

# Promise of Jesus - Advent Year C 2012

## Second Rite of Reconciliation

### Prayer Focus

Light a purple candle

Open Bible

Fabrics - colours of the season and or the Year of Grace

[Yellow, Orange, Red]

In the centre an olive branch symbolizing 'Peace' or picture of a dove.

### Introduction

We are introduced in the readings for this celebration to the concept of turning towards Jesus to see the salvation he offers to us, salvation that brings us harmony and peace. To appreciate the Advent of Jesus we must look within ourselves taking time to be quiet and hopeful, reviewing our lives and allow space to listen to what God is saying to us. He will lead us home.

### Entrance Song

Like a Shepherd (Dufford) [AOV 160/GA 467]

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry [CWB 780]

### Opening Prayer

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

**All: Amen.**

Priest: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

**All: And with your spirit.**

Priest: We are gathered here today/tonight, as a community aware of our sinfulness, to ask for God's peace through forgiveness .

**All: Amen.**

Priest: Let Us Pray

O Lord, strengthen our hearts that we who received the gift of Grace at our baptism, may prepare worthily for your Son. Stir up our longing for peace and reconciliation so that we can bring the gift of charity to those all those we meet.

**All: Amen.**

Commentator: Please be seated



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### Reading

**Reader:** A reflection based on the  
**Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World**  
from the Second Vatican Council:

Deep within each of us, there is a voice which calls us to do what is loving and to avoid what is evil. This voice directs us according to a law which we have not made up ourselves, a law which seems to come from somewhere beyond us all. Nevertheless, this eternal, divine law is one which we must obey if we are to be happy, holy people. For this law is written into our very hearts by God! We will ultimately be judged and known by how we respond to what we hear in the depths of our consciences. There we stand alone with God, for who can know God's heart? And who but we can know how God directs our lives? But this we do know, whatever God directs us to, will be loving and holy as the Church teaches us. For God is love, and we all called to live as God's children which is to live in the light of God's love.

From the word of the Church.

**All:** **Thanks be to God for this teaching.**

### Gospel Acclamation [sung]

Alleluia, alleluia,  
Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths:  
all people shall see the salvation of God.  
Alleluia.



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### Gospel

Luke 3: 1-6

It was the fifteenth year of the rule of Emperor Tiberius; Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip was ruler of the territory of Iturea and Trachonitis; Lysanias was ruler of Abilene, and Annas and Caiaphas were High Priests. At that time the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the desert.

So John went throughout the whole territory of the Jordan River, preaching, "Turn away from your sins and be baptized, and God will forgive your sins."

As it is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah: "Someone is shouting in the desert: 'Get the road ready for the Lord; make a straight path for him to travel! Every valley must be filled up, every hill and mountain levelled off. The winding roads must be made straight, and the rough paths made smooth. The whole race will see God's salvation!'" "

### Homily



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### Examination of Conscience

*John is encouraging us to make ready, be prepared. Christmas sees a lot of us running around preparing food and gifts for the big day whereas Advent invites us to prepare our hearts and minds for the gift of love that is the coming of Christ..*

What are some of the things you need to let go of so you can better know the peace of God?

#### **Jesus invites me to live by his example.**

Am I letting God in the Word and Eucharist lead me in my life?

Am I allowing the things of the world to distract me from following the example of Jesus in how I live?

Am I willing to be seen as a follower of Jesus in my actions and speech?

#### **Jesus invites me to love others.**

Am I a good neighbour, helping those in need?

Am I critical or disrespectful of others?

Am I caring and careful with the property of others?

#### **Jesus invites me to open my heart to him.**

Am I a person of peace or do I carry anger and resentment within myself?

Am I open to the good in other people or do I carry grudges?

Am I thankful for what God has given to me or am I envious of what others have?

#### **Jesus invites me accept the gift of grace.**

Am I able to see the good in myself or do I put myself down?

Am I caring with the gift of my body?

Am I generous with the talents and gifts God has given me or do I only do what I have to do?



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### General Confession of Sins

Priest:: My sisters and brothers let us confidently confess our sins and pray for each other, that we may be healed.

**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,  
*And, striking their breast, they say:*  
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.**



Priest: The Lord is merciful;  
he leads us to freedom when we acknowledge our guilt.  
Let us ask for his forgiveness as we come to him for healing.  
Amen.

### Individual Confession and Absolution

An invitation is now extended to the community to approach one of the priests for confession and absolution. Explain that penitents only need to concentrate on two or three areas of difficulty in their lives. Music is played in the background during confessions.

At the end of the confessions the priest speaks to the people and encourages them to give thanks for God's goodness and to keep on doing good works which proclaim the grace of repentance in the life of the entire community and each of its members.

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### Thanksgiving

Priest: As a sign of reconciliation and peace let us join together and pray the prayer our Lord gave us, The Lord's Prayer....

**All: Our Father.....**

Priest: Almighty God and Father, you have shown us your mercy and made us new through your love.

**All: We praise and thank you.**

Priest: May we always seek the truth that you have given to us through your son Jesus Christ.

**All: Amen.**

### Sign of Peace

Priest. The Lord has given us the gift of his peace by restoring our friendship with him. Let us offer the same gift of peace and friendship to our brothers and sisters.

*[All offer the sign of peace]*

### Concluding Rite

Priest: May God give us strength to turn away from temptation and renew our enthusiasm and commitment to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ.

May almighty God bless you, in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**All: Amen.**

Priest: The Lord has freed us from sin, so we may live fully the promise made to us through Jesus Christ.

Go now to live in the peace and the love of God.

**All: Amen.**

### Recessional Song

In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful (Berthier) [AOV2 109/GA 429]

Christ Be Our Light (Farrell) [AOV2 3/GA 404]

