

*Rejoice with me because I have found my lost sheep.*

**A Lenten Liturgy of Reconciliation with  
Individual Confession and Absolution**

**INTRODUCTORY RITES**

**HYMN**

*SUGGESTIONS:*

The King of Love My Shepherd Is – Public Domain

Turn to the Living God – L. True, GIA Publications

We Are God's People – D. Haas, GIA Publications

Hosea – Weston Priory, H. Norbet, OSB, Benedictine Foundation of the State of Vermont

Remember Your Love – M. Balhoff & G. Daigle, Damean Music

Save Your People – J. Farrell, OCP

*Or, another suitable hymn*

**GREETING**

**Priest:** Grace, mercy, and peace be with you from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior.

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

**INTRODUCTION**

**OPENING PRAYER**

**Priest:** Brothers & Sisters, God calls us to conversion, let us therefore ask him for the grace of sincere repentance. (*silence*)

Graciously hear the prayers of those who call on you,  
we ask, O Lord,  
and forgive the sins of those who confess to you,  
granting us in your kindness both pardon and peace.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, for ever and ever.

**All: Amen.**

## **LITURGY OF THE WORD**

### **FIRST READING**

**Ezekiel 34:11-16**

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Ezekiel.

Thus says the Lord GOD:

I myself will look after and tend my sheep.

As a shepherd tends his flock

when he finds himself among his scattered sheep,

so will I tend my sheep.

I will rescue them from every place where they were scattered

when it was cloudy and dark.

I will lead them out from among the peoples

and gather them from the foreign lands;

I will bring them back to their own country

and pasture them upon the mountains of Israel

in the land's ravines and all its inhabited places.

In good pastures will I pasture them,

and on the mountain heights of Israel

shall be their grazing ground.

There they shall lie down on good grazing ground,

and in rich pastures shall they be pastured

on the mountains of Israel.

I myself will pasture my sheep;

I myself will give them rest, says the Lord GOD.

The lost I will seek out,

the strayed I will bring back,

the injured I will bind up,

the sick I will heal,

but the sleek and the strong I will destroy,

shepherding them rightly.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

**Psalm 23:1-6**

*SUGGESTIONS:*

Salmo 22: El Señor Es Mi Pastor / Psalm 23: The Lord Is My Shepherd – M.F. Reza, OCP  
Psalm 23: The Lord is My Shepherd – multiple versions available

## **SECOND READING**

**Philippians 4:4-9**

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians.

Brothers and sisters:

Rejoice in the Lord always.

I shall say it again: rejoice!

Your kindness should be known to all.

The Lord is near.

Have no anxiety at all, but in everything,  
by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving,  
make your requests known to God.

Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding  
will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers and sisters,  
whatever is true, whatever is honorable,  
whatever is just, whatever is pure,  
whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious,  
if there is any excellence  
and if there is anything worthy of praise,  
think about these things.

Keep on doing what you have learned and received  
and heard and seen in me.

Then the God of peace will be with you.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **LENTEN GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

## **GOSPEL: LUKE 15:3-7**

The Lord be with you.

**And with your spirit.**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus addressed this parable to the Pharisees and scribes:

"What man among you having a hundred sheep and losing one of them would not leave the ninety-nine in the desert and go after the lost one until he finds it?

And when he does find it,

he sets it on his shoulders with great joy

and, upon his arrival home,

he calls together his friends and neighbors and says to them,

'Rejoice with me because I have found my lost sheep.'

I tell you, in just the same way

there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents

than over ninety-nine righteous people

who have no need of repentance."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

## **HOMILY**

### **EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE**

**Priest:** My dear friends, as we prepare to renew our baptismal promises this Easter, we bring our hearts and minds, our very selves, before the Lord.

*Reader 1:*

Are you lost?      *(pause)*

Why?      *(pause)*

Quite often when we feel lost, we are ashamed of something...ashamed of what we have done...or ashamed of what we have failed to do. Our sense of shame and being lost prevents us from turning to God.

Take heart! God is near. God seeks us out and finds us.

And when God finds us, there is great rejoicing!

*(sung refrain – refrain for Psalm 103 suggested)*

*Reader 2:*

) For the times I have avoided responsibility to care for another...for the times I have ignored someone's cry for help...

) For the times I give in to feelings of jealousy...for the times my jealousy has ruled my words or actions...

) For the times I give in to feelings of fear and mistrust...for the times I choose not to speak out against injustice...

*(sung refrain)*

*Reader 1:*

) For the times I judge myself and others harshly...

) For the times I feel lost and turn away from God...

) For the times I allow my shame to block God's Love in my life...

*(sung refrain)*

*Reader 2:*

) For the times I did not recognize the need for healing and forgiveness...

) For the times I failed to seek repentance...

) For the times I caused pain and hurt to myself and others...

*(sung refrain)*

## **RITE OF RECONCILIATION**

### **GENERAL CONFESSION OF SINS**

Presider: Brothers and Sisters,

Let us call to mind the goodness of God our Father  
as we acknowledge our sins,  
so that we may receive his merciful forgiveness.

**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.**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

**Priest:** We join in prayer to the Father, asking him to forgive us as we forgive others...**Our Father...**

**Priest:** Jesus said, "there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance."  
My friends, may we now experience God's forgiveness and joy—  
gifts that leads to new life!

**All: Amen.**

## **INDIVIDUAL CONFESSION OF SIN & ABSOLUTION**

*The priest or another minister instructs the assembly where the confessors will be located. A brief word regarding the manner of confession may be given. If there is to be a common ending, the assembly should be advised to remain in church for the Proclamation of Praise and Concluding Rite. If there is no common ending, the **Concluding Rite** precedes Individual Confession and Absolution.*

## **PROCLAMATION OF PRAISE**

*When individual confessions have been completed, the assembly is invited to offer thanks and encouraged to do good works which will proclaim the grace of repentance in the life of the entire community and each of its members. It is especially fitting for all to sing a psalm or hymn which acknowledges God's mercy.*

## **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Priest: Almighty 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 Christ our Lord.  
**All: Amen.**

## **CONCLUDING RITE**

### **BLESSING**

**Priest:** May the Lord guide your hearts in the way of his love  
and fill you with Christ-like patience.  
**All: Amen.**

Priest: May he give you strength  
to walk in newness of life  
and to please him in all things.  
**All: Amen.**

**Priest:** May almighty God bless you,  
the Father, and the Son, (+) and the Holy Spirit.

**All: Amen.**

## **DISMISSAL**

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

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## **INDIVIDUAL CONFESSION OF SIN & ABSOLUTION**

### ***SOME IDEAS FOR PENANCES...***

Feed the Hungry; Give Drink to the Thirsty

- ) Donate food to a food pantry
- ) Volunteer at a soup kitchen
- ) Prepare a meal for a family during their time of need

Clothe the Naked

- ) Go through your drawers and closets and find good-condition clothes to donate to St. Vincent de Paul, the Salvation Army or Goodwill
- ) Reach out to neighbors that have lost their possessions in fires, floods, or other natural disasters
- ) Donate clothing and shoes

Visit the Sick

- ) Cook and deliver a meal to a sick, elderly or homebound relative or friend
- ) Volunteer to drive a sick relative or neighbor to a medical appointment or treatment facility
- ) Spend quality time with someone who is homebound or confined to a nursing home



## Shelter the Homeless

- ) Donate blankets to a homeless shelter
- ) Assist with cooking a meal at a homeless shelter
- ) Throw your coin change into a jar and periodically donate it to a charity that tends to the needs of the poor and homeless

## Visit the Imprisoned

- ) Donate books to a jail library
- ) Pray for the families of people in jail
- ) Guard against racism, practice inclusion—not exclusion, and be mindful that all are members of the human race and equal in God's eyes

## Bury the Dead

- ) Visit a cemetery & place flowers on a grave that has none
- ) Assist with a bereavement luncheon or minister at a funeral
- ) Spend time with widows and widowers