

CORPORATE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION, pp. 290-291

(Stand)

Invocation and Versicles

- P: Maranatha! Come, Lord Jesus.
C: Come quickly, Lord. Maranatha!
P: Behold, the name of the Lord comes from afar;
C: may the whole earth be filled with His glory!
P: Come, O Lord, and do not delay.
C: Loosen the bonds of Your people Israel.
P: Rejoice greatly, O Jerusalem!
C: Behold, your king is coming to you.
P: Maranatha! Come, Lord Jesus.
C: Come quickly, Lord. Maranatha!

(Sit)

Confessional Address pp. 290-91

(Kneel)

Confession and Absolution p. 291

Penitents are invited to come to the altar for individual absolution following the pattern used for the Lord's Supper. There will be several stations for absolution. Proceed to a station as soon as it becomes available. Once absolved please return to your seat.

(Kneel or Sit)

Hymns for reflection during Absolution

LSB 334

LSB 345

(Stand)

The Blessing

We mark the beginning of Advent with this service of Corporate Confession and Absolution. Advent is a season of waiting and watching. The Church prepares as it waits for the coming of the One who brings new life: Jesus Christ, the Messiah. One way in which the church watches is with patience and hope for Christ's final coming in judgment. As the Church lives in this world it is surrounded by darkness, a darkness suffused by human sin. Advent calls this darkness to mind and penetrates it with the promise of the Light of Life. Thus, Advent, among many things, is a season of confession and repentance. It allows the Church to see its own sin-filled darkness, confess its sin, and receive the Lord's forgiveness. In this way the church is prepared to cry, *Maranatha!* Come, Lord Jesus!