

# LENT 2008 RECONCILIATION SERVICE

**“Shed your old sinful personality and put on the new person in Jesus”**

**Rite for reconciliation of several penitents with individual confession and absolution.**

## **Presider’s Guide & Script**

***Environment:** the Lenten environment of the worship space may be maintained for the reconciliation service, and it is recommended to do so to maintain the connection with the season. If a large cross or crucifix is present in the space, it can be highlighted with lighting - or additional candles could be placed in the sanctuary, near the baptismal font, or in some places in the assembly area. Meditative Lenten music may be played until Presider and ministers gather.*

***Worship Aid:** Lenten music or references to songs in the parish hymnal or music resources should be included in the worship aid, as well as an explanation of the way the service will be conducted, e.g. that priests will be stationed at various points around the church; after the priest gives each one absolution please return to the body of the assembly until all have finished for the final blessing and dismissal; music will continue softly and reverently throughout the service.*

## INTRODUCTORY RITES

*As priests (vested in alb & purple stole) who will assist with individual confessions arrive, they are informed of their stations for individual confession & absolution and then asked to be seated in one or two of the front pews. Candles in front of the ambo may be lit in preparation for the Liturgy of the Word. Presider enters (no formal procession) and Opening Song begins.*

**SONG:**        *Choose an appropriate song from the parish repertoire.*

### **GREETING**

**Presider:**    The Word of God urges us to rid ourselves of the works of sinfulness and open ourselves to the life of grace.  
The grace and peace from God the Father and from Jesus Christ who loves us and calls us to a life of holiness and justice, be always with you.        **R. And also with you.**

### **INTRODUCTION**

*Presider welcomes everyone in these or similar words.*

**Presider:**    Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:  
We are tempted not to take seriously our fight against evil. The option for life, justice, and holiness demands an undivided heart and an uncompromising spirit between the gospel values and the criteria for success in our world.

To be halfhearted is to cheat ourselves.  
We cannot serve two masters.  
The choice of faith is radical and decisive.

May our presence here today help us  
to imitate the ‘yes’ given by Jesus to his Father’s design  
to bring salvation to the world through his loving giving of self.

## OPENING PRAYER

Presider: Let us pray for the healing power of God over our sins.  
*pause*

Lord, send your Spirit among us  
to cleanse us in the waters of repentance.  
May he make of us a living sacrifice  
so that in every place,  
by his life-giving power,  
we may praise your glory  
and proclaim your loving compassion.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord. *R. Amen.*

## CELEBRATION OF THE WORD OF GOD

- 1<sup>st</sup> Reading**                      Leviticus 19:1-2,11-18 *Judge your fellow man justly*  
(Lectionary proper of Seasons. Weekday. Monday of first week of Lent)
- Responsorial Psalm**              Psalm 19 *“Your words, Lord, are Spirit and life”*  
(Weekday Lectionary. Monday of first week of Lent)  
Choose a setting from the parish repertoire.
- Gospel Acclamation**              *“Behold, now is a very acceptable time; behold, now is the time of  
salvation”*
- Gospel**                                  Matthew 25:31-46 *Whatever you have done to the very least of my  
brethren, you have done to me*  
(Weekday Lectionary. Monday of first week of Lent)

## HOMILY

### Homily Suggestions:

The transition from sinfulness to holiness requires a deep and lasting conversion in the thinking and behavior of the disciple. The greatest sign of this rupture is the love towards our brothers and sisters. God has loved us first when we were sinners. So now we bring the newness of love to the least of our neighbors.

## EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE

*(A period of time may be spent in making an examination of conscience and arousing true sorrow for sins. The priest, deacon, or another minister may help the faithful by brief statements or a kind of litany, taking into consideration their circumstances, age, etc.)*

1. Let us examine our relationship with God. Is God present in my life? Do I pray? Do I participate frequently on Sunday Eucharist?
2. Let us examine our concern for growth in Christian living. Am I concerned about my formation and a better understanding of my faith? Do I reflect, individually or in a group, about my Christian life? Am I active in my parish?
3. Let us examine our relationship with others. Am I genuinely interested in others, or am I mostly absorbed in myself? Do I need to be right all the time? Do I control my anger? Am I generous and loyal towards others?
4. Let us examine our concern for society and the common good. Am I interested in the human, social and political issues in my environment? Am I making possible a world more just for everyone? Do I have a concern for the poor?
5. Let us examine our work or study obligations. Am I professional and responsible in my work ethic? Do I dedicate proportionate time and effort to my studies?
6. Let us finally examine our family life. Am I contributing to the good climate and mutual respect among all members? Have I made an effort to smooth things when tensions have arisen?

## RITE OF RECONCILIATION

### GENERAL CONFESSION OF SINS

*The deacon or another minister invites all to kneel, and to join in saying a general formula for confession.*

Presider: My brothers and sisters, confess your sins and pray for each other, that you may be healed.

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.

## LITANY

**Presider:** Christ our Savior is our advocate with the Father. With humble hearts let us ask him to forgive us our sins:

In your mercy free us from the slavery of sin and guide us back into the way of holiness.

**R. We trust in your mercy, Lord**

Make us a living sign of your love for all to see: people reconciled with you and with each other.

**R. We trust in your mercy, Lord**

Make us grow in your peace and seek to spread it throughout the world.

**R. We trust in your mercy, Lord**

In forgiving our sins: help us to love others and to forgive their sins against us.

**R. We trust in your mercy, Lord**

Give light to our darkness and lead us by your truth.

**R. We trust in your mercy, Lord**

By your redeeming love overcome our sinfulness and the harm it has brought us.

**R. We trust in your mercy, Lord**

Fashion a new heart in us and restore us to full communion with you and with our brothers and sisters.

**R. We trust in your mercy, Lord**

## OUR FATHER

**Presider:** Now let us turn to God our Father and ask him to deliver us from all evil:

**All:** Our Father who art in heaven  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread  
and forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those who trespass against us,  
and lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from all evil. Amen.

**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. *R. Amen.*

## INDIVIDUAL CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

*The penitents go to the priests designated for individual confessions, 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 (or at least extends his right hand) and gives the absolution. Everything else which is customary in individual confession is omitted.*

**Priest**            God, the Father of mercies,  
                         through the death and resurrection of his Son  
                         has reconciled the world to himself  
                         and sent the Holy Spirit among us  
                         for the forgiveness of sins;  
                         through the ministry of the Church  
                         may God give you pardon and peace, and  
                         *(making the sign of the cross)*  
**I absolve you from your sins**  
**in the name of the Father, and of the Son,**  
**and of the Holy Spirit.     R. Amen.**

## PROCLAMATION OF PRAISE FOR GOD'S MERCY

*When the individual confessions have been completed, the presider invites all present to offer thanks and encourages them to do good works which will proclaim the grace of repentance in the life of the entire community and each of its members. It is fitting for all to sing a psalm or hymn or to say a litany in acknowledgement of God's power and mercy.*

**Suggestion:** *A psalm, hymn or litany from the parish repertoire*

## CONCLUDING PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**Presider:**        All-holy Father,  
                         you have shown us your mercy  
                         and made us a new creation  
                         in the likeness of your Son.  
                         Make us living signs of your love  
                         for the whole world to see.  
                         We ask this through Christ our Lord.    **R. Amen.**

## CONCLUDING RITE

*The priest blesses all present:*

May the Lord guide your hearts in the way of his love  
and fill you with Christ-like patience. *R. Amen.*

May he give you strength  
to walk in newness of life  
and to please him in all things. *R. Amen.*

May almighty God bless you,  
the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit. *R. Amen.*

*The deacon or other ministers or the priest himself dismisses the assembly:*

The Lord has freed you from your sins. With a new heart go in peace.  
*R. Thanks be to God.*