Advent has a two-fold character: as a season to prepare for Christmas when Christ’s coming to us is remembered and as a season when that remembrance directs our mind and heart to await Christ’s second coming at the end of time. Advent thus is a period of devout and joyful expectation. (#39 General Norms for the Liturgical Year and Calendar)

HYMN:

INTRODUCTORY RITES

Presider

In the Name of the Father, ✝ and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All  Amen

GREETING

Presider

Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Jesus Christ His Son be with you in truth and love.

All  And with your spirit.

INTRODUCTION

Presider

My brothers and sisters, Advent is a time of preparation, when we make ready to celebrate the mystery of our Lord’s coming as man, the beginning of our redemption. Advent moves us to look forward with renewed hope to the second coming of Christ, when God’s plan of salvation will be brought to fulfillment. We are reminded too of our Lord’s coming to
each one of us at the hour of our death. We must make sure that we are prepared for His coming, as the Gospel tells us: “Blessed are those servants who are found awake when the Lord comes.”

As we look forward to celebrate the mystery of Christ’s coming on the Feast of Christmas, let us pray that when he comes he may find us awake to receive Him.

All pray in silence for a brief period.

COLLECT

Presider

Let us pray.

Lord our God, maker of the heavens as we look forward to the coming of our redeemer grant us the forgiveness of our sins.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All Amen.
LITURGY OF THE WORD

If there are several readings a psalm or other appropriate song or even a period of silence should intervene between them, so that everyone may understand the Word of God more deeply and give it heartfelt assent. If there is only one reading, it is preferable that it be from the Gospel. (#51 Rite of Penance)

READING

2 Corinthians 5: 17-20

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. So we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We beseech you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

Luke 3: 3-6

John went throughout the whole region of the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah: A voice of one crying out in the desert: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths. Every valley shall be filled and every mountain and hill shall be made low. The winding roads shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."

HOMILY

RITE OF RECONCILIATION

EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE

The Examination of Conscience can be adapted to meet the needs of the faithful gathered. It is preferably done communally, with a BRIEF period of silence after each statement and/or section is read; however, the Examination may be done privately by each penitent on their way to confession.

Without introduction, the Presider or another minister begins the Examination of Conscience. (There is a sample Examination of Conscience on the Office of Worship website.)
ACT OF REPENTANCE

The Deacon (or in the absence of a deacon, another minister) speaks to the assembly.

Lord our God, you know all things. You rejoice when we turn away from sin and turn to you. Look on us with love and hear our prayer.

Give us the strength to turn away from sin.

Hear our prayer.

Forgive our sins and have pity on our weakness.

Hear our prayer.

Give us trust in your goodness and make us generous in serving you.

Hear our prayer.

Presider

Lord,
your sons and daughters stand before you in humility and trust.
Look with compassion on us as we confess our sins.
Heal our wounds; stretch out your hand to save us and raise us up.
Keep us free from harm as members of Christ’s body, as sheep of your flock, as children of your family.
Do not allow the enemy to triumph over us or death to claim us forever.
Recognizing our sinfulness and with resolve to change our lives we say:

All: O my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended you, and I detest all my sins, because of Your just punishments, but most of all because they offend You, my God, who are all-good and deserving of all my love. I firmly resolve, with the help of Your grace, to sin no more and to avoid the near occasion of sin.

OR

My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good, I have sinned against you whom I should love above all things. I firmly intend, with your help, to do penance, to sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin. Our Savior Jesus Christ suffered and died for us. In His name, my God, have mercy.

The Lord’s Prayer

Presider

As we prepare for our individual confessions, let us stand and pray to God our Father in the words Christ gave us, and ask him for his forgiveness and protection from all evil.

Our Father...
Lord our God, on the first day of creation you made the light that scatters the darkness. Let Christ, the light of lights, hidden from all eternity, shine at last on your people and free us from the darkness of sin. Fill our lives with good works as we go out to meet your Son, so that we may give him a fitting welcome.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

INTRODUCTION TO THE SACRAMENT

INTRODUCTION OF CONFESSORS AND PLACES OF CONFESSION

INVITATION TO THE SACRAMENT:

The Pastor of host Parish provides the following instruction to the Faithful in the Assembly:

Because we are many, we invite those seeking the sacrament to be mindful of the many seeking the graces of the sacrament in a limited amount of time.

Those seeking spiritual direction or personal counseling are asked to consider another time for this ministry.

To emphasize the communal dimension of this Sacrament, the priests will be in the body of the church and welcome you for individual confession.

Those sitting in the church are asked to pray for those celebrating the Sacrament.

To maintain our celebration as a community at prayer, we ask that you NOT form lines, and that you refrain from casual conversation with each other.

Finally, we ask everyone to remain in the church until the end of the Liturgy to emphasize our solidarity as a community.

At this time I invite the priests who have generously joined us to celebrate this Sacrament with you to take their places in the church.
Individual confessions follow

INDIVIDUAL CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

The Assembly remains seated and penitents move to a confessor when one is available. Soft instrumental music can be provided in the background during this time. Penitents approach and greet the priest. The priest confessor follows the Rite for Individual Confession. After receiving absolution penitents return to the Assembly to pray. The Liturgy concludes with the Concluding Rites when everyone has returned to their seats within the Assembly. If the crowd is particularly large and has not concluded within approximately an hour to an hour and a half, the priests continue to hear confessions and the presider concludes the service to allow those who have gathered to depart in silence.

CONCLUDING RITES

PROCLAMATION OF PRAISE FOR GOD’S MERCY

Presider

   Lord Jesus Christ, Your loving forgiveness knows no limits. You took our human nature to give us an example of humility and to make us faithful in every trial. May we never lose the gifts you have given us, but if we fall into sin, lift us up by your gift of repentance, for you live and reign for ever and ever.

All  Amen.

CONCLUDING PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Presider

   All-holy Father, you have shown us your mercy and have made us a new creation in the likeness of your Son. Make us living signs of your love for all the world to see.

   We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All  Amen
BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

Presider

The Lord be with you.

All   And with your spirit.

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

All   Amen.

Go in peace.
The Lord has freed you from your sins.

All   Thanks be to God.

CLOSING HYMN (Optional)