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Reconciliation and Restoration: Recovering Baptism

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The Reconciliation of a Penitent: Form One

The Gathering

The Greeting

The priest may say

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

Amen.

The priest welcomes the penitent, saying

The Lord Jesus, who came to reconcile sinners, welcomes all who are penitent.
Grace, mercy and peace be with you and also with you.

The Liturgy of the Word

Readings

The priest may say

The Lord our God is gracious and merciful; he does not desire the

death of sinners but rather that they should turn from their sins and

live. He has given power and commandment to his ministers, to

declare and pronounce to his penitent people the absolution and

remission of their sins. He pardons and absolves all those who truly

repent and believe in his holy gospel. Let us therefore pray that he

will grant you true repentance and the grace and comfort of the

Holy Spirit.

(or)

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is

not in us. If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive us

our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. *1 John 1.8,9*

The priest and penitent say together

Have mercy on me, O God, in your great goodness; according to the abundance of your compassion blot out my offences.

Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness and cleanse me from my sin.

Make me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Psalm 51.1,2,11

Other suitable verses from Scripture may be said

Matthew 6.14,15; Matthew 11.28; Mark 1.14,15; Luke 6.31-38; Luke 15.1-7; John 3.16; John 10.19-23; Romans 5.6-9; 8.1-2; Romans 8.38,39; Ephesians 5.1,2; Colossians 1.12-14; Colossians 3.8-10,12-17; 1 Timothy 1.15; 1 John 1.6,7,9; 2.1,2.

Confession and Counsel

The priest says

The Lord be in your heart and on your lips that you may truly and humbly confess your sins.

Confession

The penitent makes confession of sins in his or her own words, beginning

I confess to almighty God, before the whole company of heaven and before you

or this form may be used
Almighty God,
long-suffering and of great goodness:
I confess to you,

I confess with my whole heart my neglect and forgetfulness of your commandments, my wrong doing, thinking, and speaking; the hurts I have done to others, and the good I have left undone.

In particular I confess [since my last confession in ... / in this my first confession] ...

O God, for these, and all other sins that I cannot now remember, I ask your forgiveness.

Forgive me, for I have sinned against you; and raise me to newness of life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The priest may give appropriate counsel or guidance and whatever help is necessary to enable the penitent to complete his or her confession.

The priest encourages the penitent to make restitution, and may recommend some prayer or action as a sign of repentance.

The priest may, where appropriate, offer the ministry of prayer (see Note 7, page 271).

Reconciliation

Act of Contrition

The penitent makes an act of contrition using these or similar words

My God, for love of you I desire to hate and forsake all sins by which I have ever displeased you; and I resolve by the help of your grace to commit them no more; and to avoid all opportunities of sin. Help me to do this, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Absolution

The priest lays hands on, or extends hands over, the penitent. The

priest may make the sign of the cross over the penitent or on the

penitent's forehead. The priest pronounces an authorized Absolution

(pages 288-289).

Thanksgiving

The priest and penitent may give thanks

Know that there is joy in heaven over each one who repents.

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is gracious, for his faithfulness endures for ever.

For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is his mercy upon those who fear him.

As far as the east is from the west, so far has he set our sins from us. Psalm

The priest may say

106.1:103.11.12

Merciful Lord, we thank you that you have delivered this your servant from the power of sin and restored *him/her* to your peace in the fellowship of your Church; strengthen *him/her* by your Spirit, that *he/she* may please you until *he/she* comes to the fullness of your eternal kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

God of grace and life, in your love you have given us a place among your people; keep us faithful to our baptism, and prepare us for that glorious day when the whole creation will be made perfect in your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

The priest and penitent may say the Lord's Prayer.

The Dismissal

The priest may say a blessing

May Christ, who out of defeat brings new hope and a new future, fill you with his new life; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

Amen.

(or)

May God, who in Christ has reconciled all things in heaven and earth, grant you grace to walk the path of forgiveness; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

Amen.

The Dismissal

Priest The Lord has put away your sins.
Penitent **Thanks be to God.**Priest Go in peace, and pray for me, a sinner.

The Reconciliation of a Penitent: Form Two

(An Individual Renewal of the Baptismal Covenant after Sin)

The Gathering

The Greeting

The priest may say

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

The priest welcomes the penitent and together in silence they prepare for the celebration of this ministry.

The Liturgy of the Word

Readings

The priest says

All who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death. Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. *Romans 6.3,4*

A brief silence is kept. Then the priest and penitent say one of the following

The Lord is loving to everyone and his mercy is over all his creatures.

The Lord is near to those who call upon him, to all who call upon him faithfully.

He fulfils the desire of those who fear him; he hears their cry and saves them. Psalm 145. 9,19,20

(or)

The Lord is full of compassion and mercy, slow to anger and of great kindness.

He will not always accuse us, neither will he keep his anger for ever.

He has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.

As a father has compassion on his children, so is the Lord merciful towards those who fear him. For he knows of what we are made; he remembers that we are but dust.

Psalm 103. 8-10,13,14

(or)

Have mercy on me, O God, in your great goodness; according to the abundance of your compassion blot out my offences.

Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness and cleanse me from my sin.

Make me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from your presence and take not your holy spirit from me.

Give me again the joy of your salvation and sustain me with your gracious spirit.

O Lord, open my lips and my mouth shall proclaim your praise. Psalm 51.1.2.11-13.16

Confession and Counsel

The priest says

At your baptism you repented of the sins that separate you from

God and your neighbour, you were cleansed from your sins and

born again, you were washed with the Holy Spirit and made clean.

Do you desire once again to walk in newness of life by confession

of your sins?

I do.

Confession

Now in the presence of Christ and of me, his minister, confess your sins with a humble and obedient heart to almighty God, our creator and redeemer.

The penitent makes confession of sins in his or her own words, beginning

I confess to almighty God, before the whole company of heaven and before you ...

or this form may be used

Holy God, heavenly Father, you formed me from the dust in your image and likeness,

and redeemed me from sin and death by the cross of your Son Jesus Christ. Through the water of baptism you clothed me with the shining garment of righteousness, and established me among your children in your kingdom.

But I have squandered the inheritance of your saints and have wandered in a far country.

Especially, I confess to you and before the Church ... Therefore, O Lord, from these and all other sins I cannot remember,

I turn in sorrow and repentance.

Receive me again into the arms of your mercy, and restore me to the blessed company of your faithful people;

through him in whom you have redeemed the world, your Son our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

The penitent may make the sign of the cross with water. The priest may give appropriate counsel or guidance and whatever help is necessary to enable the penitent to complete his or her confession.

The priest encourages the penitent to make restitution, and may recommend some prayer or action as a sign of repentance. The priest may, where appropriate, offer the ministry of prayer

(see Note 7, page 271).

Reconciliation

Act of Contrition

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Absolution

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Give thanks to the Lord, for he is gracious, for his faithfulness endures for ever.

For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is his mercy upon those who fear him. As far as the east is from the west, so far has he set our sins from us.

Psalm 106.1;103.11,12

The Lord's Prayer

The priest and penitent may say the Lord's Prayer.

The Dismissal

The priest may say a blessing

May Christ, who out of defeat brings new hope and a new future, fill you with his new life; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

Amen.

(or)

May God, who in Christ has reconciled all things in heaven and earth, grant you grace to walk the path of forgiveness; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

Amen.

The Dismissal

Priest The Lord has put away your sins.
Penitent **Thanks be to God.**Priest Go in peace, and pray for me, a sinner.

Authorized Absolutions

suitable for use with individuals

1

Our Lord Jesus Christ, who has left power to his Church to absolve all sinners who truly repent and believe in him, of his great mercy forgive you your offences: and by his authority committed to me, I absolve you from all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

2

God, the Father of mercies, has reconciled the world to himself

through the death and resurrection of his Son, Jesus Christ,
not counting our trespasses against us,
but sending his Holy Spirit
to shed abroad his love among us.
By the ministry of reconciliation
entrusted by Christ to his Church,
receive his pardon and peace
to stand before him in his strength alone,
this day and evermore.

Amen.

A1116

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who in his great mercy has promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with heartfelt repentance and true faith turn to him: have mercy on you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

4

Amen.

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

5

The Lord enrich you with his grace, and nourish you with his blessing; the Lord defend you in trouble and keep you from all evil; the Lord accept your prayers, and absolve you from your offences, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Saviour.

Amen.

6

The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon and forgiveness of all your sins, time for amendment of life, and the grace and strength of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**