

ADVENT COMMUNAL PENANCE CELEBRATION

Advent has a two-fold character: as a season to prepare for Christmas when Christ's coming to us is remembered and as a season when that remembrance directs our mind and heart to await Christ's second coming at the end of time. Advent thus is a period of devout and joyful expectation. (#39 General Norms for the Liturgical Year and Calendar)

HYMN:

INTRODUCTORY RITES

Celebrant:

In the Name of the Father, ✠ and of the Son, ✠ and of the Holy Spirit. ✠

All: Amen

GREETING

Celebrant:

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

All: And also with you.

INTRODUCTION

Celebrant:

My brothers and sisters,
Advent is a time of preparation, when we make ready to celebrate the mystery of our Lord's coming as man, the beginning of our redemption. Advent moves us to look forward with renewed hope to the second coming of Christ, when God's plan of salvation will be brought to fulfillment. We are reminded too of our Lord's coming to each one of us at the hour of our death. We must make sure that we are prepared for His coming, as the Gospel tells us: "Blessed are those servants who are found awake when the Lord comes."

We look forward to celebrate the mystery of Christ's coming on the Feast of Christmas. Let us pray that when he comes he may find us awake to receive Him.

All pray in silence for a brief period.

OPENING PRAYER

Celebrant:

Let us pray:

Eternal Son of God,
Creator of the human family
and our redeemer,
come at last among us
as the child of the Immaculate Virgin,
and redeem the world.
Reveal your loving presence
by which you set us free from sin
in becoming one like us
in all things but sin,
for your live an reign for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

If there are several readings a psalm or other appropriate song or even a period of silence should intervene between them, so that everyone may understand the Word of God more deeply and give it heartfelt assent. If there is only one reading, it is preferable that it be from the Gospel. (#51 Rite of Penance)

FIRST READING Malachi 3: 1-4
The Lord whom you seek will come to his temple.

PSALM Psalm 85
Lord, let us see your kindness and grant us your salvation.

SECOND READING Revelation 21: 1-7
He will wipe away all the tears from their eyes.

GOSPEL Luke 3: 1-6
All mankind shall see the salvation of God.

HOMILY

RITE OF RECONCILIATION

EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE

The Examination of Conscience can be adapted to meet the needs of the faithful gathered. The Examination of Conscience is preferably done communally, with a BRIEF period of silence after each statement and/or section is read; however, it can be done privately by each penitent on their way to confession.

Without introduction, the celebrant or another minister begins the Examination of Conscience. *(There is a sample Examination of Conscience on the Office of Worship website.)*

ACT OF REPENTANCE

Celebrant:

Lord our God,
on the first day of creation
you made the light
that scatters the darkness.
Let Christ, the light of lights,
hidden from all eternity,
shine at last on your people
and free us from the darkness of sin.
Fill our lives with good works
As we go out to meet your Son,
so that we may give him a fitting welcome.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

ACT OF CONTRITION

Celebrant:

Recognizing our sinfulness and with resolve to change our lives we say:

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.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Celebrant:

As we prepare for our individual confessions,
let us stand and pray to God our Father in the words Christ gave us,
and ask him for his forgiveness and protection from all evil.

Our Father...

Celebrant:

Almighty and eternal God,
You sent your only-begotten Son
to reconcile the world to yourself.
Lift from our hearts
the oppressive gloom of sin,
so that we may celebrate
the approaching dawn of Christ's birth
with fitting joy.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

INTRODUCTION TO THE SACRAMENT

INTRODUCTION OF CONFESSORS AND PLACES OF CONFESSION

INVITATION TO THE SACRAMENT:

Together we participate in sin. Together we pray for forgiveness.

Because we are many, we invite those
seeking the sacrament to be mindful of the many seeking the graces of the sacrament
in a limited amount of time.

Those seeking spiritual direction or
personal counseling are asked to consider another time for this ministry.
To emphasize the communal dimension of this Sacrament, the priests will be in the
body of the church and welcome you for individual confession.

Those sitting in the church are asked to pray for those celebrating the Sacrament.

To maintain our celebration as a community at prayer, we ask that you NOT form lines, and that you refrain from casual conversation with each other.

Finally, we ask everyone to remain in the church until the end of the Liturgy to emphasize our solidarity as a community.

At this time I invite the priests who have generously joined us to celebrate this Sacrament with you to take their places in the church.

Individual confessions follow

INDIVIDUAL CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

The Assembly remains seated and penitents move to a confessor when one is available. Penitents approach and greet the priest. Greet the priest with the Sign of the Cross or "Bless me Father" and confess your sins. After receiving absolution penitents return to the Assembly to pray. **The service concludes when everyone has returned to their seats.**

CONCLUDING RITES

PROCLAMATION OF PRAISE FOR GOD'S MERCY

Celebrant:

Lord Jesus Christ, Your loving forgiveness knows no limits.

You took our human nature to give us an example of humility and to make us faithful in every trial.

May we never lose the gifts you have given us, but if we fall into sin, lift us up by your gift of repentance,

For you live and reign for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

CONCLUDING PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Celebrant:

All-holy Father,
you have shown us your mercy
and have made us a new creation
in the likeness of your Son.
Make us living signs of your love
for all the world to see.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen

BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

Celebrant:

The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Celebrant:

May Almighty God bless you, the Father, ✠ and the Son, ✠
and the Holy Spirit. ✠

All: Amen.

Celebrant:

The Lord has freed you from your sins.

Go in peace.

All: Thanks be to God.

CLOSING HYMN

Suggested Music:

A Voice Cries Out
Christ Be Our Light
Come to set us Free
Come, O Long Expected Jesus
Creator of the Stars of Night
Jesus, Come to Us
My Soul in Stillness Waits

O Come, Divine Messiah
People Look East
Ready the Way
The King Shall Come When Morning
Dawns