unkind words and thoughts ...  
through our failure to care and share...  
through our disrespectful actions and inactions...  
through not taking the time to recognize the dignity of all  
people...  
through not forgiving others when they hurt us...

*(BRIEF SILENCE)*

For the times we have disrespected those around us...  
when we fail to be truthful or fair...  
when we cheat or steal...

when we fail to take good care of our bodies...  
when we fail to use the gifts you have given us  
to do good...  
when we have been angry, jealous or envious...  
when we fail to offer friendship  
to those who are lonely...

*(BRIEF SILENCE)*

For the times we have failed to love our neighbors...  
by judging others because of the color of their skin...  
by judging others because of their age...  
by judging others because they live their lives different  
from us...  
by judging others because  
they believe different than we do...

*(BRIEF SILENCE)*

For the times we refused to help others...  
out of fear...  
out of selfishness...  
out of jealousy...  
out of greed...

*(BRIEF SILENCE)*

For the times we have chosen to not grow closer to you, Lord...  
by forgetting about you and not praying...  
by being afraid to profess our faith...  
by not keeping every Sunday holy by going to Mass...  
by not recognizing you  
in the people we meet each day...  
by placing our possessions before you in our lives...

*(BRIEF SILENCE)*

# RITE OF RECONCILIATION

## GENERAL CONFESSION OF SINS

*The deacon or another minister invites all to kneel or bow, and to join in the prayer of contrition.*

DEACON: **We now pray together our prayer of contrition.**  
(OR ANOTHER  
MINISTER)

**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,**

*(they 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.**

## LITANY

*The deacon or another minister then invites all to stand for the litany and the Lord's Prayer.*

DEACON (OR ANOTHER MINISTER):

**The Lord is merciful.  
He makes us clean of heart  
and leads us out into his freedom  
when we acknowledge our guilt.  
Let us ask him to forgive us  
and bind up the wounds  
inflicted by our sins.**

*The litany is then sung or recited, led by the deacon, cantor, or another minister.*

You became incarnate to save sinners...  
KYRIE, ELEISON

You ministered in the world to seek and redeem what was  
lost...  
KYRIE, ELEISON

You reconcile us with Father and each other...  
KYRIE, ELEISON

You became the source of salvation for all who believe in  
you...  
KYRIE, ELEISON

You destroyed death and give us new life...  
KYRIE, ELEISON

You were offered in sacrifice to undo the sins of all...  
KYRIE, ELEISON

You rose from the dead  
and now intercede for us  
at the Father's right hand...  
KYRIE, ELEISON

You will come again in glory  
to judge the living and the dead...  
KYRIE, ELEISON

## LORD'S PRAYER

DEACON (OR ANOTHER MINISTER):

**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.**

OUR FATHER, WHO ART IN HEAVEN...

PRIEST:

**Lord, draw near to us  
who gathered here confess our sinfulness.  
Help us to reach out to you  
and more readily walk in your ways.  
Through Christ our Lord.**

ASSEMBLY: AMEN.

*The priest may add words of instruction to the assembly as to where each confessor will be stationed, and encourage them to confess all major sins and sum up minor sins in a statement or two.*

## INDIVIDUAL CONFESSION & 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 right hands over the penitent's head (or at least extends his right hand) and gives him absolution. **Everything else which is customary in individual confession is omitted.***

*During the time of individual confessions, suitable songs may be sung.*

## PROCLAMATION OF PRAISE FOR GOD'S MERCY

*After individual confessions have been completed, it is fitting for all to sing a psalm or hymn in acknowledgment of God's power and mercy.*

## CONCLUDING RITE

### CONCLUDING PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

PRIEST: **Let us pray.**

**God and Father of us all,  
you have forgiven our sins  
and sent us your peace.  
Help us to do our penances, forgive one another,  
and work together  
for the coming of your kingdom.  
Through Christ our Lord.**

ASSEMBLY: AMEN.

### CONCLUDING RITE

PRIEST: **The Lord be with you.**

ASSEMBLY: AND WITH YOUR SPIRIT.

PRIEST: **May almighty God bless you,  
the Father, and the Son, + and the Holy Spirit.**

ASSEMBLY: AMEN.

DEACON (OR PRIEST): **The Lord has freed you from your sins.  
Go in peace.**

ASSEMBLY: THANKS BE TO GOD.