

# ADVENT COMMUNAL PENANCE SERVICE

## 2019

### INTRODUCTORY RITES

#### HYMN

Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heaven to earth come down,  
Fix in us thy humble dwelling, All thy faithful mercies crown;  
Jesu, thou art all compassion, Pure unbounded love thou art,  
Visit us with thy salvation, Enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit Into every troubled breast,  
Let us all in thee inherit, Let us find that second rest:  
Take away our power of sinning, Alpha and Omega be,  
End of faith as its beginning, Set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty to deliver, Let us all thy life receive,  
Suddenly return, and never, Never more thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing, Serve thee as thy hosts above,  
Pray, and praise thee without ceasing, Glory in thy perfect love.

Finish then thy new creation, Pure and sinless let us be,  
Let us see thy great salvation, Perfectly restor'd in thee;  
Chang'd from glory into glory, Till in heaven we take our place,  
Till we cast our crowns before thee, Lost in wonder, love, and praise!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788; *Hymn IX*; from *Hymns for Those that Seek and Those that have Redemption in the Blood of Jesus Christ*. 1747

#### GREETING

#### OPENING PRAYER

# THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

**Zephaniah 3:14-18a**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**Psalms 103: 1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12**

**R.** The Lord is kind and merciful,  
slow to anger, and rich in compassion.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

GOSPEL

**Matthew 18: 21-35**

HOMILY

EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE

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

*This may be done in silence or by using the examination of conscience below.*

*One reader may read it alone, or two readers might alternate sections.*

*If read aloud, allow a brief period of silence between each section.*

## **For failings in our private life:**

- Abusing or neglecting the gift of our body, a temple of the Holy Spirit
- Overindulging in food or alcohol
- Engaging in sinful sexual practices
- Becoming complacent or self-satisfied

## **For failings in our families:**

- Hurting or neglecting our families
- Withholding our love from those closest to us
- Withdrawing into our own pursuits
- Arguing too easily
- Failing to say we were sorry
- Failing to say we were wrong

## **For failures in our communities:**

- Being a disruptive force because of our own ego
- Failing to be a peacemaker
- Intentionally excluding others
- Being greedy in the face of poverty

## **For our failures with our God:**

- Failing to put our relationship with God first
- Failing to make time for regular private prayer and for worship with others
- Making important choices in our life without listening for God's voice
- Holding back when God was calling us to be an instrument of grace
- Failing to offer back to God the gifts he has given us

## RITE OF RECONCILIATION

### GENERAL CONFESSION OF SINS

*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: In your goodness, forgive our sins against the unity of your family,

**All: --make us one in heart, one in spirit.**

Presider: Touch our hearts and change our lives,

**All: --make us grow always in your friendship.**

Presider: Receive us as we come before you with humble and contrite hearts,

**All: --with your pardon give us also your peace.**

Presider: Restore us, Lord, to your favor, and give us joy in your presence,

**All: --may our glory be to serve you with all our hearts.**

### LORD'S PRAYER

### INVITATION TO INDIVIDUAL CONFESSION

### PRAYER

*Confessors process to their stations during the song.*

## HYMN

Rejoice, the Lord is king! Your Lord and king adore;  
Mortals give thanks and sing, And triumph evermore;  
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice; Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

Jesus, the Savior, reigns, The God of truth and love;  
When He had purged our stains He took His seat above;  
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice; Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

His kingdom cannot fail, He rules o'er earth and Heav'n,  
The keys of death and hell Are to our Jesus giv'n;  
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice; Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

Rejoice in glorious hope! Jesus the Judge shall come,  
And take His servants up To their eternal home.  
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice; Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788; from *Hymns on the Great Festivals and Other Occasions*. 1746, alt.

## 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.*