

# Rite of Reconciliation of Several Penitents With Individual Confession and Absolution Lent 2008

## Introductory Rites

### Opening Song

*[see music suggestions]*

### Greeting

Priest: The grace and peace of God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

### Introduction

*[in these or similar words]*

Priest: We gather in the midst of a world that knows little peace,  
a world of brokenness, a world of terrorism,  
a world of war, pain and suffering.  
We come together to recognize that our actions have not always been the actions  
of peacemakers and to ask forgiveness,  
forgiveness for our own sins  
and the sins that we perpetuate as a society.  
We ask for the peace that forgiveness brings.  
We ask for God's grace so that we in turn may be grace for others.

### Opening Prayer

Priest: Let us pray. (Pause)  
Almighty and merciful God,  
your Holy Spirit has gathered us here in the name of Christ  
to receive your mercy in our time of need.  
Open our eyes to see the evil we have done.  
Touch our hearts and convert us to yourself.

Where sin has divided and scattered,  
may your love make one again;  
where sin has brought weakness,  
may your power heal and strengthen;  
where sin has brought death,  
may your Holy Spirit raise to new life.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

## **Celebration of the Word of God**

### **First Reading: Zechariah 1: 1-6.**

Return to me, and I shall return to you.

### **Psalm 90**

Fill us with your love, O Lord, and we will sing for joy!  
*[or another appropriate psalm]*

### **Second Reading: Ephesians 4:1-3, 17-32.**

Renew yourself.

### **Gospel: Matthew 5: 13-16.**

Let your light shine.

## **Homily**

### **Examination of Conscience**

Priest, Deacon or minister:

My sisters and brothers, mindful that we sometimes fail to be light in the darkness of the world, we examine our conscience calling to mind our failings so that we may confess them and be truly sorry. *[Please kneel.]*

*[The sets of questions may be divided between two readers. Read the questions slowly. Please pause for a brief period of reflection between each set of questions.]*

Do I faithfully attend Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation?

When I attend Mass, do I fully participate by listening, responding and singing?

Do I pray daily?

Am I grateful for the good things I have received in my life?

Have I taken the name of God, Mary or the saints in vain?

Do I tell jokes that make fun of God or put down other racial or ethnic groups?

Do I swear or use crude language?

Do I observe the fasting and abstinence laws of the Church?

Have I neglected my parents when they needed my help?

Do I show proper respect for people in authority?

Have I cheated on my taxes?

Do I support the Church?

Do I get angry and lose my temper?

Am I envious of others?

Have I been a reckless driver? Have I driven under the influence?

Do I neglect my health?

Have I taken pleasure in the misfortunes of others?  
Do I entertain impure thoughts?  
Have I used the internet appropriately?  
Am I faithful to my spouse and family?

Did I steal from others or at work?  
Have I caused damage to another person's property?  
Do I spend beyond my means?  
Do I give to the poor?  
Am I greedy?

Do I tell lies?  
Have I hurt someone's reputation?  
Do I gossip?  
Do I trust God or only myself?

## **Rite of Reconciliation**

### **General Confession of Sin**

Minister: My sisters and brothers, let us confess our sins and pray.

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; so I ask the blessed Mary, ever virgin, all the angels and saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray to me to the Lord our God.

Minister: The Lord Jesus is our advocate with the Father.  
With humble hearts, let us ask him to forgive our sins.

*[The response may be recited or sung.]*

Minister: Creator God, you send us the Holy Spirit as the "Lord and giver of life," yet there are times when we fail to respect life in all its stages.

R. Lord, have mercy.

Minister: Loving God, you send us the Spirit to gather us in your love, yet we fail to love those who look different or are less fortunate than ourselves.

R. Lord, have mercy.

Minister: Holy God, you send us the Spirit to transform us in the life of Christ, yet we fail to spread your influence in our private lives and in society.

R. Lord, have mercy.

Minister: Abiding God, you send us the Spirit of life and call us to become a new creation, yet we are destructive and neglectful of the earth and our relationships.

R. Lord, have mercy.

Minister: Mentoring God, you send your Spirit to form the church into a communion of love, yet we fail to teach and encourage one another to grow into a more prophetic and nurturing sign of your presence.

R. Lord, have mercy.

Minister: Saving God, as you remind us that human effort profits nothing and that the Spirit only gives new life, encourage us to enflame the world with the Spirit of your love.

R. Lord, have mercy.

Minister: Now in obedience to Christ, let us join in prayer to the Father, asking God to forgive us as we forgive others.

### **Our Father...**

The Priest concludes:

Loving God, deliver us from every evil  
as we unite ourselves through penance  
with the saving passion of your Son.  
Through the ministry of the Church,  
free us from all sin and  
grant us a share in the resurrection of Jesus,  
who is Lord for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

### **Individual Confession and Absolution**

*[The penitents go to the priests designated for individual confession and confess their sins. The priest gives an appropriate act of satisfaction. The priest then extends his hands (or at least his right hand) over the penitent and gives absolution.]*

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 I absolve you from your sins

in the name of the Father, and of the Son,  
+ and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

*[During the time of individual confessions, quiet instrumental music may be played.]*

### **Proclamation of Praise for God's Mercy**

*[The Magnificat (Canticle of Mary) or another appropriate song may be sung.]*

### **Concluding Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Priest: God and Father of us all  
you have forgiven our sins  
and sent us your Spirit of peace.  
Help us to forgive each other  
and work together to establish peace in the world.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

### **Concluding Rite**

Priest: May the Father bless us,  
for we are his children, born to eternal life.

All: Amen.

May the Son show us his saving power,  
for he died and rose for us.

All: Amen.

May the Spirit give us his gift of holiness  
and lead us by the right path,  
for he dwells in our hearts.

All: Amen.

Deacon or Priest: The Lord has freed you from your sins. Go in peace.

All: Thanks be to God.

### **Closing Song**

*[see suggestions]*

## Music Suggestions

### Hymnology

Return to God	GIA
Mercy, O God	GIA
Kyrie Eleison	GIA
Deep Within	GIA
Parce Domine	GIA
Lord Jesus Christ	GIA
Perdonas Nuestras Culpas	OCP
Perdón Señor	Traditional
There's a Wideness in God's Mercy	Various
This Season Call Us	OCP
Word of God, Come Down to Earth	WLP
Eternal Lord of Love	OCP
Attende Domine	OCP
Turn To Me	OCP
Yes, I Shall Arise	WLP
La Alegria en el Perdon	OCP
Hosea	OCP
Lead Me, Guide Me	GIA

### Psalmody

Psalm 51  
Psalm 27  
Psalm 95  
Psalm 19  
Psalm 130  
Psalm 90

### Proclamation of God's Mercy

Canticle of Mary	Roberts
My Soul Proclaims	Farrell
Now Thank We All Our God	Traditional
All You Nations	Deiss
Father, We Thank Thee Who Has Planted	Traditional
There's A Wideness In God's Mercy	Faber
Cantad a Dios	
Thank You Lord	Spiritual