



Come, Holy Spirit!

A COMMUNAL PENANCE SERVICE
FOR THOSE TO BE CONFIRMED

ORDER OF SERVICE

RITE FOR RECONCILIATION OF SEVERAL PENITENTS
WITH INDIVIDUAL CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

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INTRODUCTORY RITES

The assembly stands for the Entrance Chant.

Entrance Chant

Select from one of the following songs or another suitable selection.

- Come, Holy Ghost
- Send Us Your Spirit
- Veni Sancte Spiritus
- O Holy Spirit, by Whose Breath



Greeting

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

Assembly: Amen.

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

Assembly: And with your spirit.

Introduction

Celebrant: As we prepare for the celebration of Confirmation, we first need to gather and to reflect on our sinfulness. Let us ask the Holy Spirit to be present to us and to help us make a good confession.

Collect

Celebrant: Let us pray.

God our Father, no secret is hidden from you, for every heart is open to you and every wish is known. Fill our hearts with the light of your Holy Spirit to free our thoughts from sin, that we may perfectly love you and fittingly praise you.

Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Assembly: Amen.

The assembly is seated to listen attentively to the Word of God.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading

Ezekiel 36: 24-28

Lector: A reading from the Book of the Prophet Ezekiel

Thus says the Lord God:

I will take you away from among the nations,
and bring you from all the foreign lands,
and bring you back to your own land.

I will sprinkle clean water upon you
to cleanse you from all your impurities,
and from all your idols I will cleanse you.

I will give you a new heart and place a new Spirit within you,
taking from your bodies your stony hearts
and giving you natural hearts.

I will put my Spirit within you and make you live by my statutes,
careful to observe my decrees.

You shall live in the land I gave your fathers;
you shall be my people, and I will be your God.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

- Psalm 51
- Psalm 130



Second Reading

Galatians 5: 16-17, 22-23a, 24-25

Lector: A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Galatians

Brothers and sisters:

Live by the Spirit

and you will certainly not gratify the desire of the flesh.

For the flesh has desires against the Spirit,

and the Spirit against the flesh;

these are opposed to each other,

so that you may not do what you want.

In contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace,

patience, kindness, self-control.

Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified their flesh

with its passions and desires.

If we live in the Spirit, let us also follow the Spirit.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

The assembly stands for the proclamation of the Gospel.

It is suggested that the setting of the Gospel acclamation used by the faith community be used now.



Gospel

John 14: 23-26

Priest / Deacon: A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said to his disciples:
"Whoever loves me will keep my word,
and my Father will love him,
and we will come to him and make our dwelling with him.
Whoever does not love me does not keep my words;
yet the word you hear is not mine
but that of the Father who sent me.

"I have told you this while I am with you.
The Advocate, the Holy Spirit
that the Father will send in my name –
he will teach you everything
and remind you of all that I told you."

The Gospel of the Lord.



The assembly is seated.

Homily

Examination of Conscience

The assembly remains seated for the examination of conscience.

Celebrant: Brothers and sisters, as we have been called by the Spirit to be witnesses of God's love and mercy to the world. Let us now ask the Holy Spirit to shine on the secretive shadows of our hearts.

Reader: The gift of wisdom corresponds to the virtue of charity. Do I use the Spirit's gift of wisdom correctly? Do I judge others or things unfairly? Is my concept of truth in line with gospel teachings? Do I give my time, talent, and treasure freely to others?

Assembly: Come Holy Spirit and enlighten us.

Reader: The gift of understanding corresponds to the virtue of faith. Do I use the Spirit's gift of understanding correctly? Do I eagerly learn new things? Do I refuse to use my mind to seek God in creation? Do I take my faith for granted?

Assembly: Come Holy Spirit and enlighten us.

Reader: The gift of knowledge corresponds to the virtue of faith. Do I use the Spirit's gift of knowledge correctly? Do I cheat on exams or cheat other people? Do I challenge myself to improve my thoughts and actions? Do I reluctantly participate in the life of the Church.

Assembly: Come Holy Spirit and enlighten us.

Reader: The gift of counsel corresponds to the virtue of prudence. Do I think before I act? Do I seek advice from others or let others share with me? Do I shut people out? Do I follow the Golden Rule? Do I overact or display anger or even hatred of others?

Assembly: Come Holy Spirit and enlighten us.

Reader: The gifts of fortitude corresponds to the virtue of fortitude. Do I stand up for my faith? Do my actions model my belief in God? Do I defend the rights of others? Do I gossip or mistreat others? Do I persecute others for their beliefs? Do I follow the Church's teaching on sexual morality? Do I lie because it is easy to do so?

Assembly: Come Holy Spirit and enlighten us.

Reader: The gift of piety corresponds to the virtue of justice. Do I pray? Do I show God my love for him in the way I treat others? Do I attend Church regularly every Sunday? Am I a good family member, friend and neighbor?

Assembly: Come Holy Spirit and enlighten us.

Reader: The gift of fear of the Lord corresponds to the virtue of hope. Do I love God above everything and everyone else? Am I truly sorry for offending God? Do I wish to be reconciled with God and my neighbor? Do I pray for those who have died or those who are going through a rough time?

Assembly: Come Holy Spirit and enlighten us.

RITE OF RECONCILIATION

General Confession of Sins

The celebrant kneels (or bows) and invites the assembly to kneel (or bow) as well.

Celebrant: As we prepare ourselves to experience God's forgiveness let us offer him our prayer and our very selves.

Assembly: 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

Standing, the celebrant invites the assembly to respond to the litany of repentance led by a reader. The response of "Lord, have mercy." may be replaced with another suitable response. An additional option is to sing a suitable song in place of the following litany. Suggestions include: "There Is a Longing" (Quigley); "Save Us, O Lord" (Dufford); or "The King of Love My Shepherd Is" (Baker).

Celebrant: Mindful of our reliance on the compassion of God, we ask for the Lord's grace and healing.

Reader: Eternal Word of God, open our hearts that we may discern our reflections and thoughts as we seek to become ever more faithful disciples of you.

Assembly: Lord, have mercy.

Reader: Source of all, you who are beginning and end, open our ears that we may hear your invitation to new life in your Spirit.

Assembly: Lord, have mercy.

Reader: True light which enlightens everyone, open our eyes to recognize your presence and action in the world that we may give glory to God and follow the path to holiness.

Assembly: Lord, have mercy.

Reader: Lord of Love, you who gave power for us to become children of God, move in us and remove the darkness of bitterness and hatred which prevents us from loving our sisters and brothers as you love us.

Assembly: Lord, have mercy.

Reader: Word become flesh dwelling among us, fill us with your grace and truth that we may bring your holy presence to a broken world rocked by violence and war.

Assembly: Lord, have mercy.

Reader: Prince of Peace, fill us with joy as we recognize your mercy at work in our lives and make us instruments of your peace and reconciliation.

Assembly: Lord, have mercy.

The Lord's Prayer

Celebrant: Let us pray in the words that Jesus gave us...

Assembly: 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.

Celebrant: Lord, fill our hearts with your Holy Spirit to free us from our sins and make us rich in love for you and one another. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Assembly: Amen.

Individual Confession and Absolution

The celebrant or other minister might instruct the assembly about where the confessors will be located for individual confession. It might also be helpful to provide some guidance regarding the format of sacramental confession for the sake of those who are celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation again after an extended period. Such comments could be printed in a worship aid in lieu of, or in addition to an oral announcement. If there is to be a communal ending to the penance service, the assembly should be advised to return to the body of the church following individual confession. If the assembly is welcome to depart following individual confession, proceed with a closing hymn following any instructions that are to be given prior to individual confession.

Proclamation of Praise for God's Mercy

The assembly stands.

Celebrant: Having experienced God's bountiful mercy, let us give thanks and commit ourselves, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to be Christ's witnesses in the world.

A suitable song is sung by the assembly. Suggestions include: "Praise to You, O Christ, Our Savior" (Farrell) or a familiar setting of Psalm 103.

Concluding Prayer of Thanksgiving

Celebrant: Lord, in your mercy you have forgiven our sins. Help us to avoid sin in the future and let us serve you with all our hearts.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Assembly: Amen.



CONCLUDING RITE

Blessing

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

Assembly: And with your spirit.

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

Assembly: Amen.

Dismissal

Celebrant: The Lord has freed you from your sins. Go in peace.

Assembly: Thanks be to God.

Song of Sending Forth

Select from one of the following songs or another suitable selection.

- Glory and Praise to Our God (Schutte)
- God Has Chosen Me (Farrell)
- Love Divine, All Loves Excelling (Wesley/Prichard)
- Praise to You, O Christ, Our Savior (Farrell)
- Walk in the Reign (Cooney)
- We Are the Light of the World (Greif)
- O Holy Spirit, by Whose Breath

