



LITURGICAL PREPARATION AID  
FOR THE SEASONS OF  
ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

2023 - 2024 • YEAR B

FEDERATION OF DIOCESAN LITURGICAL COMMISSIONS

  
FDLC

**A LITURGICAL PREPARATION AID  
FOR THE SEASONS OF  
ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS**

**December 3, 2023 to January 8, 2024**

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GRACE, MERCY, AND PEACE TO YOU  
✠  
A PENANCE SERVICE  
FOR ADVENT 2023

**The Order of Reconciling Several Penitents  
with Individual Confession and Absolution**

**The Introductory Rites**

**Liturgical Song  
Greeting  
Introduction  
Prayer**

**The Celebration of the Word of God**

**First Reading  
Responsorial Psalm  
Second Reading  
Gospel Acclamation  
Gospel  
Homily  
Examination of Conscience**

**The Rite of Reconciliation**

**General Confession of Sin  
Litany  
Lord's Prayer  
Concluding Prayer  
Individual Confession and Absolution  
Proclamation of Praise for God's Mercy  
Concluding Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**The Concluding Rites**

**Blessing  
Dismissal  
Closing Hymn**

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## PREPARATION

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- *Hospitality Ministers should be recruited to welcome the assembly as they arrive and to distribute worship aids.*
- *At least two readers should be appointed to proclaim the reading(s), to read the Examination of Conscience, and to lead the Litany of Repentance. They are to be seated in the assembly.*
- *A musician and cantor(s) should lead the assembly in song. Instrumental music may be played during individual confession. (A list of music suggestions is included herein.)*
- *A Bible -which is approved for liturgical use in the dioceses of the United States, i.e., NABRE -- or Lectionary should be readied with the appropriate readings.*
- *Lighting may be subdued. Candle(s) should be lit at the ambo. The appropriate number of candles should be lit on the Advent Wreath.*
- *Stations for confessors should be prepared. Priests might stand or sit in isolated areas around the main body of the church to receive penitents. In this way, the communal nature of the rite is maintained. Candles may light these stations.*
- *For the sake of simplicity, the presider alone or the presider and preacher could participate in the procession. Other priests could be seated in the sanctuary or in a reserved area before the liturgy begins.*

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## THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

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### LITURGICAL SONG

*see suggestions herein*

### GREETING

**Presider:** **Grace, mercy, and peace to you from God the Father  
and from Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father,  
in truth and in love.**

**All:** **And with your spirit.**

## INTRODUCTION

[SAMPLE]

**Presider:** *In these or similar words...*

**Sometimes it all seems like too much. Nations are at war; politicians are constantly fighting; senseless gun violence steals innocent lives. Refugees flee danger in order to seek safe harbor and, instead, find more danger or closed borders. No place seems safe. Nothing seems to be in right relationship.**

**We are plagued, too, with the guilt of our sins. We especially desire to restore our relationship with God. In this sacrament of reconciliation, let us be mindful of those times when we have failed to follow God's commandments and have contributed to strife and disunity. We come here tonight [today] to ask his forgiveness and to seek the grace to do better.**

**Especially in this Advent season, we are mindful of God's promises. Let us, again and still, remember his kindness and faithfulness, trust in God's mercy, and rest in God's peace.**

## PRAYER

**Presider:** **Let us pray, brothers and sisters,  
that the Advent of the Lord,  
whose mystery we shall celebrate in the coming solemnities,  
will find us watching and prepared.**

*Silent prayer*

**We ask pardon for our offenses,  
O God, Creator of the heavens,  
so that, as we await the appearing of our Redeemer,  
we may be found worthy  
to receive forgiveness for our sins.  
Through Christ our Lord.**

**All:** **Amen**

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## THE CELEBRATION OF THE WORD OF GOD

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*The following are suggested readings. Alternative readings may be selected. The preacher may wish to use one, two, or three readings. If only one is chosen, it is preferable that it be the gospel.*

*For ease of rehearsal, the readings are printed elsewhere in this booklet. A Lectionary or Bible --which has been approved for liturgical use in the dioceses of the United States, i.e., NABRE - should be used during the liturgy.*

### FIRST READING

**Joel 2:12-19**

*Return to me with your whole heart.*

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**Psalm 85:2-4, 5-6, 7-8, 9-10, 11-12, 13-14**

*Show us, O Lord, your mercy, and grant us your salvation.*

### SECOND READING

**Ephesians 2:1-10**

*God, because of the great love he had for us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, brought us to life with Christ.*

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**John 14:23**

*Whoever loves me will keep my word, says the Lord, and my Father will love him and we will come to him.*

### GOSPEL

**John 15:9-14**

*You are my friends if you do what I command you.*

### HOMILY

## **EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE**

*The assembly is now invited to make an examination of conscience. This can be done in silence or by using the sample examination below. One reader alone may read the questions or two readers might alternate. Allow a brief period of silence between each one.*

### **Reader #1: How have I failed to worship God in private and communal prayer?**

- **Do I receive the sacraments regularly?**
- **Do I keep Sundays and holy days sacred?**
- **Do I value the sacrament of reconciliation? Do I sincerely want to be set free from sin, to turn again to God and to begin a new life in deeper friendship with God?**
- **Have I tried to grow in my faith through prayer and the reading of the word of God?**
- **Do I pray daily?**
- **Do I trust God's goodness and providence, even in times of crisis and doubt?**

### **Reader #2: How have I failed to use the gifts of God in daily living?**

- **Do I respect my own body as a gift from God?**
- **Do I control my vices, including abuses of food and drink?**
- **Have I made good use of the gifts God has given me?**
- **Do I work too hard and too long? Do I neglect my family and health?**
- **Have I been lazy and given too much time to leisure or entertainment?**

### **Reader #1: How have I failed in my relationships with others?**

- **In my household, have I contributed to the well-being and happiness of the rest of my family? Am I patient? Am I loving?**
- **Do I treat my parents [children] with respect?**
- **Am I ever angry with those I love?**

- **Have I been faithful in my relationships?**
- **Have I imposed my will on others without respecting their freedom and rights? Am I intolerant of other's ideas or needs?**
- **Have I perpetuated racism, prejudices and stereotypes?**
- **Do I treat people with disabilities with respect?**
- **Have I indulged in reading, conversation, or entertainments that are contrary to Christian decency and respect for human life?**

**Reader #2: Have I failed to share God's love with the world?**

- **Do I share my time and my treasure with others in need?**
- **When I saw someone hungry, did I give them food?**
- **When I saw someone thirsty, did I give them drink?**
- **When I saw someone needing clothing, did I clothe them?**
- **When I saw a stranger, did I welcome them?**
- **When someone was homebound or imprisoned, did I visit them?**
- **When someone was ill, did I care for them?**
- **Do I fail to speak out on behalf of the poor or the oppressed?**
- **Do I use the earth's resources wisely?**





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## THE RITE OF RECONCILIATION

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### GENERAL CONFESSION OF SINS

At the invitation of the Deacon, or of another minister, all kneel or bow, and together say a general formula (e.g., *I confess to almighty God*) for confession. Then they stand and, if appropriate, use a litany or an appropriate liturgical song.

**Deacon or**

**Minister:** Brothers and sisters, confess your sins,  
and pray for one another that you may be saved.

**All:** 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

**Deacon or**

**Minister:** Let us humbly pray to Christ our Savior,  
whom we have as a righteous advocate with the Father,  
that he will forgive us our sins  
and cleanse us from all iniquity.

**Deacon or**

**Minister:** You were sent to bring good news to the poor  
and to heal the contrite of heart.

**All:** Lord, be merciful to me, a sinner.

**OR:** Lord, have mercy.

**Deacon or**

**Minister:** You did not come to call the righteous, but sinners.

**All:** Lord, be merciful to me, a sinner.

**OR:** Lord, have mercy.

**Deacon or**

**Minister:** You forgave much to the woman who loved much.

**All:** Lord, be merciful to me, a sinner.

**OR:** Lord, have mercy.

**Deacon or**

**Minister:** **You did not refuse to sit at table with tax collectors and sinners.**

All: Lord, be merciful to me, a sinner.

OR: Lord, have mercy.

**Deacon or**

**Minister:** **You carried the lost sheep on your shoulders back to the fold.**

All: Lord, be merciful to me, a sinner.

OR: Lord, have mercy.

**Deacon or**

**Minister:** **You did not condemn the woman taken in adultery  
but told her to go in peace.**

All: Lord, be merciful to me, a sinner.

OR: Lord, have mercy.

**Deacon or**

**Minister:** **You called Zacchaeus the tax collector to conversion  
and new life.**

All: Lord, be merciful to me, a sinner.

OR: Lord, have mercy.

**Deacon or**

**Minister:** **You promised paradise to the repentant thief.**

All: Lord, be merciful to me, a sinner.

OR: Lord, have mercy.

**Deacon or**

**Minister::** **You are seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and live for ever to intercede for us.**

All: Lord, be merciful to me, a sinner.

OR: Lord, have mercy.

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

**Deacon or**

**Minister:** **Let us pray together to the Father  
as Christ himself commanded us,  
that, as we forgive one another our trespasses,  
he will forgive us our sins:**

**Our Father ...**

## PRAYER

**Priest:** Almighty and eternal God,  
who by the Incarnation of your Only Begotten Son  
mercifully reconciled the world to your majesty,  
grant, we pray,  
that the clouds of sin may flee from hearts made tranquil  
and that, as the light grows stronger,  
the mysteries of the Lord's Nativity  
may always be celebrated with unsullied joy.  
Through Christ our Lord.

**All:** Amen.

## INDIVIDUAL CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

*The presider or other minister might tell the assembly where the confessors will be located. Some brief words regarding the manner of confession should be given. The people may be encouraged to accept one of the penances which are found in the worship aid or the confessors may give a penance suited to the individual. The assembly may be advised to remain in church if there is to be a common ending. Quiet instrumental music might be played during this time.*

## PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

**Confessor:** God, the Father of mercies,  
through the Death and Resurrection of his Son  
has reconciled the world to himself  
and poured out the Holy Spirit for the forgiveness of sins;  
through the ministry of the Church  
may God grant 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.

**Penitent:** Amen.

## PROCLAMATION OF PRAISE FOR GOD'S MERCY

Psalm 98:1, 2-3b, 3c-4, 5-6, 7-9b, 9cd

**R: The Lord has remembered his merciful love.**

O sing a new song to the LORD,  
for he has worked wonders.  
His right hand and his holy arm  
have brought salvation.

**R: The Lord has remembered his merciful love.**

The LORD has made known his salvation,  
has shown his deliverance to the nations.  
He has remembered his merciful love  
and his truth for the house of Israel.

**R: The Lord has remembered his merciful love.**

All the ends of the earth have seen  
the salvation of our God.  
Shout to the LORD, all the earth;  
break forth into joyous song,  
and sing out your praise.

**R: The Lord has remembered his merciful love.**

Sing psalms to the LORD with the harp,  
with the harp and the sound of song.  
With trumpets and the sound of the horn  
raise a shout before the King, the LORD.

**R: The Lord has remembered his merciful love.**

Let the sea and all within it thunder;  
the world, and those who dwell in it.  
Let the rivers clap their hands,  
and the hills ring out their joy  
at the presence of the LORD, for he comes,  
he comes to judge the earth.

**R: The Lord has remembered his merciful love.**

He will judge the world with justice,  
and the peoples with faithfulness.

**R: The Lord has remembered his merciful love.**

*ALTERNATES: The Magnificat, a hymn, litany or psalm may be prayed in acknowledgment of God's power and compassion. See the enclosed music suggestions or use one of the Scripture citations below.*

**Psalm 28:6-7**

**Psalm 32: 1-7, 10-11**

**Psalm 54**

**Psalm 66**

**Psalm 95**

**Psalm 100:1-5**

**Psalm 103:1-4, 8-18**

**Psalm 100: 1-5**

**Psalm 119: 1, 10-16, 18, 33, 105, 169-170, 174-175**

**Psalm 136: 1-9, 13-14, 16, 25-29**

**Psalm 145:1, 9, 10-11, 12-13**

**Psalm 146:2-10**

**Tobit 13:1-8**

**Isaiah 12: 1b-6**

**Isaiah 61: 10-11**

**Jeremiah 31: 10-14**

**Daniel 3:52-57**

**Ephesians 1:3-10**

**Revelation 15: 3-4**

## **CONCLUDING PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

**Presider: Almighty and merciful God,  
who wonderfully created human nature,  
and still more wonderfully restored it,  
you do not abandon sinners,  
but pursue them with a father's love;  
you sent your Son into the world  
to destroy sin and death by his Passion  
and restore life and joy by the Resurrection;  
you poured the Holy Spirit into our hearts  
that we might be your children and heirs;  
you constantly renew us by the Sacraments of salvation,  
that we may be freed from slavery to sin  
and be transformed more fully day by day  
into the image of your beloved Son.**

**We give you thanks for the wonders of your mercy  
and praise you with the whole Church,  
singing to you a new song  
with voice, heart, and deed.  
To you be glory, through Christ, in the Holy Spirit,  
now and for ever.**

**All: Amen.**

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## THE CONCLUDING RITES

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### GREETING

**Presider:** The Lord be with you.

**All:** And with your spirit.

**Deacon:** Bow down for the blessing

### BLESSING

**Presider:** May the Father,  
who has given us birth to eternal life, bless us.

**All:** Amen.

**Presider:** May the Son,  
who died for us and rose again, grant us salvation.

**All:** Amen.

**Presider:** May the Spirit,  
who has been poured into our hearts  
and has lead us back onto the right path, sanctify us.

**All:** Amen.

### DISMISSAL

**Deacon or  
Minister:** The Lord has forgiven your sins.  
Go in peace.

**All:** Thanks be to God.

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## READINGS

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### FIRST READING

Joel 2:12-19

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Joel

Even now says the LORD,  
return to me with your whole heart,  
with fasting, and weeping, and mourning;  
Rend your hearts, not your garments,  
and return to the LORD, your God.  
For gracious and merciful is he,  
slow to anger, rich in kindness,  
and relenting in punishment.  
Perhaps he will again relent  
and leave behind him a blessing,  
Offerings and libations  
for the LORD your God.

Blow the trumpet in Zion!  
proclaim a fast,  
call an assembly;  
Gather the people,  
notify the congregation;  
Assemble the elders,  
gather the children  
and the infants at the breast;  
Let the bridegroom quit his room  
and the bride her chamber.  
Between the porch and the altar  
let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep,  
And say "Spare, O LORD, your people,  
and make not your heritage a reproach,  
with the nations ruling over them!  
Why should they say among the peoples,  
'Where is their God?'"

Then the LORD was stirred with concern for his land  
and took pity on his people.  
The LORD answered and said to his people:  
See I will send you  
grain, and wine, and oil,  
and you shall be filled with them;  
No more will I make you a reproach among the nations.

The word of the Lord.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

Psalm 85:2-4, 5-6, 7-8, 9-10, 11-12, 13-14

**R: Show us, O Lord, your mercy, and grant us your salvation.**

O LORD, you have favored your land,  
and brought back the captives of Jacob.  
You forgave the guilt of your people  
and covered all their sins.  
You averted all your rage;  
you turned back the heat of your anger.

**R: Show us, O Lord, your mercy, and grant us your salvation.**

Bring us back, O God, our savior!  
Put an end to your grievance against us.  
Will you be angry with us forever?  
Will your anger last from age to age?

**R: Show us, O Lord, your mercy, and grant us your salvation.**

Will you not restore again our life,  
that your people may rejoice in you?  
Show us, O LORD, your mercy,  
and grant us your salvation.

**R: Show us, O Lord, your mercy, and grant us your salvation.**

I will hear what the LORD God speaks;  
he speaks of peace to his people and his faithful,  
and those who turn their hearts to him.  
His salvation is near for those who fear him,  
and his glory will dwell in our land.

**R: Show us, O Lord, your mercy, and grant us your salvation.**

Mercy and faithfulness have met;  
justice and peace have kissed.  
Faithfulness shall spring from the earth,  
and justice look down from heaven.

**R: Show us, O Lord, your mercy, and grant us your salvation.**

Also the LORD will bestow his bounty  
and our earth shall yield its increase.  
Righteousness will march before him,  
and guide his steps on the way.

**R: Show us, O Lord, your mercy, and grant us your salvation.**



**SECOND READING**

**Ephesians 2:1-10**

**A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians.**

**Brothers and sisters:**

**You were dead in your transgressions and sins  
in which you once lived following the age of this world,  
following the ruler of the power of the air,  
the spirit that is now at work in the disobedient.**

**All of us once lived among them in the desires of our flesh,  
following the wishes of the flesh and the impulses,  
and we were by nature children of wrath, like the rest.**

**But God, who is rich in mercy,  
because of the great love he had for us,  
even when we were dead in our transgressions,  
brought us to life in Christ (by grace you have been saved),  
raised us up with him,  
and seated us with him in the heavens in Christ Jesus,  
that in the ages to come  
he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace  
in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.**

**For by grace you have been saved through faith,  
and this is not from you; it is the gift of God;  
it is not from works, so no one may boast.**

**For we are his handiwork, created in Christ Jesus for good works  
that God has prepared in advance,  
that we should live in them.**

**The word of the Lord.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**John 14:23**

**Alleluia, alleluia.**

Whoever loves me will keep my word, says the Lord,  
and my Father will love him and we will come to him.

**Alleluia, alleluia.**

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to John**

**Jesus said to his disciples:**

**“As the Father loves me, so I love you.**

**Remain in my love.**

**If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love,  
just as I have kept my Father’s commandments  
and remain in his love.**

**“I have told you this so that my joy might be in you  
and your joy might be complete.**

**This is my commandment: love one another as I love you.**

**No one has greater love than this,  
to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.**

**You are my friends if you do what I command you.”**

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

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## ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICE: ALTERNATIVE READINGS

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### OLD TESTAMENT

		<u>Cf. Lectionary #</u>
Isaiah 25:6-10a	The LORD will save us.	142
Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10	God will come to save us.	181
Isaiah 40:1-11	God consoles his people	182
Isaiah 45:6c-8, 18, 21c-25	There is no just and saving God but me.	189
Isaiah 54: 1-10	The LORD calls you back.	190
Isaiah 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7	O, that you would rend the heavens and come down	2
Jeremiah 7:21-26	Listen to my voice...I will be your God and you will be my people	240
Jeremiah 23:5-8	I will raise up a righteous shoot to David...	194
Zephaniah 3:14-18a	The Lord has removed judgment against you...the Lord is in your midst	572

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 25	Teach me your ways, O Lord.	3
Psalm 36:2-13	How precious is your unfailing love, O Lord.	398
Psalm 51: 3-21	Give back to me the joy of your salvation.	22
Psalm 72: 1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17	Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.	4
Psalm 103: 1-2, 3-4, 8, 10	The Lord is kind and merciful.	30
Psalm 130: 1-8	With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.	34
Psalm 145: 1, 9, 10-11, 12-13	The Lord is gracious and merciful; slow to anger and of great kindness.	54
Psalm 147:1-6	Blessed are all who wait for the LORD.	19

### NEW TESTAMENT

Romans 3: 22-26	Justified by the gift of God, Christ Jesus	85
Romans 4:13-17, 20-25	Inheritance through faith	472
Romans 6:2-14	You must think of yourselves as dead to sin and living for God	949
Romans 12:1-2, 9-19	Rejoice in hope, endure in affliction...	802
2 Corinthians 5:17-21	God reconciled the world to himself through Christ.	33
Ephesians 1: 3-14	The Father's plan of salvation	104
Ephesians 4: 22-32	Forgiving one another as God has forgiven you in Christ	113ff
Philippians 1:4-11	Show yourself pure and blameless for the day of Christ	6
Philippians 4: 6-9	Have no anxiety at all	139
James 5:7-10	Make your hearts firm, the coming of the LORD is at hand	7
1 Peter 1:13-23	You have been redeemed...by the precious blood of Christ	OP 166
1 Peter 1:14-21	You were ransomed from your futile conduct	[46]
1 John 1:5 -2:2	If we acknowledge our sins he is faithful and just	OP 168

### GOSPEL

Matthew 3:1-12	Reform your lives, the reign of God is at hand	4
Matthew 9:1-8	Have confidence, my son, your sins are forgiven.	380
Matthew 13:24-30	Weeds and wheat growing together	400
Matthew 18:12-14	The shepherd seeks one lost sheep	182
Matthew 21:28-32	A man had two sons... John came and sinners believed in him	136
Luke 7: 18b-23	Go tell John what you have seen and heard	189
Luke 19: 1-10	The Son of Man has come to search out and save what was lost	153
John 1:29-34	Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world	64
John 5:33-36	I have testimony greater than John's	191

### PROCLAMATION OF PRAISE

Psalm 32: 1-7, 10-11	Rejoice in the Lord and sing for joy, friends of God	OP 206.1
Psalm 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13	The Lord is gracious and merciful; slow to anger and of great kindness.	54

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## SAMPLE PENANCES

*Choose one of the following penances as a way of accepting God's mercy.*

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### ◆ SUGGESTED PENANCES FOR ADULTS ◆

- Pray Psalm 51, 63, 72, 80, 122, 145, or 146 and reflect on its meaning in your life.
- Plan a visit or make a call to someone who is ill or alone.
- During the next week, spend an hour in prayer for those who are the victims of war or gun violence. Read Matthew 25: 31-46.
- Make a commitment to bring food to the parish food bank.
- As a family, prepare a basket of food or toiletries and give it to a family in need.
- Skip a meal at your favorite restaurant. Use the money to purchase a Christmas gift for a person served by a parish organization or local charity.
- Identify a person whom you have offended since your last confession and pray for them each day for a week.
- Pray the Our Father once a day for a month in thanksgiving for the joy of reconciliation.
- Reflect on one of the following Advent readings:

Isaiah 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7	Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11
1 Corinthians 1:3-9	1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11	2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16
2 Peter 3:8-14	Romans 16:25-27

### ◆ SUGGESTED PENANCES FOR CHILDREN AND TEENS ◆

- Every morning until Christmas, say a Hail Mary for peace.
- Reach out to a lonely person at school. Invite him or her to sit with you and your friends.
- Donate your next babysitting wages to the poor.
- For one whole week, do the dishes or set the table without being asked.
- Donate the money you would have spent on a video game to a local shelter. Send it anonymously.
- Share some of your Christmas treats with a schoolmate you find difficult to like.
- Give up some leisure time to shovel an elderly neighbor's driveway.

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**MUSIC SUGGESTIONS FOR THE ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE 2023**

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**HYMNS**

A Voice Cries Out	Michael Joncas	OCP
All You Who Are Thirsty	Michael Connelly	RS644
Amazing Grace	John Newton	various
Christ our Light	Genevieve Glen, OSB	Archdiocese of Cincinnati*
Christians, Let Us Love One Another	Foltz/Nigro	OCP
Clear the Voice	Hagan/Walker	OCP
Come to the Water	Grayson Brown	OCP
Come to Us, Emmanuel	Light/Tate	GIA
Come, Emmanuel	Light/Tate	WLP
Come, O Long Expected Jesus	Wesley/Witt	various
Come, Ye Thankful People, Come	Henry Alford	various
Comfort, Comfort, O My People	Olearius/Goudimel	various
Faith and Truth and Life Bestowing	Jones. Dudley-Smith	Hope
Find Us Ready	Tom Booth	GIA
Gift of God	Marty Haugen	GIA
God's Holy Mountain We Ascend	Omar Westendorf	WLP
Help Me, Lord	Jerry Galipeau	WLP
I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light	Kathleen Thomerson	various
I Will Be Your God	Gerard Chiusano	OCP
Lead Us to Your Light	Carol Browning	GIA
Let Desert Wasteland Now Rejoice	Delores Duffer	GIA
Let Justice Roll Like a River	Marty Haugen	GIA
Lift Up the Trumpet	Eurydice Osterman	GAI
Maranatha, Come	Francis P. O'Brien	GIA
My Soul in Stillness Waits	Marty Haugen	GIA
O Beauty, Ever Ancient	Roc O'Connor	OCP
On Jordan's Bank	Coffin/Wittwe	OCP, various
Our Darkness	Taize	GIA
Our Father, We Have Wandered	Kevin Nichols/ICEL	OCP
Patience, People	John Foley	OCP
Praise the Lord, My Soul	Tom Parker	GIA
Ready the Way	Bob Hurd	OCP
Seek the Lord	Roc O'Connor	various
Sion, Sing	Lucien Deiss	WLP
The Advent of Our God	Coffin/Mercer	WLP
The King of Love My Shepherd Is	Henry W. Baker	various
The Master Came to Bring Good News	Ralph Finn	GIA; various
The Reign of God	Delores Dufner	GIA
The Trumpet in the Morning	Rory Cooney	GIA
There's a Wideness in God's Mercy	Frederick Faber	various
This is My Will	Henry James	GIA; various
Though the Mountains May Fall	Dan Schutte	OCP
Treasures Out of Darkness/ <i>Tesoros Ocultos</i>	Alan Revering	WLP
Tree of Life	Aaron Thompson	WLP
Turn to Me	John Foley	OCP
Wait on the Lord	Willis Barnett	GIA

\*[Bicentennial Hymn: Christ Our Light - Archdiocese of Cincinnati \(catholicaoc.org\)](http://Bicentennial Hymn: Christ Our Light - Archdiocese of Cincinnati (catholicaoc.org))

Wait While the Seed is Planted	Delores Dufner	GIA
Walk in the Reign	Rory Cooney	GIA
We Are God's Work of Art	Marty Haugen	GIA
When Jesus Passed Through Jericho	Herman Stuempfle	GIA, various
When John Baptized by Jordan's River	Timothy Dudley-Smith	OCP, various
When the King Shall Come Again	Christopher Idle	GIA, various
Where Charity and Love Prevail	Benoit	various
Wild and Lone the Prophets Voice	Carl P. Daw	Hope, GIA

### **OTHER SPANISH-LANGUAGE HYMNS**

<i>Abranse los Cielos</i>	tradicional	OCP, various
<i>Amanecerá el Señor</i>	Mariano Fuertes	San Pablo, OCP
<i>Oh Ven, Oh Ven, Emmanuel</i>	tr. Johnson/Martinez	OCP
<i>Preparen el Camino</i>	Carlos Rosas	OCP
<i>Tiempo de Esperanza</i>	Emilio Vicente Matéu	OCP
<i>Toda la Tierra</i>	Rogelio Zelada/Rodriguez	OCP

### **LITANIES**

Gather Us in Mercy, Lord	Huck/trad chant	GIA
Gift of God	Marty Haugen	GIA
Litany of the Word	Bernadette Farrell	OCP
<i>Letania de Adviento</i>	Jaime Cortez	OCP

### **PROCLAMATIONS OF PRAISE**

Cry out with Joy and Gladness	Paul Tate	WLP, 007381
Cry out with Joy and Gladness	Rudy Borkowski	WLP, 006272
I Turn to You	Joe Mattingly	WLP, 003679
I Turn to You, Lord	Craig and Kristen Colson	OCP, 20267 Z2
I Turn to You, O Lord	Jeremy Young	GIA, G-2896
Isaiah 12	Robert Batastini	GIA, G-2443
Let Us Sing to the Lord/ <i>Cantemos al Señor</i>	Alonso/Mahler	GIA, G-6129
Psalms 32	Isele, Westminster	<i>Psalms &amp; Canticles for Singing</i>
Those Who Seek Your Face	Christopher Walker	OCP, 7150

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**A LITURGICAL YEAR CALENDAR ADVISORY  
FOR THE SEASONS OF ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS**

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DAY	DATE	LITURGICAL DAY	RANK*	COMMENTS
Sunday	Dec 3	First Sunday of Advent – Year B	2	Lect #2 Pss I Funeral Mass not permitted
Monday	Dec 4	Monday of the First Week of Advent	13	Lect #175
Tuesday	Dec 5	Tuesday of the First Week of Advent	13	Lect #176
Wednesday	Dec 6	Wednesday of the First Week of Advent	13	Lect #177
Thursday	Dec 7	Saint Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church	10	Lect #178 or 688
Friday	Dec 8	Solemnity of The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Patronal Feast of the USA)	3	Lect #689 Pss Proper Holy day of obligation Funeral Mass not permitted
Saturday	Dec 9	Saturday of the First Week of Advent	13	Lect #180
Sunday	Dec 10	Second Sunday of Advent	2	Lect #5 Pss II Funeral Mass not permitted
Monday	Dec 11	Monday of the Second Week of Advent	13	Lect # 181
Tuesday	Dec 12	Our Lady of Guadalupe USA	7	Lect #690A or 707-712
Wednesday	Dec 13	Saint Lucy, Virgin and Martyr	10	Lect #183 or 692
Thursday	Dec 14	Saint John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church	10	Lect #184 or 693
Friday	Dec 15	Friday of the Second Week of Advent	13	Lect #185
Saturday	Dec 16	Saturday of the Second Week of Advent	13	Lect #186
Sunday	Dec 17	Third Sunday of Advent ( <i>Gaudete Sunday</i> )	2	Lect # 8 Pss III Funeral Mass not permitted <i>O Antiphons begin</i>
Monday	Dec 18	December 18	9	Lect #194
Tuesday	Dec 19	December 19	9	Lect #195
Wednesday	Dec 20	December 20	9	Lect #196
Thursday	Dec 21	December 21	9	Lect #197
Friday	Dec 22	December 22	9	Lect #198
Saturday	Dec 23	December 23	9	Lect #199
Sunday	Dec 24	Fourth Sunday of Advent	2	Lect #11 Pss IV Funeral Mass not permitted

\*Cf. *Universal Norms on the Liturgical Year and the General Roman Calendar*, no. 59

**ADVENT**

DAY	DATE	LITURGICAL DAY	RANK*	COMMENTS
Sunday and Monday	Dec 24 and Dec 25	The Nativity of the Lord/ Christmas	2	Holy day of obligation Funeral Mass not permitted Genuflect at “ <i>and by the Holy Spirit...became man.</i> ” Vigil: Lect #13 Midnight: Lect #14 Dawn: Lect #15 Day: Lect #16
Tuesday	Dec 26	Saint Stephen, The First Martyr	7	Lect #696
Wednesday	Dec 27	Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist	7	Lect #697
Thursday	Dec 28	The Holy Innocents, Martyrs	7	Lect 698
Friday	Dec 29	Fifth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord	9	Lect #202
Saturday	Dec 30	Sixth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord	9	Lect #203
Sunday	Dec 31	The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph	7	Lect #17
Monday	Jan 1, 2024	Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God The Octave Day of the Nativity of the Lord:	3	Lect #18 Not a holy day of obligation
Tuesday	Jan 2	Saints Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church	10	Lect #205 or 510
Wednesday	Jan 3	Christmas Weekday	13	Lect # 206
Thursday	Jan 4	St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious USA	10	Lect #207 OR Lect #510A
Friday	Jan 5	St. John Neumann, Bishop USA	10	Lect #208 or 510B
Saturday	Jan 6	Christmas Weekday	13	Lect #209
Sunday	Jan 7	The Epiphany of the Lord	3	Vigil or Mass During Day, Lect #20, Proper Preface, Epiphany Proclamation Funeral Mass not permitted
Monday	Jan 8	The Baptism of the Lord	5	Lect #21, Proper Preface

# CHRISTMAS TIME



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## LECTIONARY -- YEAR B

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### **First Sunday of Advent (December 3, 2023)**

**Lectionary #2**

First Reading                    Isaiah 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7  
Psalm                                Psalm 80: 2-3, 15-16, 18-19  
Second Reading                1 Corinthians 1:3-9  
Gospel                                Mark 13:33-37

### **Solemnity: The Immaculate Conception of the BVM (Friday, December 8, 2023)**

**Lectionary #689**

First Reading                    Genesis 3: 9-15, 20  
Responsorial Psalm              Psalm 98: 1, 2-3, 3-4  
Second Reading                Ephesians 1: 3-6, 11-12  
Gospel                                Luke 1: 26-38

### **Second Sunday of Advent (December 10, 2023)**

**Lectionary #5**

First Reading                    Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11  
Psalm                                Psalm 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14  
Second Reading                2 Peter 3:8-14  
Gospel                                Mark 1:1-8

### **Feast: Our Lady of Guadalupe (Tuesday, December 12, 2023)**

**Lectionary #690 A or  
Common of BVM 707-712**

First Reading                    Zechariah 2: 14-17 or Revelation 11: 19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab  
Responsorial Psalm              Judith 13: 18bcde, 19  
Gospel                                Luke 1: 26-38 or Luke 1: 39-47

### **Third Sunday of Advent (December 17, 2023)**

**Lectionary #8**

First Reading                    Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11  
Responsorial Psalm              Psalm 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54  
Second Reading                1 Thessalonians 5:16-24  
Gospel                                John 1:6-8, 19-28

### **Fourth Sunday of Advent (December 24, 2023)**

**Lectionary #11**

First Reading                    2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16  
Responsorial Psalm              Psalm 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29  
Second Reading                Romans 16:25-27  
Gospel                                Luke 1:26-38

**The Nativity of the Lord – Vigil Mass****Lectionary #13, ABC**

First Reading Isaiah 62:1-5  
Responsorial Psalm Psalm 89: 4-5, 16-17, 27, 29  
Second Reading Acts 13: 16-17, 22-25  
Gospel Matthew 1: 1-25 [or 1: 18-25]

**The Nativity of the Lord – Mass during the Night****Lectionary #14, ABC**

First Reading Isaiah 9: 1-6  
Responsorial Psalm Psalm 96: 1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13  
Second Reading Titus 2: 11-14  
Gospel Luke 2: 1-14

**The Nativity of the Lord – Mass at Dawn****Lectionary #15, ABC**

First Reading Isaiah 62: 11-12  
Responsorial Psalm Psalm 97: 1, 6, 11-12  
Second Reading Titus 3: 4-7  
Gospel Luke 2: 15-20

**The Nativity of the Lord – Mass During the Day****Lectionary #16 ABC**

First Reading Isaiah 52: 7-10  
Responsorial Psalm Psalm 98: 1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6  
Second Reading Hebrews 1: 1-6  
Gospel John 1: 1-18 [or John 1: 1-5, 9-14]

**Feast of The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph  
(Sunday, December 31, 2023)****Lectionary # 17 B [17A]**

First Reading Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14 or Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3  
Responsorial Psalm Psalm 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 or Psalm 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9  
Second Reading Colossians 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19  
Gospel Luke 2:22-40 or Luke 2:22, 39-40

**Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God****Lectionary #18, ABC****The Octave Day of the Nativity of the Lord (Monday, January 1, 2024)**

First Reading Numbers 6: 22-27  
Responsorial Psalm Psalm 67: 2-3, 5, 6, 8  
Second Reading Galatians 4: 4-7  
Gospel Luke 2: 16-21

**The Epiphany of the Lord (Sunday, January 7, 2024)****Lectionary #20 ABC**

First Reading Isaiah 60: 1-6  
Responsorial Psalm Psalm 72: 1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13  
Second Reading Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6  
Gospel Matthew 2:1-12

**The Baptism of the Lord (Monday, January 8, 2024)****Lectionary #21 B [21ABC]**

First Reading Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7 or Isaiah 55:1-11  
or Acts 10:34-38 or 1 John 5:1-9  
Responsorial Psalm Isaiah 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6 or Psalm 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10  
Gospel Mark 1:7-11

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## THE CHRISTMAS PROCLAMATION

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The *Roman Martyrology* for December 24 contains a formal announcement of the birth of Christ in the style of a proclamation. The announcement of the Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord draws upon Sacred Scripture to declare in a formal way the birth of Christ. It begins with creation and relates the birth of the Lord to the major events and personages of sacred and secular history. The particular events contained in the announcement help pastorally to situate the birth of Jesus in the context of salvation history.

In 1994, a new translation was approved for use in the dioceses of the United States by the USCCB. Later that year, it was confirmed by the Apostolic See. It was published in the 2004 *Sacramentary Supplement*. The translation that appears in the Roman Missal's third edition returns to the original and it is found on the following page.

This text, *The Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ*, may be chanted or recited most appropriately on December 24, during the celebration of the Liturgy of the Hours. It may also be chanted or recited before the beginning of Christmas Mass during the Night. It may not replace any part of the Mass.

*After the greeting, the presider may introduce the Mass and the proclamation.  
A sample introduction follows.*

**Presider:** Throughout the season of Advent,  
the Church reflected on God's promises,  
so often spoken by the prophets,  
to send a Savior to the people of Israel who would be Emmanuel,  
that is, God with us.  
In the fullness of time, those promises were fulfilled.  
With hearts full of joy,  
let us listen to the proclamation of our Savior's birth.



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**THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST  
(THE CHRISTMAS PROCLAMATION)**

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*From the Roman Martyrology. Please see the Roman Missal Appendix I (p. 1450 USCCB edition)*

*This proclamation is chanted or recited on December 24 during the Liturgy of the Hours or before the beginning of the Mass during the Night. It may not replace any part of the Mass. The underlines are provided here to assist the minister who will chant it.*

**The Twenty-fifth Day of December,**  
**when ages beyond number had run their course**  
**from the creation of the world,**  
**when God in the beginning created heaven and earth,**  
**and formed man in his own likeness;**  
**when century upon century had passed**  
**since the Almighty set his bow in the clouds after the Great Flood,**  
**as a sign of covenant and peace;**  
**in the twenty-first century since Abraham, our father in faith,**  
**came out of the Ur of the Chaldees;**  
**in the thirteenth century since the People of Israel**  
**were led by Moses**  
**in the Exodus from Egypt;**  
**around the thousandth year since David was anointed King;**  
**in the sixty-fifth week of the prophecy of Daniel;**  
**in the one hundred and ninety-fourth Olympiad;**  
**in the year seven hundred and fifty-two**  
**since the foundation of the City of Rome;**  
**in the forty-second year of the reign of Caesar Octavian Augustus,**  
**the whole world being at peace,**  
**JESUS CHRIST, eternal God and Son of the eternal Father,**  
**desiring to consecrate the world by his most loving presence,**  
**was conceived by the Holy Spirit,**  
**and when nine months had passed since his conception,**  
**was born of the Virgin Mary in Bethlehem of Judah,**  
**and was made man:**  
**The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to the flesh.**



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## THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF EASTER AND THE MOVEABLE FEASTS

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*This proclamation may be sung on the Solemnity of the Epiphany.  
After the singing of the Gospel, the deacon or cantor may chant the following.  
For chant notation, please see the Roman Missal, Appendix I, pages 1448-1449.*

**Know, dear brethren, [brothers and sisters],  
that as we have rejoiced at the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
so by leave of God's mercy  
we announce to you also the joy of his Resurrection,  
who is our Savior.**

**On the fourteenth day of February will fall Ash Wednesday,  
and the beginning of the fast of the most sacred Lenten season.**

**On the thirty-first day of March, you will celebrate with joy Easter Day,  
the Paschal feast of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

**On the twelfth [ninth] day of May will be the Ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

**On the nineteenth day of May, the feast of Pentecost.**

**On the second day of June, the feast of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ.**

**On the first day of December,  
the First Sunday of Advent of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
to whom is honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.**



ADVENT



CHRISTMAS  
TIME



TRIDUUM



ORDINARY  
TIME



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## ADVENT ALLELUIA VERSES & THE O ANTIPHONS

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**O Wisdom of our God Most High,  
guiding creation with power and love:  
come to teach us the path of knowledge!**



**O Leader of the House of Israel,  
giver of the Law to Moses on Sinai:  
come to rescue us with your mighty power!**



**O Root of Jesse's stem,  
sign of God's love for all his people:  
come to save us without delay!**



**O Key of David,  
opening the gates of God's eternal Kingdom:  
come and free the prisoners of darkness!**



**O Radiant Dawn,  
splendor of eternal light, sun of justice:  
come and shine on those who dwell in darkness  
and in the shadow of death.**



**O King of all nations and keystone of the Church:  
come and save man, whom you formed from the dust!**



**O Emmanuel, our King and Giver of Law:  
come to save us, Lord our God!**



## ABOUT THE FEDERATION OF DIOCESAN LITURGICAL COMMISSIONS

The Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions was founded in 1969 by the then Bishops' Committee on the Liturgy in order to assist with the implementation of the *Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy* and the revised liturgical books. For over fifty-four years, our mission has remained the same. The members of our Federation continue to serve bishops, clergy, and parish liturgists in our roles as directors of Offices of Worship and as members of diocesan liturgical commissions.

We hope this free resource will be of benefit to you and to your parish. Other publications -- including books, pamphlets, and downloadable bulletin inserts -- are available at [www.fdlc.org](http://www.fdlc.org).

We routinely provide online opportunities for liturgical formation. The series of thirty-eight webinars on the OCIA was offered from August 2022 to February 2023. Over 3000 participated in the English series; over 800 participated in the Spanish counterpart. In Lent 2023, the five-part webinar series, "The Work of Our Redemption" provided insights into the Order of Mass. In June 2023, "The History of the Liturgical Reform" led by Rev. Gilbert Ost diek, OFM offered a three hour look at liturgical history. In October 2023, the FDLC co-sponsored a two-part webinar on the "The Divine Office Hymnal" with the Secretariat of Divine Worship of the USCCB. For other series, please visit [www.fdlc.org/formation](http://www.fdlc.org/formation)

Associate Members are entitled to online resources, discounts on publications, and discounts to national meetings. For more information on Associate Membership, please visit [www.fdlc.org/membership](http://www.fdlc.org/membership).

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