

RECONCILIATION SERVICE  
with GENERAL ABSOLUTION

ADVENT SEASON



*“I am doing something new... Your sins I remember no more”*

**Thursday December 17<sup>th</sup> 2020**

**06:00 pm**

## *Opening Hymn*

### **GREETING**

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

*Penitent:* Amen.

*Priest:* The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

*Penitent:* And with your spirit.

### **INTRODUCTION**

*Priest:* Brothers and sisters, Advent is a time of preparation, when we make ready to celebrate the mystery of our Lord's Incarnation into the world, the beginning of our redemption. Advent also 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. Let us prepare the way of the Lord by recognizing our sin, seeking forgiveness and offering forgiveness to those who have hurt us, so that we may be worthy of preparing the way of the Lord.

### **OPENING PRAYER**

*Priest:* Let us pray

*Priest:* Lord our God, maker of heaven and earth, as we look forward to the coming of our Redeemer, Jesus Christ, grant us the forgiveness of our sins and accept our desire to be reconciled to you and one another. Keep us alert, O Lord our God, as we await the coming of Christ your Son, so that, when he comes and knocks, he may find us watchful in prayer and exultant in praise. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity with the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

*Penitent:* Amen.

### **WORD OF GOD**

*A reading from the book of Isaiah (43: 18-19, 21-22, 24b-25)*

Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise. Yet you did not call upon me, O Jacob; but you have been weary of me, O Israel! But you have burdened me with your sins;

you have wearied me with your iniquities. I, I am He who blots out your transgressions for my own sake, and I will not remember your sins.

The Word of the Lord.

*Penitent:* Thanks be to God.

## **EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE**

*Priest:* Brothers and Sisters, I now invite you to do the examination of conscience. An examination of conscience is the act of looking prayerfully into our hearts and minds to ask how we have hurt our relationships with God and our brothers and sisters through our thoughts, words and actions. As we come to seek to be reconciled to God and one another, let us call to mind those times when we have failed to do God's will.

1) IN MY RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD : *"You shall love the Lord your God with your whole heart"* (Matthew 22:37)

Have I made decent efforts to improve my life as Christ's disciple since my last confession?

Have I prayed sufficiently each day and sought to have a continuous spirit of prayer? Have I turned to God in good and bad times, in times of temptation, especially during this time of pandemic Covid-19?

During this pandemic Covid-19 have I relied on God's protection? Have I grown in my relationship with God?

Have I faithfully participated in the Eucharist on Sundays and Holy Days of obligation? Have I participated in the whole sacramental life of the Church?

Have I been faithful to read the Word of God and to live its message in my daily life?

Have I used the Lord's name respectfully and reverently? Have I made efforts to praise and thank him for his gifts and blessings?

Have I taken steps to deepen and to increase my understanding of the faith? Have I professed and lived it courageously?

Have I made decent efforts to experience God's love and presence in the beauties of nature and the circumstances of my life? Have I cared for God's creation? Have I made this planet earth my pleasant home in relation to others?

2) IN MY RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHERS: *"Love one another as I have loved you"* (John 13:34)

Have I truly loved my neighbors as myself? Have I used or exploited others for my own selfish interests?

Have I been caring toward my family? Have I showed fidelity, patience, respect, reverence and love to my spouse, children, parents, brothers, sisters and in-laws? Have I shown good example to them?

Have my relations to others been faithful and chaste? Was I guilty of such violations in chastity, as adultery, fornication or indecent conversation and thought?

Have I dealt honestly and truthfully with others? Have I harmed or hurt anyone by deceit, rash judgment, lies, gossip, calumny or slander?

Have I hated others, shown prejudice or discrimination toward them? Have I degraded the dignity of others?

Have I injured the life or reputation of others? Have I upheld and protected the right to life at all levels and respect the human dignity of the aged, the suffering or the disable?

Have I worked for the betterment of human society? Have I acted justly for the good of others in the society? Have I made a decent effort to contribute to the building up of a just society for the good and prosperity of all?

3) IN HOW I TREAT MYSELF: *“With the measure you use, it will be measured back to you”*  
(Matthew 7:2)

Have I made decent efforts to continue developing my natural talents and gifts, and to put them at the service of God and others?

Have I paid attention to my thoughts, accepting good and useful ones, but resisting and rejecting evil ones?

Have I made decent efforts to govern my feelings and my imagination, instead of being governed by them?

During this pandemic Covid-19 have I cared enough for my own health and safety, and for the good of others?

Have I made a good use of my time and my money, avoiding irresponsibility and waste?

Have I respected my body, my sexuality, avoiding impure thoughts and actions and lustful fantasies?

Have I used the entertainment and social media wisely and responsibly?

Have I avoided abusing alcohol and other intoxicating substances?

Have I made good efforts to be responsible in all my duties and obligations, avoiding laziness and procrastination?

Have I made enough efforts to do everything out of love for God and for others, and not just for self-centered motives?

Have I respected my own life and person, taking reasonable care of my physical, emotional and spiritual needs?

*(Moment of silence – instrumental song)*

*Priest:* My brothers and sisters, let us call to mind the goodness of God, our Father, and acknowledge our sins, so that we may receive his mercy and forgiveness.

*Priest and Penitent:* **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.

*Priest:* In obedience to Christ himself, let us join in prayer to the Father, asking him to forgive us as we forgive others.

*Priest and Penitent:* **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 evil. Amen.

## CONFESSION

*Priest:* Brothers and Sisters, I now invite you to mention your sins before the Lord in your own hearts ....

*(moment of silence – instrumental song).*

*Priest:* Now express your sorrow by saying the following **ACT OF CONTRITION**:

*Priest and Penitent:* My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good, I have sinned against you whom I should love above all things. I firmly intend, with your help, to do penance, to sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin. Our Savior Jesus Christ suffered and died for us. In his name, my God, have mercy.

## GENERAL ABSOLUTION

*(Then the Priest extends his hands over, saying: I now impart to each one of you the 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.**

*Penitent:* Amen.

## CONCLUDING PRAYER

*Priest:* Let us pray

*Priest:* Merciful Lord, with hearts and minds made pure we thank you for doing something new and remembering our sins no more. Stir up our hearts to make ready the paths of your only begotten Son, that through his coming, we may be found worthy of praising and serving you. Through the celebration of the mystery of the Incarnation of our Lord, grant us the strength to share the joy of salvation with our brothers and sisters. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

*People:* Amen.

## FINAL BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

*Priest:* May almighty God bless you, + the Father, + and the Son, + and the Holy Spirit.

*Penitent:* Amen.

*Priest:* The Lord has freed you from your sins. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

*Penitent:* Thanks be to God.

*Recessional Hymn*

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