

The New Liturgy of the Revised Roman Missal
Liturgical Minutes No. 18
The Penitential Rite

When the changes come to the Mass in a few weeks, there will be some changes to the *Confiteor* – the Penitential Rite, or Penitential Act – changes that will match the Latin used by the early Church more closely.

Those who are old enough to remember reading along in their Sunday missals when the Mass was celebrated in Latin may recognize the new wording that puts more stress on our unworthiness than the current text. It now includes the phrase, “I have greatly sinned,” and later adds, “through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault.”

The other two forms for the penitential rite have also been revised. If the second form is used, the priest will pray, “Have mercy on us, Oh Lord,” and the people will respond, “**For we have sinned against you.**” Then the priest will say, “Show us, O Lord, your mercy,” and the people will respond, “**And grant us your salvation.**”

The third form of this rite, with various invocations of Christ (for example, the familiar “You came to call sinners”), will be much the same, although the option to conclude each of its three parts with the Greek: “*Kyrie eleison – Chiste eleison – Kyrie eleison,*” rather than “Lord, have mercy – Christ, have mercy – Lord, have mercy,” will be available. This three-fold litany in either the English or Greek may also be used to conclude the first two forms of the penitential rite.

Pronunciation guide:

Keer-ee-ay Ay-lay-ee-sohn

Kree-stay Ay-lay-ee-sohn

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