BRIEF ORDER FOR
CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Stand

1. The minister leads the congregation in the invocation. The sign of the cross may be made
   by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

   P In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

   C Amen

   P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no
   secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy
   Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through
   Jesus Christ our Lord. (236)

   C Amen

   P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if
   we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us
   from all unrighteousness.

Kneel/Stand


   P Most merciful God,

   C we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned
   against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have
   left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our
   neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. For-
   give us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your
   ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen

3. The minister stands and addresses the congregation.

   P Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake,
   forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ,
   and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your
   sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

   OR

   P In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for
   his sake God forgives you all your sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ he
   gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy
   Spirit.

   C Amen