



CORPORATE CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Stand

1. *The minister leads the congregation in the invocation. The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

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

C Amen

2. *The minister may announce the occasion for the service and offer any necessary guidance.*

3. *A HYMN is sung.*

Kneel/sit

4. *The minister says one of the following or another appropriate prayer.*

P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. (236)

C Amen

OR

P Father of mercies and God of all consolation, come to the aid of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may attend to your Word, confess our sins, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of your Son Jesus Christ, our Lord and our Redeemer. (271)

C Amen

Sit

5. *PSALM 51 or another appropriate psalm is sung or said, followed by:*

C **Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen**

6. *One or more LESSONS are read. A reading from the Gospels is normally included.*
7. *A SERMON or informal address may follow. In place of the sermon, the minister or another leader may engage those present in mutual conversation and consolation. Silence for recollection and meditation follows.*
8. *The prayer of confession or another prayer prepared for the occasion is said.*

P Let us [kneel and] make confession to God.

Kneel/sit

G Almighty God, merciful Father:

I, a troubled and penitent sinner, confess to you
all my sins and iniquities with which I have offended you
and for which I justly deserve your punishment.

But I am sorry for them, and repent of them,
and pray for your boundless mercy.

For the sake of the suffering and death of your Son, Jesus Christ,
be gracious and merciful to me, a poor sinful being;
forgive my sins,
give me your Holy Spirit for the amendment of my sinful life,
and bring me to life everlasting. Amen

9. *The minister stands and addresses the congregation:*

P Almighty God in his mercy has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. Through his Holy Spirit he cleanses us and gives us power to proclaim the mighty deeds of God who called us out of darkness into the splendor of his light. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

G Amen

10. *Those in the congregation may come forward and kneel before the altar. The minister, laying both hands on each person's head, addresses each in turn:*

P In obedience to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins.

R Amen

Stand

11. *The HYMN OF PRAISE is sung when all have returned to their places.*

12. *THE PRAYERS are said. One of the forms of Responsive Prayer (161), one of the litanies (148 or 168), or other appropriate prayers may replace the following.*

P The Lord be with you.

G And also with you.

P Let us pray.

Kneel/sit

P O God, our Father, by the cross of your Son you reconciled the world to yourself, enabling us to live in love and harmony. We thank and praise you for the forgiveness of sins and the precious gift of peace. Help us to forgive each other and to establish justice and concord throughout the world, through Jesus Christ our Lord. (272)

C Amen

The Prayer of the Day and other prayers may be said and, after them, this prayer:

P O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works: Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments; and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, God forever. (255)

C Amen

C Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen

OR **C** Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen

Stand

13. The minister blesses the congregation.

P Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C Amen

14. The minister may dismiss the congregation.

P The Lord has made you free. Go in peace.

C Thanks be to God.