Invitations to confession

B1

Jesus says, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.’  
So let us turn away from sin and turn to the Lord,  
confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

cf Matthew 4.17

B2

Brothers and sisters,  
as we prepare to celebrate,  
let us call to mind our sins.

B3

The gospel calls us to turn away from sin   
 and be faithful to Christ.  
As we offer ourselves to him in penitence and faith,  
we renew our confidence and trust in his mercy.

B4

'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty.'  
We long for the fire of God's cleansing  
to touch our unclean lips,  
for our guilt to be removed and our sin wiped out.  
So we meet Father, Son and Holy Spirit   
with repentance in our hearts.

cf Isaiah 6 and Revelation 4

B5

St Paul says  
'Be imitators of God;   
love as Christ loved;   
do not grieve the Holy Spirit;   
put away all anger and bitterness,   
all slander and malice.'  
So let us confess our sins to God  
who forgives us in Christ.

cf Ephesians 4.30 - 5.1

B6

Human sin disfigures the whole creation,  
which groans with eager longing for God's redemption.  
We confess our sin in penitence and faith.

f Romans 8.22,23

B7

When the Lord comes,   
he will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness,  
and will disclose the purposes of the heart.  
Therefore in the light of Christ let us confess our sins.

B8

Christ the light of the world has come to dispel  
  the darkness of our hearts.  
In his light let us examine ourselves and confess our sins.

Silence is kept.

B9

Hear the words of the angel to Joseph:  
‘You shall call his name Jesus,  
for he will save his people from their sins.’  
Therefore let us seek the forgiveness of God  
through Jesus the Saviour of the world.

cf Matthew 1.21

B10

As we kneel with the shepherds before the newborn   
 Christ child,   
we open our hearts in penitence and faith.

B11

The grace of God has dawned upon the world   
 through our Saviour Jesus Christ,  
who sacrificed himself for us to purify a people as his own.  
Let us confess our sins.

cf Titus 2.11-14

B12

[Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden,   
and I will give you rest.]

God shows his love for us  
 in that, while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.  
Let us then show our love for him  
by confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

cf Romans 5.8

B13

Christ our passover lamb has been sacrificed for us.  
Let us therefore rejoice by putting away all malice and evil  
and confessing our sins with a sincere and true heart.

cf 1 Corinthians 5.7,8

B14

Jesus is our high priest, tempted like us, yet without sin.  
He lives for ever in heaven to intercede for us.  
Through him we approach the throne of grace   
 with confidence,  
and confess our sins.

cf Hebrews 4.15,16

B15

Seeing we have a great high priest  
who has passed into the heavens,  
Jesus the Son of God,  
let us draw near with a true heart, in full assurance of faith,  
and make our confession to our heavenly Father.

Hebrews 4.14; 10.22

B16

The Spirit of truth will convict the world of guilt   
 about sin, righteousness and judgement.  
We have grieved the Holy Spirit.   
In sorrow we confess our sins.

cf John 16.8

B17

What God has prepared for those who love him,  
he has revealed to us through the Spirit;  
for the Spirit searches everything.  
Therefore, let us in penitence open our hearts to the Lord,  
who has prepared good things for those who love him.

cf 1 Corinthians 2.9

B18

The Spirit of the Lord fills the world  
and knows our every word and deed.  
Let us then open ourselves to the Lord  
and confess our sins in penitence and faith.

B19

The word of God is living and active.  
It judges the thoughts and intentions of the heart.   
All is open and laid bare before the eyes of him   
 to whom we give account.  
We confess our sins in penitence and faith.

cf Hebrews 4.12

B20

The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit;   
a broken and contrite heart God will not despise.  
Our sins accuse us.   
We confess them to God.

cf Psalm 51.17

B21

The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit;  
a broken and contrite heart God will not despise.  
Let us come to the Lord, who is full of compassion,  
and acknowledge our transgressions in penitence and faith.

B22

Compassion and forgiveness belong to the Lord our God,  
though we have rebelled against him.  
Let us then renounce our wilfulness and ask his mercy  
by confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

cf Daniel 9.9

B24

The sun of righteousness has dawned   
with healing in his wings.  
Let us come to the light of Christ,   
confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

cf Malachi 4.2

B25

Jesus said, ‘Before you offer your gift, go and be reconciled.’   
As sisters and brothers in God's family,  
we come together to ask our Father for forgiveness.

Matthew 5.24

B26

We come to God as one from whom no secrets are hidden,  
to ask for his forgiveness and peace.

B27

The grace of God has dawned upon the   
 world with healing for all.  
Let us come to him, in sorrow for our sins,  
seeking healing and salvation.

cf Titus 2.11

B28

Jesus saw the city and wept over it,   
because it did not recognize the time of God's coming.   
We confess our part in the self-centredness,   
 blindness and sin  
of the life of our city/community.

cf Luke 19.41

B29

Brothers and sisters in Christ,  
as we gather at the Lord's table  
we must recall the promises and warnings  
 given to us in the Scriptures.  
Let us therefore examine ourselves and repent of our sins.

B30

Christ calls us to share the heavenly banquet of his love  
with all the saints in earth and heaven.  
Knowing our unworthiness and sin,  
let us ask from him both mercy and forgiveness.

B31

Since we are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses,  
let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely,  
looking to Jesus in penitence and faith.        cf Hebrews 12.1

B32

The saints were faithful unto death  
and now dwell in the heavenly kingdom for ever.  
As we celebrate their joy,  
let us bring to the Lord our sins and weaknesses,  
and ask for his mercy.