

Lord, Make Us Turn to You – A Penance Service for Advent 2018

Introductory Rites

Opening Hymn
Greeting
Introduction
Opening Prayer

Celebration of the Word of God

First Reading
Responsorial Psalm
Second Reading
Gospel Acclamation
Gospel
Homily
Examination of Conscience

Rite of Reconciliation

General Confession of Sins
Litany of Repentance
Lord's Prayer
Concluding Prayers of Thanksgiving
Song of Acclamation

Individual Confessions of Sin and Absolution

Gathering Song

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

*O come, O Wisdom from on high, who orders all things mightily,
To us the path of knowledge show, and teach us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.*

*O come, O Dayspring from on high and cheer us by your drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadow put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.*

*O come, Desire of nations, bind in one the hearts of humankind;
O bid our sad divisions cease, and be for us our King of Peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.*

Greeting

Presider: Grace, mercy, and peace be with you from God the Father
and Christ Jesus our Savior.

All: And with your spirit.

Introduction

Presider: *in these or similar words*
Brothers and sisters, we live in a world where we are constantly bombarded by information, advice, and opinions. We hear politicians and political commentators who try to convince us that their views are correct. We are faced with advertisements for food, clothes, and cars which offer an alleged path to happiness. Most troubling, we are confronted with a culture which tries to tell us what is morally right or wrong.

We know what God has taught us and when we have failed to heed God's voice. But we gather here tonight [today] to listen, once again, to God's holy word and to encounter God's grace in this sacrament. God offers us forgiveness so that we may, once again and still, turn back to God.

In this Advent season – during which we prepare to celebrate Christ's birth and anticipate Christ's return – let us better appreciate the salvation which Christ has won for us. And may we, as Christ's disciples, bring that Good News of mercy and reconciliation to a world badly in need of it.

Opening Prayer

**Presider: My brothers and sisters,
we look forward to celebrating the mystery of Christ's incarnation.
Let us pray that when he comes again,
he may find us awake and ready to receive him.**

Silent prayer.

**Almighty and merciful God,
you have brought us together in the name of your Son
to receive your mercy and grace 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 us one again;
where sin has brought weakness,
may your power heal and strengthen;
where sin has brought death,
may your Spirit raise us to new life.**

**Give us a heart to love you,
so that our lives may reflect the image of your Son.
May the world see the glory of Christ revealed in your Church,
and come to know that he is the One whom you have sent,
Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.**

All: Amen.

First Reading *Isaiah 45:6c-8, 18, 21c-25*

Let the clouds rain down.

Responsorial Psalm *Psalm 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19*

Antiphon: *Lord, make us turn to you, show us your face, and we shall be saved.*

Second Reading *1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2*

May the Lord strengthen your hearts for the coming of the Lord Jesus.

Gospel Acclamation *Verse: Behold, he comes to save us.*

Gospel *Matthew 3:1-6*

Repent, for the kingdom of God is at hand.

Homily

Examination of Conscience

Presider: The following examination of conscience is based upon the seven “O” antiphons, traditionally offered during the last seven days of the Advent season. Please respond as indicated in your worship aid.

**Presider: Have I put God first in my life?
Does he have priority in our home?**

All: O Wisdom, you come forth from the mouth of the Most High.
You fill the universe and hold all things together in a strong yet gentle manner.
O come to teach us the way of truth!

Silent pause.

**Presider: Do I use God's name with care?
Do I talk badly about other people?**

All: O Adonai and leader of Israel, you appeared to Moses in a burning bush
and you gave him the Law on Sinai.
O come and save us with your mighty power!

Silent pause.

**Presider: Do I attend and participate in Mass on Sunday?
Do I keep Sunday as a day of worship and rest?**

All: O stock of Jesse, you stand as a signal for the nations;
kings fall silent before you whom the peoples acclaim.
O come to deliver us, and do not delay.

Silent pause.

**Presider: Do I honor my mother and father and other authority figures?
Am I patient and kind towards my children and others?**

All: O key of David and scepter of Israel, what you open no one else can close again;
what you close no one can open.
O come to lead the captive from prison;
free those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death!

Silent pause.

**Presider: Have I been hurtful to others, either in words or actions?
Have I told the truth?
Have I been open and honest with others?**

All: O Rising Sun, you are the splendor of eternal light and the sun of justice.
O come and enlighten those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death.

Silent pause.

**Presider: Have I treated my body and the bodies of others with respect?
 Have I kept my mind and thoughts pure?**

All: O King whom all the peoples desire, you are the cornerstone which makes all one.
 O come and save us whom you made from clay!

Silent pause.

**Presider: Have I respected the belongings of others?
 Have I been happy with what I have
 instead of being jealous of others?**

All: O Emmanuel, you are our king and judge,
 the One whom the peoples await and their Savior.
 O come and save us, Lord, our God.

Silent pause.

General Confession of Sin

**Presider: God who is infinitely merciful
 pardons all who are repentant
 and takes away their guilt.
 Confident in God's goodness,
 let us ask for forgiveness of all our sins
 as we confess them with sincerity of heart.**

All: 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

Response: Lord, have mercy.

Presider: Let us turn to Christ with confidence and ask his mercy.

Leader: You came into the world to seek and save what was lost.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: You came to give us life, life in its fullness.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: You became the source of salvation for all who obey you.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: Once and for all you died for our sins, the innocent one for the guilty.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: In your mercy free us from the past
and enable us to begin a new life of holiness.

All: Lord, have mercy.

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

All: Lord, have mercy.

The Lord's Prayer

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

Concluding Prayers of Thanksgiving

**Presider: 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.
Through Christ our Lord.**

All: Amen.

**Presider: Lord God,
Creator and ruler of your kingdom of light,
in your great love for this world
you gave up your only Son for our salvation.
His cross has redeemed us,
his death has given us life,
his resurrection has raised us to glory.
Through him,
we ask you to be always present among your family.
Teach us to be reverent in the presence of your glory;
fill our hearts with faith,
our days with good works,
our lives with your love.
May your truth be on our lips
and your wisdom in all our actions,
that we may receive the reward of everlasting life.
Through Christ our Lord.**

All: Amen.

*A brief instruction may follow as to where the confessors will be located.
As the confessors move to their stations, we sing three times:
"Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel."*

Individual Confession and Absolution

Instrumental music may be played in the background during this time.

The following is printed in the Worship Aid

Thank you for your respectful and prayerful silence as all who are gathered take part in the Sacrament. Please pray for all to make good confessions, including yourselves.

Proclamation of Praise for God's Mercy

Psalm 136:1-9, 24-26

(May be offered at the altar or at your place after receiving the Sacrament)

Give thanks to the LORD for he is good,
for his mercy endures forever;
Give thanks to the God of gods,
for his mercy endures forever;
Give thanks to the LORD of lords,
for his mercy endures forever.

Who alone does great wonders,
for his mercy endures forever;
Who made the heavens in wisdom,
for his mercy endures forever;
Who spread out the earth upon the waters,
for his mercy endures forever;

Who made the great lights,
for his mercy endures forever;
The sun to rule over the day,
for his mercy endures forever;
The moon and the stars to rule over the night,
for his mercy endures forever;
Who led his people through the wilderness,
for his mercy endures forever;

Who freed us from our foes,
for his mercy endures forever;
Who gives food to all flesh,
for his mercy endures forever;
Give thanks to the God of heaven,
for his mercy endures forever.