PRESIDER'S OUTLINE
Communal Celebration of The Sacrament of Reconciliation
ADVENT: "The People Who Walked in Darkness"

PLANNING TEAM:
1. Write bulletin announcement for three Sunday bulletins prior to the celebration.
2. Write announcement for the bulletin inviting parishioners
3. Contact the Faith Formation director. Ask that person to be one of the two readers for the examination of conscience. This person can choose a second reader, preferably a catechist who also has a high profile in the community.
4. Contact musician.
5. Call a lector for the scripture.
6. Contact a person to serve as an assistant\acolyte (preferably, an adult who can memorize the following liturgy).
7. Call director of faith formation and two pre-school catechists
8. Convene a planning session with lectors, musicians, pre-school catechists, and hospitality ministers.
9. Make participation aid with music in it, order of service, and assembly's prayer parts in it.

ONE WEEK BEFORE THE LITURGY: Have a practice with the lectors and the readers for the examination of conscience. Walk through the whole liturgy with the assistant, lectors, readers, and hospitality ministers.

SET UP:
1. Set up for pre-schoolers activities during confession time.
2. Outline instruction for catechist to offer before the liturgy.
3. Set up confession stations for priests.
4. Mark the location of scripture in lectionary (Make a point of using the lectionary instead of sheets of paper or a missalette).

INTRODUCTORY RITE

PRELUDE MUSIC (The choir/schola/cantor might sing for 10 minutes - three songs - before the liturgy. Use ADVENT - not Christmas - music)

INSTRUCTION: Before the liturgy begins, the parish catechist presents CATECHESIS about the various forms of the Sacrament.

Catechist: Good (afternoon/evening) brothers and sisters of St. _____. I am your parish catechist, N., _____. We are fortunate, in our Catholic tradition, to celebrate reconciliation through this sacramental encounter with Christ. Our goal, as Catholics, is to remain open to daily conversion or change of habits and attitudes.

We can change or convert our lives by practicing the ways of Jesus every day. Sometimes we fall short of this life task of conversion and find ourselves practicing the ways of darkness. We need to shed those practices and return to our Christian ways.

When we live in darkness, we call it, sin. Sin is a rupture of communion with God and the ways of Jesus. We can heal this rupture by celebrating penance liturgically. The sacrament of Penance is a liturgical ACTION.

Tonight, we celebrate the gift of Reconciliation communally with the Liturgy of the Word and a procession of individual confession.

In order that this sacrament of healing may truly achieve its purpose among us, it must take root in our entire lives and move us to more fervent service of God and neighbor.

The celebration of this sacrament is thus always an act in which the Church proclaims its faith, give thanks to God for the freedom with which Christ has made us free, and offers its life as a spiritual sacrifice in praise of God's glory, as it hastens to meet the Lord Jesus.

Therefore, let us rejoice and sing of the compassion and love God has for us by standing and joining in our opening hymn, "O Come, O Come Emmanuel."

OPENING SONG/PROCESSION **O Come, O come, Emmanuel**. (Presider, assistant, and lectors process in as the assembly sings verses of, "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel." The assistant lights the Advent wreath and then all go to their places. Other priests process to their places. The assistant holds the ritual book for the presider.)

GREETING

Presider: **In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.**
ALL: Amen.

Presider: **My brothers and sisters, God sent us his Son, Jesus, the Promise of all Ages, the center of all hope.**

These days of Advent, the horizon is still dark, but the hope for light within darkness promises to appear. The seed of salvation is sprouting as the earth makes ready. In our anticipation, in our longing for peace in our homes, in this community, and in the world, we call upon Emmanuel, God with us. **The Lord be with you.**
ALL: And also with you.

OPENING PRAYER

Presider: **Let us pray that we might be reconciled to God and to one another.**
[pause]

[CHANT] God, the giver of all life,
we come together as a people who are on the same journey.
We are searching and look for a place in our hearts for others;
we look for happiness, compassion, hospitality and reconciliation
and we seek You, O God.

Come to us then, in Jesus Christ.
He is the answer you give us.
Let his light of love illumine us.
Let his spirit come upon us,
so that in Christ we might find and forgive one another.
May we, with Christ, glorify you forever and ever.

ALL: [CHANT] AMEN.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading:	Isaiah 9: 1-6	[From Mass at Midnight, L 14]
Psalm of the Season	(Sung) - Psalm 24	
Gospel Acclamation		
Gospel:	Luke 3: 1-17, 21-22.	[L 22, From: Baptism of the Lord, cycle C}
Homily		

DISMISSAL OF PRE-SCHOOLERS

Presider: I invite all children under the age of seven to gather here near me. (As they gather, he continues:) **Parents, the pre-schoolers will gather with catechists during the Sacrament of Reconciliation while you participate in the liturgy. After you are dismissed from the liturgy, you may pick up your pre-schooler in _____ (name the room)**

(He addressed the children) Children, within you, we see the goodness of Jesus. Go now with N., _____, our catechist to a place just for you and your friends while we pray for the grace to be more like Jesus. Go in peace.

SONG: Sing a New Song (D. Schutte) or Like a Child Rests (C. Walker) or Those Who See Light, (N. Eize)

[The children meet with catechists in another room during the rest of the liturgy. As the children walk out to the music, two readers come forward and get in place for the Examination of Conscience.]

THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE

(The readers offer the examination of conscience. The presider is one of them. The assembly are seated.)

Presider: **Please be seated for the examination of conscience.** [Pause. When everyone has settled, wait in silence for a moment and begin.]

Presider: **Christmas comes, a time when the entire world was once at peace**.
Reader 1: Have I broken the peace of my household by quarreling or unpleasantness?
Reader 2: Am I the source of violence in the home?
Reader 1: Do I try to avoid unnecessary anger?

Presider: **Christmas comes, a time of giving gifts.**
Reader 1: Is my gift-giving a genuine expression of love or an obligation?
Reader 2: Is my gift-giving a practice of competition with others in the family?

Presider: **Christmas comes, a time of love.**
Reader 1: Do I love comfort so much that I do not ask about the needs of others?
Reader 2: Do I shut myself off from others hiding behind the TV, computer, cell phone, Nintendo game, or behind the guise of busyness?
Reader 1: Do I leave charity up to others and reserve my money and my time for myself?

Presider: **Christmas comes, a time of hospitality and festival-making.**
Reader 1: I have all these appetites and senses and happy feelings built into me. Do I enjoy them without overdoing it or damaging my body or squandering my bankroll?
Reader 2: Is drinking a problem for me?
Reader 1: Do I tend to be self-righteous and even become rude seeing sin everywhere, criticizing others, and always ready to spoil the festivity?

Presider: **Christmas comes, a time of worship and prayer.**
Reader 1: Do I take the time to pray, to give myself a break, to seek out the divine pause that refreshes?
Reader 2: Do I pray for all the members of this community, the people I am rubbing elbows with right now, all of whom are traveling this Advent journey with me?

(After a pause, the presider concludes the examination of conscience with the following prayer.)

PRAYER

Presider: **Grant us forgiveness, O Lord.**
We believe, but help our unbelief.
Lead us to reconciliation just by helping us to say, "Thank you."
Help us to slow down a little to appreciate your many gifts,

and take the time to make our spirits hospitable for the festival.
This we ask in the name of him who is Emmanuel, God-With-Us,
Jesus our Savior now and forever.

All: Amen**.**

[The two readers leave the ambo.]

INVITATION TO RECONCILIATION

(When the presider stands the people follow him and stand. The presider invites the assembly to signify its desire for the sacrament of reconciliation by saying:)

Presider: **God, the giver of all life promises to send the light to all who approach the Lord in faith. Your presence here is a sign of that faith. If that faith also prompts you to seek the Lord's reconciliation, please kneel.**

PRAYERS FOR PARDON AND PEACE

Presider: (The PRESIDER KNEELS and all kneel). **God, we are ablaze with the fire of desire for you. Hear us as we call upon you for pardon and peace.**

ALL: I confess to Almighty God, and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned through my own fault, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do; and 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.

(Spanish) Yo confieso ante Dios todopoderoso /y ante ustedes, hermanos, que he pecado mucho / de pensamiento, palabra, obra y omisión: por mi culpa, por mi culpa, por mi gran culpa, \ Por eso ruego a santa María, siempre Virgen, \ a los ángeles, a los santos, y a ustedes, hermanos, \que intercedan por mi ante Dios, nuestro Señor.

Presider: **God, you sent your only Son to be born in a stable,**
to die on a cross, and to lead us all to light eternal.
Therefore, look upon your people
who no longer want to walk in darkness.
Listen as we pray the prayer of the one who is the fulfillment
of our longing. We pray the prayer Jesus taught us:

THE LORD'S PRAYER

ALL: (The prayer is offered by the people in two languages at the same)
PADRE NUESTRO -OUR FATHER
Suggestion: Print in worship aid in Spanish for participants to learn.

INDIVIDUAL CONFESSIONS/ABSOLUTION

Presider:
(ENGLISH)
As the priests get into place for individual confession, remember that communal reconciliation is a time to seek celebrate forgiveness.

If you are in need of counsel or if you are in grave sin, you should seek individual reconciliation at a later date in your parish or by making an appointment with one of the priests.

(SPANISH)
A la vez que los sacerdotes se pongan en sus lugares para las confesiones individuales, les invito a que reflexionen sobre una cosa que desean mencionar.

Reconciliación comunal es un tiempo para celebrar el reconciliación. Si están en necesidad de consejo o si han cometido un pecado grave, deben de buscar reconciliación individual que se celebra en los parrouqia o con una cita con uno de los sacerdotes.
(All priests go to their station. **Live music begins and the procession** of the assembly begins. **During the procession the assembly sings and prays** the texts of the psalms which the cantor leads.)

Songs: Psalm 23 (Shepherd Me, O God Beyond My Wants), Psalm 130 (With the Lord There is Mercy), Psalm 40 (Here I Am), Psalm 116 (I Will Walk in the Presence), etc.

Priests: (After each confession and absolution, the priest may say:)
Walk in the light of Christ.
Penitent: Thanks be to God.

(After each person is greeted, he/she goes back to their place in the assembly to sing and pray the psalms. Penance will be given after all confessions. After the procession of all penitents all priests return to their place to be seated and sing with the assembly. When all are finished, the presider continues:)

PROCLAMATION OF PRAISE

Presider: **My friends, God has brought us from darkness into light. The promised one has fulfilled all our longing with the joy of the reconciled, with the delight of the redeemed. Let us join together and praise the Lord.**

SONG: The King Shall Come When Morning Dawn

OR Lift Up Your Hearts (R. O'Connor),
OR The Light of Christ (D. Fishel)
or any setting of the Glory to God (Gloria) or song of praise.

PENANCE

(The pastor gives a penance for the members of the assembly to follow.)
PASTOR: My brothers and sisters, for your penance be the presence of the Light of Christ as you wait in line to pay for Christmas presents, when your neighbor needs someone to listen, or when a family member could use the gift of a hug, a smile, or other gesture of love. Be the presence of Christ in the particularly difficult situations you encounter between now and January first.

CONCLUDING RITE

FINAL BLESSING

Presider: In Joy, please bow your heads and pray for God's blessing. (Pause while people bow.)
Presider: May our hospitable God bless you, the Father ✠, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. AMEN.

DISMISSAL

Presider: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
All: Thanks be to God.

CLOSING SONG