

RECONCILIATION SERVICE *(adapted from Alive-Os pp42-44)*

You will need

**A bowl of holy water;
An evergreen branch for sprinkling**

GATHERING SONG: **SONG OF REPENTANCE** *(Alive-Os p314)*

SPRINKLING:

CELEBRANT: We sprinkle this holy water, a reminder of our Baptism when we became one in Christ. Soon you will be celebrating the sacrament of Confirmation. During that celebration you will renew your baptismal promises, you will be anointed again with oil of Chrism and you will become a full member of the church. We can see that the sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation are connected in a very special way. In the eyes of our God everything is connected. Everything is held safely in God's hands: all that has been, all that is now, and all that is yet to come.

ALL: **Amen**

The celebrant moves through the gathering sprinkling all present with holy water.

CELEBRANT: We gather in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

ALL: **Amen**

CELEBRANT: Welcome to our celebration of the forgiving love of God. None of us can live on our own. We all need the love and support of family and friends to help us be the kind of people that God wants us to be. The relationships we have with each other and with God are what makes us who we are. As we prepare to celebrate Confirmation we believe that God holds each one of us and all that fills the spaces between us in the palm of God's hand. Sometimes we allow

things that really shouldn't be there to get into those spaces between us, an unkind word, a hurtful action. When we do this we know that something is wrong, something is out of place. God always offers us forgiveness and shows how to mend our damaged relationships. God wants us to put right whatever has disturbed the space between us and those around us. God wants us to be the best we can be as young people, right here and right now.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

CELEBRANT:

A READING FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE (15:11-32)

Once a man had two sons. The younger son said to his father, 'Give me my share of the property.' So the father divided his property between his two sons.

Not long after that the younger son packed up everything he owned and left for a foreign country where he wasted all his money in wild living. He had spent everything, when a bad famine spread through that whole land. Soon he had nothing to eat.

He went to work for a man in that country, and the man sent him out to take care of his pigs. He would have been glad to eat what the pigs were eating, but no one gave him a thing. Finally, he came to his senses and said, "My father's workers have plenty to eat, and here I am, starving to death! I will go to my father and say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against God in heaven and against you. I am no longer good enough to be called your son. Treat me like one of your workers.' "

The younger son got up and started back to his father. But when he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt sorry for him. He ran to his son and hugged and kissed him.

The son said, "Father, I have sinned against God in heaven and against you.

I am no longer good enough to be called your son."

But his father said to the servants, "Hurry and bring the best clothes and put them on him. Give him a ring for his finger and sandals for his feet. Get the best calf and prepare it, so we can eat and celebrate. This son of mine was dead, but has now come back to life. He was lost and has now been found." And they began to celebrate. The older son had been out in the field. But when he came near the house, he heard the music and dancing. So he called one of the servants over and asked, "What's going on here?"

The servant answered, "Your brother has come home safe and sound, and your father ordered us to kill the best calf." The older brother got so angry that he would not even go into the house.

His father came out and begged him to go in. But he said to his father, "For years I have worked for you like a slave and have always obeyed you. But you have never even given me a little goat, so that I could give a dinner for my friends. This other son of yours wasted your money on prostitutes. And now that he has come home, you ordered the best calf to be killed for a feast."

His father replied, "My son, you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. But we should be glad and celebrate! Your brother was dead, but he is now alive. He was lost and has now been found."

CELEBRANT:

We thank God for making each one of us special.

We thank God for the goodness that is in each one of us.

We thank God that each one of us, and all that exists, is being carefully held in God's hands.

Jesus saw beauty and goodness in all the people he met. He sees the beauty and goodness in each one of us too.

Jesus spoke words of love and forgiveness and healing to all he met. He showed us how we should treat others.

Jesus speaks words of love, forgiveness and healing to you too.

Pause: Let us recall relationships that we have damaged

ALL: PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

O my God, help me to remember the times
when I didn't live as Jesus asked me to.
Help me to be sorry and to try again. Amen

Invite the candidates who will read to stand

RE

ADER: We damage relationships when we ignore others....

ALL: God forgive us. Teach us to love.

READER: We damage relationships when we try to bully others....

ALL: God forgive us. Teach us to love.

READER: We damage relationships when we are not truthful.....

ALL: God forgive us. Teach us to love.

READER: We damage relationships when we are selfish.....

ALL: God forgive us. Teach us to love.

READER: We damage relationships when we are unkind.....

ALL: God forgive us. Teach us to love.

READER: We damage relationships when we are too busy.....

ALL: God forgive us. Teach us to love.

READER: We damage relationships when we are full of anger.....

ALL: God forgive us. Teach us to love.

READER: We damage relationships when we are unable to forgive.....

ALL: God forgive us. Teach us to love.

READER: We damage relationships when we are unable to love.....

ALL: God forgive us. Teach us to love.

CELEBRANT: *Together, let us confess our sins.*

ALL: **THE CONFITEOR**

CELEBRANT:

Jesus loves you and wants to forgive you.
Ask him to help you now...
Let us pray as Jesus taught us.

ALL: **OUR FATHER**

CELEBRANT: *I invite you now to come forward for confession*

Music may be played or hymns sung during this time

CELEBRANT: *Let us thank God for forgiving us and healing the spaces between us*

ALL: **ACT OF SORROW:**

O my God, I thank you for loving me.
I am sorry for all my sins, for not loving others and not loving you.
Help me to live like Jesus and not sin again. Amen.

SIGN OF PEACE:

Before we leave here today let us offer one another a sign of peace.

CELEBRANT: May almighty God bless us all, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

ALL: **AMEN**

SONG OF GOING FORTH:

Christ be our Light

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