

Second Rite of Reconciliation Advent 2007 Year A

* Looking and Longing for Christ *

Welcome

A star lead the way to Jesus in Bethlehem. In this reconciliation service the star represents the longing in our hearts to find Jesus in the everyday of our lives with all its ups and downs. As we begin this celebration I invite you to stand and join in our entrance song.

Entrance Song

"As the Deer Longs" by Bob Hurd – As One Voice No.120

Opening Prayer

Priest:

Let us pray
Lord God, Creator of the world and all its wonders
you used a star to show the way to Jesus in Bethlehem
lead us to you for we long for your light and forgiveness
we make this prayer through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Reading:

A reading from the second Letter of St Paul to the Corinthians *[2 Cor 7:5-10]*

For even when we came into Macedonia, our bodies had not rest, but we were afflicted in every way – disputes without and fears within. But God, who consoles the down cast, consoled us by the arrival of Titus, and not only by his coming, but also by the consolation with which he was consoled about you, as he told us of your longing, your mourning, your zeal for me, so that I rejoiced still more. For even if I made you sorry with my letter, I do not regret it (though I did regret it, for I see that I grieved you with that letter, though only briefly.) "Now I rejoice, not because you were grieved, but because your grief led to repentance; for you felt a godly grief, so that you were not harmed in any way by us. For Godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation and brings no regret.

This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 27)

Response:

"The Lord is my light and my salvation."

The Lord is my light and my salvation;
whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life;
of whom shall I be afraid?

"The Lord is my light and my salvation."

One thing I ask of the Lord,
Before whom shall I shrink:
To live in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life.

"The Lord is my light and my salvation."

For he will shelter me
When I am troubled;
He will conceal me under the cover of his tent.

"The Lord is my light and my salvation."

I believe that I will see the
Goodness of the Lord
in the land of the living.
Wait for the Lord, be strong,
And let your heart take courage;
wait for the Lord.

"The Lord is my light and my salvation."

Homily

Examination of Conscience

Response:

"Lord we long for your light in our lives."

For the times we have chosen darkness by failing to consider the feelings or needs of those around us, we pray....

For the times we have chosen darkness by failing to show concern and commitment to our community, we pray....

For the times we have chosen darkness by failing to give time to our mental and physical well-being, we pray....

For the times we have chosen darkness by failing to accept responsibility or obligation in our lives, we pray....

For the times we have chosen darkness by failing to reconcile with those we have wronged, we pray....

For the times we have chosen darkness by failing to make room for God in our lives, we pray....

Priest: God of our longing lead us out of darkness into the light of your grace. We long for your peace and forgiveness and ask that you heal us and give us the strength to walk in the new light of your love. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Rite of Reconciliation

General Confession of Sins

Priest: My sisters and brothers, confess your sins and pray for each other, that you may be healed. Together we pray...

All. I confess to almighty God, and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned through my own fault in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done; And in what I have failed to do.
And I ask 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 makes us clean of heart and leads us out into his freedom when we acknowledge our guilt. Let us ask him to forgive and lead us in the way of truth and love. Together, let us pray:

All. Our Father

Invitation to individual Confession and Absolution

(At the end of the individual confessions and absolutions, before the concluding prayer, encourage those gathered to continue leading good lives which will proclaim the grace of repentance in the life of the entire community and each of its members.)

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

May the Lord guide your hearts in the way of his love and fill you with Christ like patience.

R. Amen

May he give you strength to walk in the light of Christ and fulfil all our longings to live as God would want us to live.

R. Amen

May Almighty God bless you, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

R. Amen

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.

R. Amen.

Recessional Song

"Blest be the Lord" by Dan Schutte - As One Voice No.179