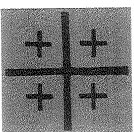


THE RITE OF PENANCE

The Rite for Reconciliation of Individual Penitents

Texts for the Penitent

The penitent should prepare for the celebration of the sacrament by prayer, reading of Scripture, and silent reflection. The penitent should think over and should regret all sins since the last celebration of the sacrament.



RECEPTION OF THE PENITENT

The penitent enters the confessional or other place set aside for the celebration of the sacrament of penance. After the welcoming of the priest, the penitent makes the sign of the cross saying:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

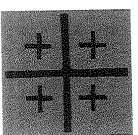
The penitent is invited to have trust in God and answers:
Amen.

READING OF THE WORD OF GOD

The penitent then reads or listens to a text of Scripture which tells about God's mercy and calls people to conversion.

-1-

ACCESSION OF SINS AND CONFESSION OF SATISFACTION



The penitent speaks to the priest in a normal, conversational fashion. The penitent tells when he or she last celebrated the sacrament and then confesses his or her sins. The penitent listens to any advice the priest may give and accepts the satisfaction from the priest. The penitent should ask any appropriate questions.

PRAYER OF THE PENITENT AND ABSOLUTION

Before the absolution is given, the penitent expresses sorrow for sins in these or similar words:

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.

OR

Remember, Lord, your compassion and mercy which you showed long ago.

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Do not recall the sins and failings of my youth. In your mercy remember me, Lord, because of your goodness.

OR

Wash me from my guilt and cleanse me of my sin. I acknowledge my offense; my sin is before me always.

OR

Father, I have sinned against you and am not worthy to be called your son. Be merciful to me, a sinner.

OR

Father of mercy, like the prodigal son I have returned to you and say: "I have sinned against you and am no longer worthy to be called your son."

Christ Jesus, Savior of the world,

I pray with the repentant thief to whom you promised Paradise:

"Lord, remember me in your kingdom."

Holy Spirit, fountain of love, I call on you with trust:

"Purify my heart, and help me to walk as a child of light."

OR

Lord God, in your goodness have mercy on me; do not look upon my sins.

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but take away all my guilt. Create in me a clean heart and renew within me an upright spirit.

OR

Lord Jesus, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

ABSOLUTION

If the penitent is not kneeling, he or she bows his or her head. The priest extends his hands (or at least extends his right hand) and says:

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.

The penitent answers:

Amen.

PROCLAMATION OF PRAISE OF GOD AND DISMISSAL

Penitent and priest give praise to God:

Priest: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

Penitent: His mercy endures for ever.

Then the penitent is dismissed by the priest.

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