



2017
ADVENT COMMUNAL PENANCE SERVICE

INTRODUCTORY RITES

HYMN

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.

Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Wisdom from on high,
Who orders all things mightily;
To us the path of knowledge show,
And teach us in her ways to go.

Refrain

O come, Thou Key of David, come,
And open wide our heavenly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery.

Refrain

O come, Desire of nations, bind
In one the hearts of humankind;
O bid Thou our sad divisions cease,
And be for us our King of Peace.

Refrain

Text: *Veni, veni Emmanuel*; Latin 9th C.
tr. by John M. Neale, 1818-1866 alt.

GREETING

After the opening song the presider greets the people. The meaning of the celebration is explained in these or similar words:

Presider:

My brothers and sisters,
now is the hour to awake from sleep.
For our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed.
The night is advanced, the day is at hand.
Let us then throw off the works of darkness
and put on the armor of light.
Let us put on the Lord Jesus Christ,
and make no provision for sinfulness.

OPENING PRAYER

Presider:

We look forward to celebrating the mystery of Christ's coming
on the feast of Christmas.
Let us pray that when he comes
he may find us awake and ready to receive him.

All pray in silence for a brief period.

Lord our God,
maker of the heavens,
as we look forward to the coming of our redeemer
grant us the forgiveness of our sins.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

The following suggested reading may be found in the lectionary at number 33, Fourth Sunday of Lent—cycle “C”.

FIRST READING

2 Corinthians 5: 17-21

Reader: A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

Brothers and sisters:
Whoever is in Christ is a new creation:
the old things have passed away;
behold, new things have come.
And all this is from God,
who has reconciled us to himself through Christ
and given us the ministry of reconciliation,
namely, God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ,
not counting their trespasses against them
and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.
So we are ambassadors for Christ,
as if God were appealing through us.
We implore you on behalf of Christ,
be reconciled to God.
For our sake he made him to be sin who did not know sin,
so that we might become the righteousness of God in him.

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, cycle "C".

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 25: 4-5, 8-9, 10, 14 (1b)

R. To you, O Lord, I lift my soul

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.
For you I wait all the long day, because of your goodness, LORD.

R. To you, O Lord, I lift my soul

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

R. To you, O Lord, I lift my soul

All the paths of the LORD are faithful love
toward those who honor the covenant demands.
The counsel of the LORD belongs to the faithful;
the covenant instructs them.

R. To you, O Lord, I lift my soul

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

If the acclamation is not sung, it is omitted.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths:
all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

The following suggested gospel reading may be found in the lectionary at number 4, Second Sunday of Advent—cycle “A”.

GOSPEL

Matthew 3:1-12

Deacon: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

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

All: Glory to you, Lord.

John the Baptist appeared,
preaching in the desert of Judea and saying,
"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!"
It was of him that the prophet Isaiah had spoken when he said:
"A voice of one crying out in the desert,
'Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.'"
John wore clothing made of camel's hair
and had a leather belt around his waist.
His food was locusts and wild honey.
At that time Jerusalem, all Judea,
and the whole region around the Jordan were going out to him
and were being baptized by him in the Jordan River
as they acknowledged their sins.
When he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism,
he said to them, "You brood of vipers!
Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath?
Produce good fruit as evidence of your repentance.
And do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.'
For I tell you, God can raise up children to Abraham from these stones.
Even now the ax lies at the root of the trees.
Therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit
will be cut down and thrown into the fire.
I am baptizing you with water, for repentance,
but the one who is coming after me is mightier than I.
I am not worthy to carry his sandals.
He will baptize you with the holy Spirit and fire.
His winnowing fan is in his hand.
He will clear his threshing floor
and gather his wheat into his barn,
but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

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 can be done in silence or by using the examination of conscience 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 I trust God's goodness and providence, even in times of crisis and doubt?
- Have I tried to grow in the life of the Spirit through prayer and the reading of the Word of God?
- Do I receive the sacraments regularly?
- Do I keep holy the Lord's Day? Do I participate in worship with my faith community?
- Do I actively work for peace?
- Do I control my vices, including abuses with food and drink?
- Do I support movies or listen to music which advocates violence?
- Do I perpetuate racism and prejudice with jokes or other behavior?
- Have I made good use of the gifts God has given me?
- Do I work too hard and too long? Do I neglect my family and my health?
- Have I been lazy and given too much time for leisure?
- Do I give good Christian example to others?
- Do I fail to speak out on behalf of the poor or the oppressed?
- Have I accepted suffering as a share in the suffering of Christ?
- Have I indulged in reading, conversation, or entertainments that are contrary to Christian decency and respect for human life?
- Have I been faithful and supportive in my relationships?
- Do I use the earth's resources wisely?
- Do I want to turn again to God, to renew my life as promised in Baptism, and to enter into a deeper relationship with God?

A period of silence should always be included so that each person may personally examine his or her conscience. (Rite of Penance, Appendix II, #59)

RITE OF RECONCILIATION

GENERAL CONFESSION OF SINS

Presider:

Directing the assembly.

Please kneel.

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 breasts as they say...

**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.

Lord our God, you know all things.
You know that we want to be more generous
in serving you and our neighbor.
Look on us with love and hear our prayer.

Reader:

Our response is, "Come, Lord Jesus."

- Give us the strength to turn away from sin. We pray...
- Help us to be sorry for our sins and keep us watchful for your coming. We pray...
- Give us the courage to follow in your path. We pray...
- Help us to forgive the sins of others and have pity on our weakness. We pray...
- Give us joy in faithful living. We pray...
- Help us trust in your goodness and make us generous in serving you. We pray...
- Give us your peace so that we may share it with others. We pray...
- Help us to be true followers of your Son and living members of the Church. We pray...

Presider:

God does not want the sinner to die,
but to turn to him and live.
May God be pleased that we have confessed our sinfulness,
and may God show us mercy
as we pray in the words our Savior gave us:

All say or sing together:

Our Father...

The priest concludes:

Presider:

Lord,
draw near to your servants
who in the presence of your Church
confess that they are sinners.
Through the ministry of the Church
free them from all sin
so that renewed in spirit
they may give you thankful praise.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen

INVITATION TO INDIVIDUAL CONFESSION

Presider:

Directing the assembly.

Please be seated.

Before we begin individual confessions,
I'd like to take this opportunity
to thank our priests who have joined us tonight.
Frs. _____, _____, and _____.

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

Immediately following our closing prayer,
our confessors will go to their confessional stations.
They are located _____ (in these places)
in the church.

For those of you who are prepared
to celebrate the sacrament of penance,
I invite you to stay after our closing song
and to quietly move to one of the stations.

For those of you who are not partaking
of the sacrament,
I'd like to invite and encourage you
to come back when confessions are heard
here at the 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.

God of power and mercy,
open our hearts in welcome.
Remove the things that hinder us
from receiving Christ with joy,
so that we may share his wisdom
and become one with him
when he comes in glory
for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit
one God, for ever and ever.

R. Amen.

Cantor:

**As a community of faith,
let us express our gratitude to God
for his unconditional love in song.**

Confessors process to their stations during the song

HYMN

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
Announces that the Lord is nigh;
Awake and hearken, for he brings
Glad tidings of the King of kings.

Then cleansed be every heart from sin;
Make straight the way of God within,
And let each heart prepare a home
Where such a mighty guest may come.

To heal the sick stretch out your hand,
And bid the fallen sinner stand;
Shine forth, and let your light restore
Earth's own true loveliness once more.

All praise the Son eternally,
Whose advent sets his people free;
Whom with the Father we adore
And Spirit blest for evermore.

Text: *Jordanis oras praevia*; Charles Coffin, 1676-1749
tr. by John Chandler, 1806-1876