

ADVENT COMMUNAL PENANCE SERVICE



INTRODUCTORY RITES

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
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GREETING

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.**

OPENING PRAYER

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

Malachi 3:1-7a

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

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

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

GOSPEL

Mark 13:33-37

HOMILY

EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE

- 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

**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 breasts:

**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

In response to each petition:

All: **Come, Lord Jesus.**

LORD'S PRAYER

INVITATION TO INDIVIDUAL CONFESSION

PRAYER

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' *Psalmodia Evangelica*, 1789
In the public domain.

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.