

ADVENT

Year A

Second Rite of Reconciliation

Prayer and Reflection Centre

Use purple, grey or dark blue materials as a base. If possible, arrange these in tiers flowing over each other. Use a large white candle as the centre piece and tie ribbons of light purple around the base of the candle, having the ribbons fan out in all directions.

If possible, get flowers or pieces of green and place them in baskets so that as each person comes back from confession, they can place one into the prayer centre, to symbolize the beauty of the forgiveness they have received.

OPENING SONG

Christ Be Our Light, Bernadette Farrell

[Gather Australia #404]

God of Mercy and Compassion, Michael Hodgetts

[Gather Australia #302]

OPENING PRAYER

Priest: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Priest: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

All: And with your spirit.

Priest: We are gathered here today/tonight as a community on a journey led by the Lord Jesus Christ who took on human nature for us. It is through Christ that we have been given the right to ask God our Father to forgive our sins.

And so, we pray:

Lord, teach us to be aware of the times we have broken your law of love and strengthen us to come to you in all honesty and humility, so we may find peace and comfort from your forgiveness.

READING

Timothy 1: 11-15

God was merciful to me because I did not yet have faith and so did not know what I was doing. And the Lord poured out his abundant grace on me and gave me faith and love which are ours in union with Jesus Christ. This is a true saying to be completely accepted and believed: that Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners.

[Sung Version: The Hound of Heaven, Christopher Willcock Gather Australia #81]

Response: Lord you have examined me and know me.

Lord, you know everything I do;

From far away you understand all my thoughts.

You see me whether I am resting or working;

You know all my actions. R.

You are all around me on every side;

You protect me with your power.

Your knowledge of me is too deep,

It is beyond my understanding. R.

I praise you because you are to be feared,

All you do is strange and wonderful.

I know it with all my heart.

Guide me in the everlasting way. R.

GOSPEL READING

John 12: 44-50

Jesus said in a loud voice, "Whoever believes in me believes not only in me but also in him who sent me. Whoever sees me sees also him who sent me. I have come into the world as light, so that everyone who believes in me should not remain in the darkness. If people hear my message and do not obey it, I will not judge them. I came, not to judge the world, but to save it. Those who reject me and do not accept my message have one who will judge them. The words I have spoken will be their judge on the last day! This is true, because I have not spoken on my own authority, but the Father who sent me has commanded me what I must say and speak. And I know that his command brings eternal life. What I say, then, is what the Father has told me to say."

HOMILY

EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE

[The reflections can be read slowly out, placed on a screen or given out to the congregation.]

Let us acknowledge our sinfulness allowing our Lord Jesus to guide us.

Response All: Lord Jesus, you came to reconcile us to your Father.

When we:

Put the things of the world before his love.

Do not spend time in prayer.

Are not willing to listen to his guidance.

Refuse to turn to him in times of difficulties.

Do not thank him for all that he has given us.

All: Lord Jesus, you came to reconcile us to your Father.

When we:

Use anger and derision towards others.

Put our own needs first.

Use words and actions in a negative way.

Let the opportunity to support and care for others pass by.

All: Lord Jesus, you came to reconcile us to your Father.

When we:

Do not respect others property.

Are not willing to develop and use our gifts for the betterment of others.

Use lies and gossip to manipulate the people and world around us.

Do not care for ourselves by forgiving and accepting ourselves as loved and forgiven.

All: Lord Jesus, you came to reconcile us to your Father.

Priest: Let us confidently confess our sins, praying for each other, that we may be healed.

**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,**

And, striking their breast, they say:

**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.**

Priest: The Lord is merciful; he leads us to peace and freedom when we acknowledge that we have sinned. Let us now go to him with confidence knowing, he lovingly accepts us as his children.

All: Amen.

INDIVIDUAL CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

An invitation is now extended to the community to approach one of the priests for confession and absolution. Explain that penitents only need to concentrate on two or three areas of difficulty in their lives.

Music is played in the background during confessions.

At the end of the confessions the priest speaks to the people and encourages them to give thanks for God's goodness and to keep on doing good works which proclaim the grace of repentance in the life of the entire community and each of its members.

THANKSGIVING

Priest: As a sign of reconciliation and peace let us join together and pray the prayer the Lord gave us:

All: Our Father...

Priest: Almighty God, we praise you and thank you for your mercy, renewing our relationship with you through the love you have for each of us.

All: We praise and thank you Lord.

SIGN OF PEACE

Priest: We have been given the peace that comes from restoring our friendship with God. Let us now offer peace to our brothers and sisters.

[All offer the sign of peace.]

CONCLUDING RITE

Priest: May we reflect the image of Jesus Christ, who came that we may be forgiven our sins by renewing our commitment to follow and live out the love of God.

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

All: Amen.

Priest: Go now to live in the peace and love of God.

All: Amen.

RECESSIONAL SONG

[USE A SONG OF PRAISE]

Glory and Praise to Our God, Dan Schutte
Now Thank We All Our God, Martin Rinkart

[Gather Australia #417]

[Gather Australia #425]