**Rites of Reconciliation**

Confession of Sin and Assurance of Pardon

*Texts for several alternatives are given below.*

1. The Invitation

*The minister says:*

If we say that we have no sin,

we deceive ourselves,

and the truth is not in us.

If we confess our sins,

God who is faithful and just

will forgive our sins

and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. *I John 1:8, 9*.

In humility and faith

let us confess our sin to God.

The Confession Of Sin

*The people may sit or kneel. The Confession of Sin is said in unison.*

**Merciful God,**

**in your gracious presence**

**we confess our sin**

**and the sin of this world.**

**Although we have found peace in Christ,**

**we are a people divided against ourselves**

**as we cling to the values of a broken world.**

**The profit and pleasures we pursue**

**lay waste the land**

**and pollute the seas.**

**The fears and jealousies that we harbour**

**set neighbour against neighbour**

**and nation against nation.**

**We abuse your good gifts**

**of imagination and freedom,**

**intellect and reason,**

**and have turned them into bonds of oppression.**

**Lord have mercy upon us.**

**Heal us, forgive us and set us free**

**to serve you in the world**

**as agents of your reconciling love in Jesus Christ.**

*Silence*

The Assurance Of Pardon

*The people stand* *for the* assurance of pardon *and* the peace *as the minister says*:

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The Peace

Since we are reconciled to God in Christ,

let us share the peace with one another.

May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

**And also with you.**

Let us offer each other a sign of peace.

**The peace of Christ be with you.**

*The people will reach out to one another with an appropriate sign of Peace*.

1. The Invitation

The proof of God's amazing love is this:

while we were sinners

Christ died for us. *Rom. 5:8.*

In faith and penitence,

let us confess our sin

before God and one another.

The Confession

**God of mercy:**

**you have called us to be thankful**

**for your good gifts to us,**

**but too often we have taken them for granted**

**as if we deserved them.**

**You have called us to be hopeful**

**through the gospel of Jesus Christ,**

**but too often despair has come upon us,**

**and the cares of the world**

**have weighed us down.**

**You have called us to be joyful**

**in the wonder of your presence among us,**

**but too often we become mired in the mundane**

**and lose the gift of reverence.**

**By your saving power, O God,**

**enable us to celebrate your love for us**

**with joy and thanksgiving.** *Ps. 69:29, 30***.**

*Silent reflection.*

The Assurance

The mercy of the Lord

is from everlasting to everlasting.

In fulfillment of the promises of God

I declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ,

you are forgiven.

**All glory be to God. Amen.**

The Peace

May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

**And also with you.**

Let us offer each other a sign of peace.

**The peace of Christ be with you.**

*The people will reach out to one another with an appropriate sign of Peace*.

1. The Invitation

As we confess our sin

let us remember that

our Lord Jesus can sympathize with our weaknesses

since in every respect he has been tempted as we are yet without sin.

Let us then with confidence

draw near to the throne of grace,

that we may receive mercy

and find grace to help in time of need.  *Heb. 4:15-16.*

The Confession

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*Silence*.

The Assurance

Friends in Christ,

hear and believe the good news!

"If we confess our sins,

God is faithful and just, and will forgive our sins

and cleanse us from all unrighteousness." *I John 1:9.*

We may trust the mercy of God:

in Jesus Christ our sin is forgiven.

**Thanks be to God.**

The Peace

The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

1. The Invitation

We know that nothing is able to separate us from the love

of God in Jesus Christ.

Let us, therefore, be free to confess the wrong we have done.

The Confession

**God of mercy;**

**as we gather to celebrate your gift of love**

**we recall with sorrow**

**the times when we forget you**

**and are divided one from the other.**

**How often our thoughts, our words,**

**and our actions,**

**have betrayed the goodness you have shown to us.**

**Forgive us, merciful God.**

**Mend what is broken.**

**Heal the wounded relationships**

**that separate us from you and one another;**

**through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

*Silent reflection.*

The Assurance

While it is true that we have sinned,

it is a greater truth that we are forgiven

through God's love in Jesus Christ.

To all who humbly seek the mercy of God I say,

in Jesus Christ your sin is forgiven.

**Thanks be to God.**

The Peace

May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

**And also with you.**

Let us offer each other a sign of peace.

**The peace of Christ be with you.**

**A Confession From Scripture**

*A confession based on the words of Scripture such as Psalm 51 may be used.*

**Have mercy on us, O God,**

 **according to your steadfast love;**

**according to your abundant mercy**

 **blot out our transgressions.**

**Wash us thoroughly from our iniquity,**

 **and cleanse us from our sin.**

**Create in us a clean heart, O God,**

 **and put a new and right spirit within us.**

**Restore to us the joy of your salvation,**

 **and sustain in us a willing spirit.**

**Amen.** *Ps. 51:1-2, 10, 11, 12*.

*Silent reflection.*