

2020

ADVENT COMMUNAL PENANCE SERVICE

INTRODUCTORY RITES

HYMN

Comfort, comfort O my people,
Speak of peace, now says our God.
Comfort those who sit in darkness,
Mourning under sorrows' load.
Speak unto Jerusalem
Of the peace that waits for them.
Tell of all the sins I cover,
And that warfare now is over.

Hark, the voice of one who's crying
In the desert far and near,
Bidding all to full repentance,
Since the kingdom now is here.
Oh, that warning cry obey!
Now prepare for God a way!
Let the valleys rise to meet him
And the hills bow down to greet him.

O make straight what long was crooked,
Make the rougher places plain.
Let your hearts be true and humble,
As befits his holy reign.
For the glory of the Lord
Now o'er earth is shed abroad;
And all flesh shall see the token
That his word is never broken.

Text: Isaiah 40:1-8; *Tröstet, tröstet, meine Lieben*; Johann Olearius, 1611-1684;
tr. by Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.
Tune: GENEVA 42, 8 7 8 7 77 88; Genevan Psalter, 1551. In the public domain.

GREETING

OPENING PRAYER

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

Isaiah 55: 9-11

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 100, 1b-2, 3, 4, 5

R. The Lord is loving and kind: his mercy is for ever.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

GOSPEL

Luke 7: 36-50

HOMILY

EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE

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,
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

R. Lord, have mercy.

LORD'S PRAYER

INVITATION TO INDIVIDUAL CONFESSION

PRAYER

HYMN

Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heaven, to earth come down!
Fix in us your humble dwelling;
All your faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, source of all compassion,
Love unbounded, love all pure;
Visit us with your salvation,
Let your love in us endure.

Come, Almighty, to deliver,
Let us all your life receive;
Suddenly return and never,
Nevermore your temples leave.
You we would be always blessing,
Serve you as your hosts above,
Pray, and praise you without ceasing,
Glory in your precious love.

Finish then your new creation;
Pure and spotless, gracious Lord.
Let us see your great salvation
Perfectly in you restored.
Changed from glory into glory,
Till in heav'n we take our place,
Till we sing before the Almighty,
Lost in wonder, love, and praise.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.

Tune: HYFRYDOL, 8 7 8 7 D; Rowland H. Pritchard 1811-1887

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.

Soft, unobtrusive instrumental music may be played for a time during the transition to individual confession.