

SUPPLEMENTARY TEXTS

SUPPLEMENT ONE:

Introductory words (generalized examples)

After the opening phrase, the speaker can introduce the theme or special features of the service. In examples A and B, this part of the introduction is marked with two hyphens (– –) before the words leading to confession of sins.

A.

Dear friends.

– –

We have been baptized to be God’s children, and we have the right to come before our heavenly Father. We can thank God and bring to God our joys and worries, our plans and our common concerns. We can pray that God would lead and guide our ways; we can ask God to renew our strength. God wants us to listen to his word, and he invites us to the communion table. God offers his forgiveness to us for the sake of his Son Jesus Christ. Therefore we confess our sins to him.

B.

Dear Christians, sisters and brothers.

– –

The Lord, our God, “dwells in the high and holy place,” yet God is also close to “those who are contrite and humble in spirit.” (Isaiah 57:15) Because we have come before him, let us confess our sins and our guilt to him [aloud together] with these words:

C.

Sisters and brothers!

We have been baptized in the name of the Triune God.

In baptism God joined us to himself and to each other.

We belong together.

God has always been our Father,

 even when we denied him,

 even when we deliberately went our own ways,

 even in various phases of life when we drifted far away from him.

Today we remind ourselves of our baptism and the faithfulness of God.

We want to return to the Father

and confess to him that we have gotten lost.

SUPPLEMENT TWO:

Confession of sins

A.

Finnish hymnal supplement number 700 (Tunnustan edessäsi, pyhä Jumala)

Holy God, I confess before you
that I have been a sinful human from birth.
Just as my fathers, so also have I acted against your holy will
and committed sin by thoughts and words
by actions and neglect.
I have not loved you with all my heart
nor my neighbor as myself.
I know: because of my sin I deserve eternal damnation
if you judge me according to your holiness and righteousness.
But you, dear heavenly Father,
have promised to pardon all
who want to repent
and flee in faith to safety to our Savior Jesus Christ.
I trust in your goodness and I pray:
Forgive all my sins for the sake of your name.

B.

Finnish hymnal supplement number 702 (Laupias Jumala, rakas taivaallinen Isä)

Compassionate God, dear heavenly Father,
we confess our sins to you.
Because of them we have deserved your wrath and punishment.
Look upon us with mercy,
and forgive us our sins
for the sake of your beloved Son, our Savior Jesus Christ.

C.

Finnish hymnal supplement number 704 (Taivaallinen Isä. Sain kasteen sinun lapseksesi)

Heavenly Father,
I was baptized to be your child.
You removed me from darkness to light,
from damnation to be an heir of heaven.
I have not, however, lived as your child should live.
I have not listened to your voice; I have not obeyed your will.
God, have mercy on me, for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ.
Wash me clean, and forgive all my sin.

D.

Finnish hymnal supplement number 706 (Oi sinä kaikkein armollisin, ristiinnaulittu Herra Jeesus Kristus)

O you most merciful
crucified Lord Jesus Christ,
have mercy on me, a wretched sinner,
and look upon me with the eyes of your goodness
as you looked at Peter when he had denied you,
as you looked at the sinful woman in a Pharisee's home,
and as you looked at the robber on the cross.
Grant me your holy grace
so that I, like Peter, will weep over my sins,
so that I, like the sinful woman, will love you from my heart,
and that together with the robber I will look at your holy face
in heaven forever.

SUPPLEMENT THREE:

Declaration of forgiveness (Absolution)

A.

The almighty, gracious God
has pardoned us in his great goodness.
For the sake of his Son Jesus Christ
God forgives our sins
and grants us life and happiness.
“For God so loved the world
that he gave his only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him
may not perish but may have eternal life.” (John 3:16, NRSV)

B.

Thus says the Lord,
“Do not fear,
for I have redeemed you.
I have called you by name, you are mine.
For the mountains may depart and the hills be removed,
but my steadfast love shall not depart from you,
and my covenant of peace shall not be removed.” (Isaiah 43:1 and 54:10, NRSV)

C.

The Bible assures us
that there is now no condemnation for those
who are in Christ Jesus. (Romans 8:1)
As his servant I declare to you forgiveness of sins,
in the name of the Father, and of the (+) Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

SUPPLEMENT FOUR:

Prayer of intercession

A.

Holy God, our heavenly Father, we thank you for your word in which we hear your voice. Grant faith and hope to your church on earth. Let us feel the warmth of your love and a sense of unity among ourselves. Bless the bishop of our diocese and those who work in our congregation. Help us all to live in faith with prudence and enthusiasm and according to your word.

Bless missionary efforts of our church and all Christian churches. [We pray for (X whose mission work / for mission work in Y that) our congregation sponsors (and our sister church/congregation in Z).] Encourage and strengthen those who are persecuted because of the name of Christ. Gather your people from all nations into your kingdom, and help us to wait in hope for the return of your Son.

We thank you for this country. We ask for your blessing upon the head of state, elected representatives, government authorities and courts of law.¹ Give decision-makers a sense of responsibility so that they might promote justice. Guide them to action to benefit especially the weakest and most disadvantaged. Bless those who build this nation by establishing and running businesses and providing jobs for many people. Help us to share your gifts so that everyone could find adequate means of living and lead a worthwhile life. Remove jealousy from our hearts, and teach us to respect one another.

Protect our country from war and other disasters. Teach us to take responsibility for our natural environment so that greed does not lead us to destroy and pollute it. Lead us to contrition and repentance when we stray away from you and favor sin in our life.

Bless our homes with your healing presence and a spirit of forgiveness. Help parents as they take care of their children. Guide the growth of children and young people. Help us all to hold fast to fellowship in the church, and help us to faithfully follow our Lord.

Our heavenly Father, your word exhorts us to bear one another's burdens.² Help us to be a support to people whose life is shadowed sorrow, illness or loneliness. [Support and comfort those fellow men and women whose needs have been brought to us as items of prayer: – –.] Hear our silent prayer.

(silence)

Our heavenly Father, we praise you for the victory of your Son Jesus Christ over sin and death. When the hour of our death comes, take us to your presence in heaven to praise you forever.

B.

R = reader, A = assembly

- R Heavenly Father, we thank you
for being able to come to you like children.
We come with our joys and burdens.
Thank you for allowing all of us with our diverse backgrounds
to be a part of your family.
Father, you create new life.
- A Renew us with your Spirit.
- R We remember those who are lonely and rejected.
Make us sensitive to hear their cries.
Help us to treat each other
with consideration and patience.
We remember those distressed by circumstances of life,
those crushed by worry and fear.
We pray to you on behalf of those
who are exhausted by work and hurry.
Father, you create new life.
- A Renew us with your Spirit.
- R All the earth is full of your gifts.
We pray to you for those
who do not see your goodness.
We cry on behalf of those
to whom the world is a barren desert
and life is a constant struggle.
Help us to carry their burdens,
for we are a part of the same humanity.
Father, you create new life.
- A Renew us with your Spirit.
- R We pray for wisdom to those who wield power
that they may see the irreplaceable value of every life.
Open the eyes of those who ignore their responsibility
and the ears of those who do not hear the meek of the earth.
Release us from selfishness and the seeking of personal gain
when we make decisions.
Father, you create new life.
- A Renew us with your Spirit.
- R You are present in all spheres of life.
You see children resting in their mothers' arms,
you see the adolescent search for identity and a place in life,
you see the adult burdened by responsibility
and the elderly who are losing their strength, and those who are lonely.
You see all who are close to us, those for whom we now pray in silence.

(silence)

We pray that those who are dying might find eternal peace and rest.
Father, you create new life.

A Renew us with your Spirit.

R Father, you comfort us like a mother comforts her child,
you wrap us in your arms like a loving father.
We leave ourselves in life and death in your care.

C.

Almighty Father. In silent prayer we bring before you ourselves, one another, and our common concerns:

We pray for our church and our congregation.

(silence)

We pray for NN and NN and NN... (names) who have been joined to your people in holy baptism, and for their parents and godparents.

(silence)

We pray for NN and NN, NN and NN... ... (names) who intend to marry soon
[OR: We pray for the newlyweds NN and NN, NN and NN... ... (names)].

(silence)

We pray for NN and NN and NN... ... (names) who have been called away from us, and for their families.

(silence)

We pray for our country and its people.

(silence)

We pray for our families and all who are near to our hearts.

(silence)

We pray for every one who is ill or suffering or near death.

(silence)

Almighty Father, thank you for hearing our petitions. Praise be to you now and forever!

D. (Trishagion)

Finnish hymnal supplement number 718 (Pyhä Jumala, pyhä Väkevä, pyhä Kuolematon)

R Holy God, holy and strong, holy and immortal,

A have mercy upon us!

R We pray to you for the salvation of our souls,
for the spread of your church over all the earth,
and for the unity of all believers.

Protect this house
and all who come here.

Give us pastors and counselors who are pleasing to you.

May your Spirit generate life through the word and the sacraments.

A Hear us, good Lord God.

R Grant your peace into our hearts and homes.

Give young people strength to walk in your ways.

Bring peace to nations in this world
and justice and righteousness upon the earth.

We ask for your wise guidance to the President of the Republic,
for your blessing and protection upon our country and people,
and for everything we need in this life.

C Hear us, good Lord God.

R Support and help the sick,

save those in distress and danger,

give endurance to those who suffer because of their faith.

We ask for your gracious presence
in places of sorrow and suffering.

[Remember those fellow men and women
for whom the congregation has been asked to pray.]

Give us a blessed death and a joyous reunion
with beloved ones who have passed away.

A Hear us, good Lord God.

R To him, the King of kings

who loves us

and has released us from our sins with his blood,

be praise and honor,

glory and power,

always and forever!

SUPPLEMENT FIVE:

Seasonal endings of the preface (Proper prefaces)

A

During the Advent season:

You have sent him to live among your people,
predictions of the prophets have been fulfilled in him.

One day he will arrive in glory
to judge the living and the dead.

We thank you for this gift of heaven,
and with all your angels and saints we sing our praise to you:

B

During Lent:

You have not forsaken us to be ruled by sin and death;
instead you allowed your only Son to die for us,
so that we would die to sin and live to you.

We thank you for this gift of heaven,
and with all your angels and saints we sing our praise to you:

C.

During the Easter season:

By his death he has overcome death,
and by his glorious resurrection he has opened to us the way to eternal life.

He put a new song in our hearts,
a song of praise to our God.

We thank you for this gift of heaven,
and with all your angels and saints we sing our praise to you: