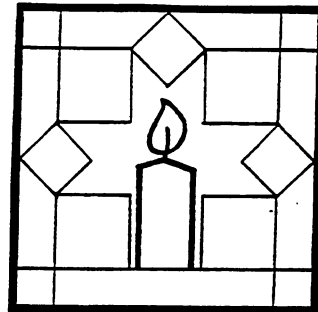


Worship Service 2:

Reconciliation Service



Introduction

The following liturgy follows Form II of the Rite of Penance – a communal reconciliation service with opportunities for individual confession. As part of the examination of conscience, a short skit will be performed. The skit uses garbage as a symbol for sin and recycling as a symbol for reconciliation. God takes us and recycles us so that we do not only come away clean, we come away renewed. Be sure to review this plan in advance – with the presider and other ministers. Also, prepare the actors in the skit so they will be sufficiently rehearsed before the liturgy is celebrated.

Set-Up

Materials

- Copies of this liturgy plan for presider and other ministers
- Worship aide for participants (provided at the end)
- Copies of script for each youth involved (provided at the end)

Worship Space

Chapel or church, other places can also be used. Be sure that there is enough room for confessors to spread out and for people to be able to go to confession with the confidence that what they say to the priest will be confidential.

Ministers Needed

- Presider and other priests as needed to hear confessions
- Lector(s) (several could be used, if desired)
- Youth to dramatize the skit

Order of Service

Call to Worship

The lector welcomes everyone and introduces the presider and other priests.

A popular song that speaks to reconciliation themes can be played at this point, for example, Don Henley's "Heart of the Matter."

The presider and priests enter the sanctuary as the song ends.

Introductory Rite

The presider greets the participants in his own words, then prays the opening prayer.

PRESIDER: Lord, turn to us in mercy and forgive us all our sins that we may
serve you in true freedom. We ask this through Christ our Lord.
ALL: Amen.

Celebrating the Word

READER: Jeremiah 18:1-6

Following the first reading, a song or musical setting for one of the penitential psalms can be used. If no song is desired, the following responsorial psalm may be read: Psalm 32

RESPONSE: Lord, forgive the wrong that I have done.

LECTOR: Happy is one whose fault is taken away, whose sin is covered.
Happy the man to whom the Lord imputes not guilt, in whose
spirit there is no guile.
Response

As long as I would not speak, my bones wasted away with my
groaning all the day. For day and night your hand was heavy
upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.
Response

Then I acknowledged my sin to you, my guilt I covered not. I said, "I confess my faults to the Lord," and you took away the guilt of my sin.

Response

For this shall every faithful one pray to you in time of stress. Though deep waters overflow, they shall not reach them. You are my shelter; from distress you will preserve me; with glad cries of freedom you will ring me round.

Response

I will instruct you and show you the way you should walk; I will counsel you, keeping my eye on you. Be not senseless like horses or mules: with bit and bridle their temper must be curbed, else they will not come near you.

Response

Many are the sorrows of the wicked, but kindness surrounds him who trusts in the Lord. Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, you just; exult, all you upright of heart.

Response

The presider then reads the gospel. Several gospel choices can be used with these readings. Choose from among: Matthew 9:9-13 (I did not come to call the just, but sinners), Luke 7:36-50 (Her many sins must have been forgiven her, because she loved much), Luke 18:9-14 (God, be merciful to me, a sinner).

Homily

Examination of Conscience

The skit is performed by the youth actors. (See the script which follows the liturgy plan.) After the skit has concluded, the lector leads the participants in a reflective examination of conscience as follows.

LECTOR: What garbage are you carrying around that you need to bring to God?

Pause for a count of five

What do you need to allow God to recycle?

Pause.

What part of your life needs to be remade by the hand of God?
Allow a full minute of silence.

LECTOR: Let us remember God's love in our lives and acknowledge our sins, so that we may receive his forgiveness. (Please use the prayer on the Worship Aide.)

ALL: Creator God,
I am sorry for my sins
In choosing to sin, and failing to do good,
I have sinned against You and Your Church
I firmly intend, with the help of Jesus,
to make up for my sins and to love as I should.

Penitential Intercessions

LECTOR: Remake us according to your will...

ALL: and transform our hearts

LECTOR: Give us pardon for our sins...

ALL: and reconcile us with your church

Lord's Prayer

PRESIDER: And now, let us pray in Jesus' words...

ALL: Our Father...

Individual Confessions

LECTOR: We invite you to go to one of our priests to receive a blessing even if you decide not to go to confession.

Let assembly know where the priests are going to be for confession.

During individual reconciliation play soft instrumental music in background. Do not allow it to be completely silent. Invite adults to participate in confessions.

Litany of Praise for God's Mercy

PRESIDER: Please, join me in thanking and praising God for the mercy that he has shown us this evening

ALL: My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant

From this day all generations will call me blessed:
the Almighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his Name.

He has mercy on those who fear him
in every generation.
He has shown the strength of his arm,
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones,
and has lifted up the lowly

He has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent away empty.
He has come to the help of his servant Israel
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,
the promise he made to our fathers and mothers,
to Abraham and Sarah and their children for ever.

PRESIDER: All-holy Father,
you have shown us your mercy
and made us a new creation
in the likeness of your Son.
Make us living signs of your love
for the whole world to see.
We ask this through Jesus our Lord.

ALL: Amen.

Conclusion

PRESIDER: May the Father bless us,
for we are his children, born to eternal life.
ALL: Amen.

PRESIDER: May the Son come to help us,
for he has received us as brothers and sisters.
ALL: Amen.

PRESIDER: May the Spirit be with us,
for he has made us his dwelling place.
ALL: Amen.

PRESIDER: The Lord has freed you from your sins. Go in Peace.
ALL: Thanks be to God.

PRESIDER: Let us offer each other a sign of that peace.

All exchange a sign of peace to conclude.