

## Leading from the Font

*The following liturgical texts are presented as models for leading the Call to Confession and Declaration of Forgiveness from the font. In each case, an appropriate congregational Prayer of Confession should follow the Call to Confession and precede the Declaration of Forgiveness. Depending on the tradition of your congregation, the corporate prayer might be followed by a musical response such as the Kyrie Eleison, or by silence. Consider breaking the silence before the Declaration of Forgiveness by lifting water with your hands and letting it fall into the font, or by pouring additional water into the font from a pitcher. (You might want to have a towel ready before shaking hands at the Peace.)*

Attributions for the liturgical texts:

DPG = David Gambrell; KBL = Kimberly Bracken Long; MAW = Marney Wasserman

(1)

### CALL TO CONFESSION

In the waters of baptism,  
God's abundant mercies are poured out for us.  
The water reminds us who we are  
and to whom we belong,  
so that, confident of God's great love for us,  
we can admit where we have failed our Maker and Savior.  
Together, let us confess our need of grace.

### DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Romans 6

In the waters of baptism we were buried with Christ,  
and all our sin with us.  
And from the waters of baptism,  
we were raised up with Christ to a new life  
which we still live by God's incredible mercy  
and in the power of the Holy Spirit.  
In Jesus Christ, friends, you are forgiven and set free.

(MAW)

(2)

### CALL TO CONFESSION

Isaiah 55

Come to the waters,  
you who long to be renewed.  
Come to the waters,  
you who ache to be healed.  
Come to the waters,  
you who wait to be reconciled again  
to God and to one another.  
Redemption is near  
to all who call on the name of the Lord.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Hear the good news!  
God's mercy is poured out like a mighty river;  
grace flows like a never-ending stream.  
Believe the gospel, and give thanks!  
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

(KBL)

(3)

CALL TO CONFESSION

Isaiah 1

Hear the word of God from the prophet Isaiah:  
Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean;  
remove the evil of your doings from before me;  
cease to do evil, learn to do good;  
seek justice, rescue the oppressed,  
defend the orphan, plead for the widow.  
Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbors,  
confident in God's steadfast love.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Isaiah 35

The wilderness and the dry land will be glad,  
the desert will rejoice and blossom;  
for waters will break forth in the wilderness,  
and streams will flow in the desert.  
The captives and the lost will return to God  
with smiles on their faces and songs in their hearts.  
Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:  
In Jesus Christ you are forgiven.

(DPG)