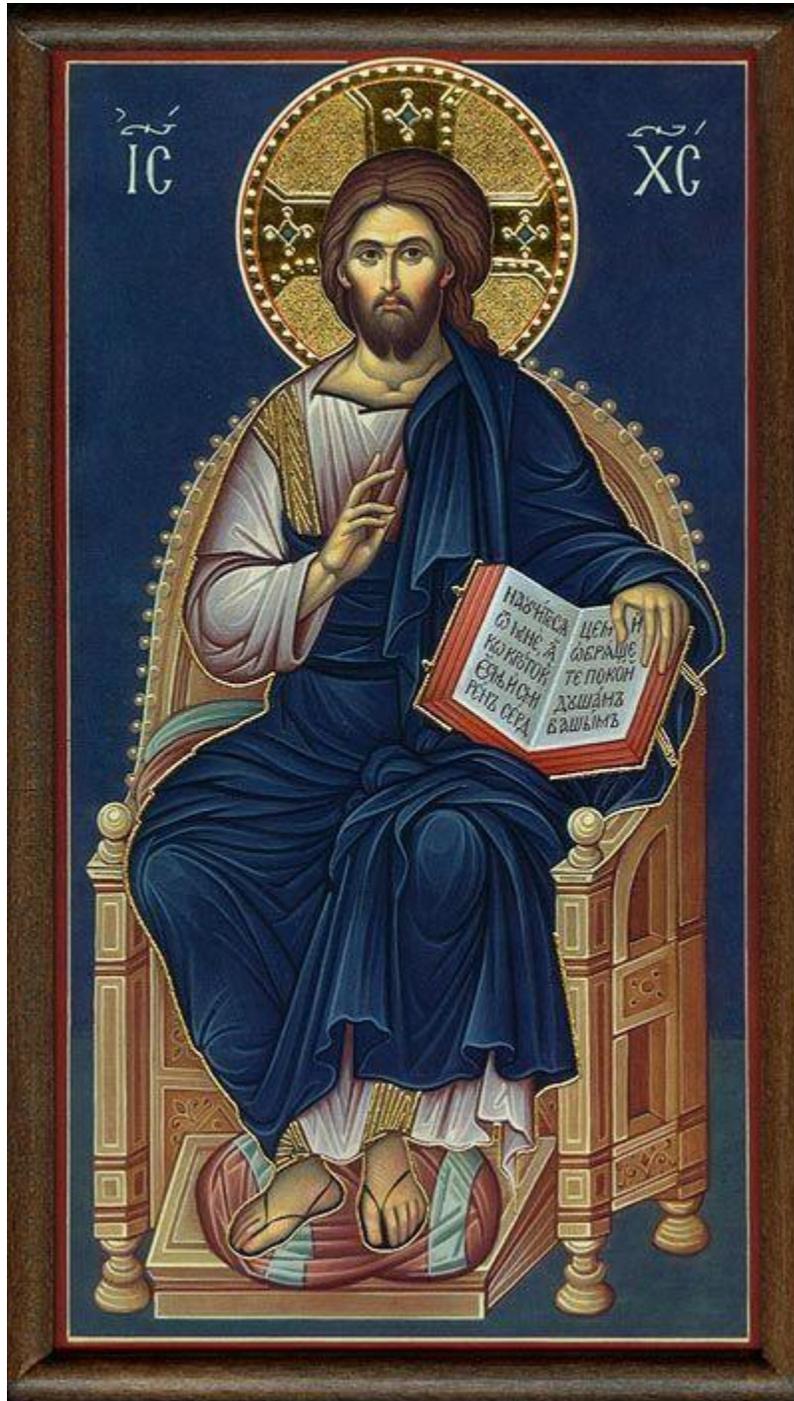


ADVENT COMMUNAL PENANCE SERVICE 2019



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

After the song the presider greets the people:

Presider:

Grace, mercy and peace
from God the Father and Jesus Christ his Son
be with you in truth and love.

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, as we await the coming of our Savior may we joyfully prepare our hearts for him. In so doing, may we be merciful to others and God is merciful to us.

OPENING PRAYER

Presider:

Let us pray.

All pray in silence for a brief period.

Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
in your unbounded mercy
you have revealed the beauty of your power
through your constant forgiveness of our sins.
May the power of his love be in our hearts
to bring pardon and your kingdom to all we meet.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

The following reading may be found in the Lectionary at number 199 in the Weekdays of Advent, December 23, years I and II.

FIRST READING

Zephaniah 3:14-18a

The King of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst.

Reader: A reading from the book of the Prophet Zephaniah

Shout for joy, daughter Zion!
Sing joyfully, Israel!
Be glad and exult with all your heart,
O daughter Jerusalem!
The LORD has removed the judgment against you,
he has turned away your enemies;
The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst,
you have no further misfortune to fear.
On that day, it shall be said to Jerusalem:
Fear not, O Zion, be not discouraged!
The LORD, your God, is in your midst,
a mighty savior,
He will rejoice over you with gladness,
and renew you in his love,
He will sing joyfully because of you,
as one sings at festivals.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God

The psalm should be sung.

The following is the responsorial psalm at number 130 in the Lectionary, the 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time, cycle "A".

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

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

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

Bless the LORD, O my soul;
and all my being, bless his holy name.
Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and forget not all his benefits.

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

He pardons all your iniquities,
heals all your ills.
He redeems your life from destruction,
crowns you with kindness and compassion.

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

He will not always chide,
nor does he keep his wrath forever.
Not according to our sins does he deal with us,
nor does he requite us according to our crimes.

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

For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so surpassing is his kindness toward those who fear him.
As far as the east is from the west,
so far has he put our transgressions from us.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

If the acclamation is not sung, it is omitted.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

I give you a new commandment, says the Lord;
love one another as I have loved you.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

The following is the gospel reading at number 130 in the Lectionary, the 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time, cycle "A".

GOSPEL

Matthew 18: 21-35

Deacon: The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

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

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

Peter approached Jesus and asked him,

“Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive?
As many as seven times?”

Jesus answered, “I say to you, not seven times but seventy-seven times.

That is why the kingdom of heaven may be likened to a king
who decided to settle accounts with his servants.

When he began the accounting,

a debtor was brought before him who owed him a huge amount.

Since he had no way of paying it back,

his master ordered him to be sold,
along with his wife, his children, and all his property,
in payment of the debt.

At that, the servant fell down, did him homage, and said,
‘Be patient with me, and I will pay you back in full.’
Moved with compassion the master of that servant
let him go and forgave him the loan.
When that servant had left, he found one of his fellow servants
who owed him a much smaller amount.
He seized him and started to choke him, demanding,
‘Pay back what you owe.’
Falling to his knees, his fellow servant begged him,
‘Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.’
But he refused.
Instead, he had him put in prison
until he paid back the debt.
Now when his fellow servants saw what had happened,
they were deeply disturbed, and went to their master
and reported the whole affair.
His master summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked servant!
I forgave you your entire debt because you begged me to.
Should you not have had pity on your fellow servant,
as I had pity on you?’
Then in anger his master handed him over to the torturers
until he should pay back the whole debt.
So will my heavenly Father do to you,
unless each of you forgives his brother from his heart.”

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 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

If read aloud, this Examination of Conscience should conclude with a period of silence so that each person may personally examine his or her conscience.

RITE OF RECONCILIATION

GENERAL CONFESSION OF SINS

Presider:

Directing the assembly.

Please kneel.

Brothers and sisters, let us call to mind the goodness of God our Father,
and acknowledge our sins,
so that we may receive his merciful forgiveness.

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.

By human weakness we have disfigured the holiness of the Church:
pardon all our sins and restore us to full communion with our brothers and sisters.

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

Presider:

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.

All say or sing together:

Our Father...

The presider concludes:

Presider:

Father, our source of life,
you know our weakness.
May we reach out with joy to grasp your hand
and walk more readily in your ways.

We ask this 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 _____.

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 for God's forgiveness
and for the happiness it brings.

All pray in silence for a brief period.

Father,

you show your almighty power
in your mercy and forgiveness.

Continue to fill us with your gifts of love.

Help us to hurry toward the eternal life you promise
and come to share in the joys of your kingdom.

Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

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!

He sits at God's right hand
Till all His foes submit,
And bow to His command,
And fall beneath His feet:
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

He all His foes shall quell,
Shall all our sins destroy,
And every bosom swell
With pure seraphic joy;
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.
We soon shall hear th'archangel's voice;
The trump of God shall sound, rejoice!

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

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.

ART ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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