

ROMAN MISSAL

THIRD EDITION

Penitential Act, Form 3

Penitential Act has four parts. The *Roman Missal, Third Edition*, provides three forms for the Penitential Act within the Introductory Rites for Mass. All three forms follow the same four-part pattern: (1) invitation to the faithful by the Priest, (2) a pause for silence, (3) the prayer, and (4) the absolution by the Priest.

Form 3 texts found in two places. As is the pattern with the new translation rules of *Liturgiam Authenticam*: Fifth Instruction for the “Right Implementation of the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy of the Second Vatican Council” (2001), the additional sample invocations for the Penitential Act form 3 are only found in Appendix VI for the Diocese of the United States.

Form 3 may be freely composed. Although the Missal provides patterns for form 3, the first in the Order of Mass and the remaining seven samples in Appendix VI, the rubrics permit local composition. This allows the local community to invoke the Risen Christ in particular ways suited to the day, the season, and the needs of those who gather on a given day for prayer. This litany, however, is not like an examination of conscience for sacramental Penance. It is not a listing of specific sins. It is always acclamation to Christ who is full of mercy.

So, don’t get in a rut. Use the freedom that the Missal provides. Carefully choose from the examples of the Missal a text to suit the occasion. Carefully write other invocations to suit local need.

Who is the minister of the tropes for form 3? It does not belong to the Deacon as does the Gospel, the Prayer of the Faithful, and the Dismissal. The rubric reads: **The Priest, or a Deacon or another minister, then says the following or other invocations * with** Kyrie, eleison (Lord, have mercy). It may also be sung.



The Mass and Its Parts – Navigating the *Roman Missal*

The pastoral effectiveness of a celebration will be greatly increased if the texts of the readings, the prayers, and the liturgical chants correspond as aptly as possible to the needs, the preparation, and the culture of the participants. GIRM, no. 352.

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◆ Eliot Kapitan, 28 November 2016 ◆

Resources to Consult

General Instruction of the Roman Missal [GIRM], nos. 51-52 – on the general structure, the option of the blessing and sprinkling of water, and the use of “Lord, have mercy”.

Note: GIRM Chapter IV, The Different Forms of Celebrating Mass is silent on who sings or recites the tropes of form 3.

Introduction to the Order of Mass: A Pastoral Resource of the Bishops’ Committee on the Liturgy (2003), nos. 71-73 – treats the concerns raised in GIRM, no. 51; addresses forms 1 and 2; addresses the *Kyrie* but is silent on form 3.

Sing to the Lord: Music in Divine Worship (2007), nos. 145-146 – particularly addressing form 3 and the *Kyrie*.

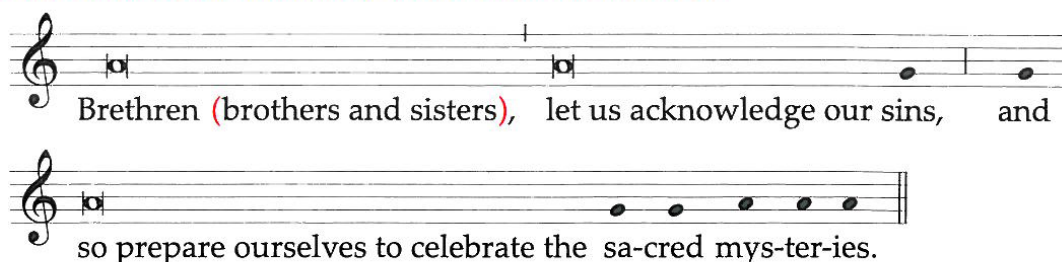
Paul Turner. **Let Us Pray: A Guide to the Rubrics of Sunday Mass**, revised. Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 2012. Nos. 212-226 – on the invitation by the priest, on silence, on each of the three forms. No. 219 notes the samples in Appendix VI, others may be freely composed, however, “they should be acclamations to Christ who is merciful, not a litany of sins for which the faithful seek mercy.”

Texts from the Roman Missal

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Penitential Act Third Form

6. **The Priest invites the faithful to make the Penitential Act:**



Brethren (brothers and sisters), let us acknowledge our sins, and
so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sa-cred mys-ter-ies.

**Brethren (brothers and sisters), let us acknowledge our sins,
and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.**

A brief pause for silence follows.

The Priest, or a Deacon or another minister, then says the following or other invocations* with Kyrie, eleison (Lord, have mercy):

You were sent to heal the contrite of heart:

Lord, have mer-cy.

Or:

Kýrie, e - lé - i-son.

The people reply:

Lord, have mer-cy.

Or:

Kýrie, e - lé - i-son.

The Priest:

You came to call sin-ners:

Christ, have mer-cy.

Or:

Christe, e - lé - i-son.

The people:

Christ, have mer-cy.

Or:

Christe, e - lé - i-son.

The Priest:

You are seated at the right hand of the Father to inter-cede for us:

Lord, have mer-cy.

Or:

Kýrie, e - lé - i-son.

The people:

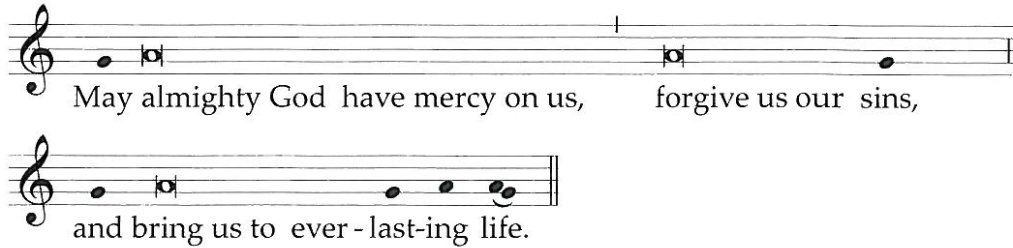
Lord, have mer-cy.

Or:

Kýrie, e - lé - i-son.

* Sample invocations are found in Appendix VI, pp. 1474-1480.

The absolution by the Priest follows:



May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins,
and bring us to ever - last-ing life.

The people reply:



A-men.

The Priest, or a Deacon or another minister, then says the following or other invocations^{*} with Kyrie, eleison (Lord, have mercy):

You were sent to heal the contrite of heart:

Lord, have mercy. Or: Kyrie, eleison.

The people reply:

Lord, have mercy. Or: Kyrie, eleison.

The Priest:

You came to call sinners:

Christ, have mercy. Or: Christe, eleison.

The people:

Christ, have mercy. Or: Christe, eleison.

The Priest:

You are seated at the right hand of the Father to intercede for us:

Lord, have mercy. Or: Kyrie, eleison.

The people:

Lord, have mercy. Or: Kyrie, eleison.

The absolution by the Priest follows:

**May almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us our sins,
and bring us to everlasting life.**

The people reply:

Amen.

* Sample invocations are found in Appendix VI, pp. 1474-1480.

APPENDIX VI

[In the Dioceses of the United States]
**SAMPLE INVOCATIONS
FOR THE PENITENTIAL ACT**

**Brethren (brothers and sisters), let us acknowledge our sins,
and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.**

A brief pause for silence follows.

The Priest, or a Deacon or another minister, then may use one of the following invocations with Kyrie, eleison (Lord, have mercy):

I

The Priest:

**Lord Jesus, you came to gather the nations into the peace of God's
kingdom:
Lord, have mercy.**

The people reply:

Lord, have mercy.

The Priest:

**Lord Jesus, you come in word and sacrament to strengthen us in
holiness:
Christ, have mercy.**

The people:

Christ, have mercy.

The Priest:

**Lord Jesus, you will come in glory with salvation for your people:
Lord, have mercy.**

The people:

Lord, have mercy.

The absolution by the Priest follows:

**May almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us our sins
and bring us to everlasting life.**

The people reply:

Amen.

II

The Priest:

**Lord Jesus, you are mighty God and Prince of peace:
Lord, have mercy.**

The people reply:

Lord, have mercy.

The Priest:

**Lord Jesus, you are the Son of God and Son of Mary:
Christ, have mercy.**

The people:

Christ, have mercy.

The Priest:

**Lord Jesus, you are Word made flesh and splendor of the Father:
Lord, have mercy.**

The people:

Lord, have mercy.

The absolution by the Priest follows:

**May almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us our sins
and bring us to everlasting life.**

The people reply:

Amen.

III

The Priest:

**Lord Jesus, you came to reconcile us to one another and to
the Father:
Lord, have mercy.**

The people reply:

Lord, have mercy.

The Priest:

**Lord Jesus, you heal the wounds of sin and division:
Christ, have mercy.**

The people:

Christ, have mercy.

The Priest:

**Lord Jesus, you intercede for us with your Father:
Lord, have mercy.**

The people:

Lord, have mercy.

The absolution by the Priest follows:

**May almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us our sins
and bring us to everlasting life.**

The people reply:

Amen.

IV

The Priest:

**Lord Jesus, you raise the dead to life in the Spirit:
Lord, have mercy.**

The people reply:

Lord, have mercy.

The Priest:

**Lord Jesus, you bring pardon and peace to the sinner:
Christ, have mercy.**

The people:

Christ, have mercy.

The Priest:

**Lord Jesus, you bring light to those in darkness:
Lord, have mercy.**

The people:

Lord, have mercy.

The absolution by the Priest follows:

**May almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us our sins
and bring us to everlasting life.**

The people reply:

Amen.

V

The Priest:

**Lord Jesus, you raise us to new life:
Lord, have mercy.**

The people reply:

Lord, have mercy.

The Priest:

**Lord Jesus, you forgive us our sins:
Christ, have mercy.**

The people:

Christ, have mercy.

The Priest:

**Lord Jesus, you feed us with your body and blood:
Lord, have mercy.**

The people:

Lord, have mercy.

The absolution by the Priest follows:

**May almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us our sins
and bring us to everlasting life.**

The people reply:

Amen.

VI

The Priest:

**Lord Jesus, you have shown us the way to the Father:
Lord, have mercy.**

The people reply:

Lord, have mercy.

The Priest:

**Lord Jesus, you have given us the consolation of the truth:
Christ, have mercy.**

The people:

Christ, have mercy.

The Priest:

**Lord Jesus, you are the Good Shepherd, leading us into everlasting
life:
Lord, have mercy.**

The people:

Lord, have mercy.

The absolution by the Priest follows:

**May almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us our sins
and bring us to everlasting life.**

The people reply:

Amen.

VII

The Priest:

Lord Jesus, you healed the sick:
Lord, have mercy.

The people reply:

Lord, have mercy.

The Priest:

Lord Jesus, you forgave sinners:
Christ, have mercy.

The people:

Christ, have mercy.

The Priest:

Lord Jesus, you gave yourself to heal us and bring us strength:
Lord, have mercy.

The people:

Lord, have mercy.

The absolution by the Priest follows:

May almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us our sins
and bring us to everlasting life.

The people reply:

Amen.