

FORM FOR THE READMISSION OF AN EXCOMMUNICATED MEMBER TO CHRIST'S CHURCH



Beloved in the Lord Jesus Christ,

Announcement The church council is pleased to announce that NN, who was previously cut off from the congregation of Christ, has expressed a sincere desire to be readmitted into the congregation.

Through the remedy of excommunication, as well as through earnest admonitions and your prayers for him/her, he/she has come to confess his/her sins, show remorse, and turn away from his/her sinful path. According to God's command, we must joyfully receive those who repent back into the fellowship. Therefore, the church council will lift the ban or excommunication from NN, with the congregation's consent, so that he/she may partake in the celebration of the holy communion. If anyone has a legitimate objection to this, he/she must inform the church council in a timely manner. Meanwhile, let everyone thank the Lord for the grace He has shown to this sinner and pray that the Lord will keep this brother/sister in his faithful Fatherly care for his/her eternal salvation.

Beloved in the Lord Jesus Christ,

Form for readmission The church council has joyfully announced that brother/sister NN has sincerely repented so that, with your knowledge, he/she may be readmitted into the congregation of Christ. After the Lord Jesus confirmed the judgment of His church in the excommunication of unrepentant sinners in Matthew 18, He immediately declared that whatever His servants loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. This indicates that when someone is excommunicated by His church, all hope of salvation is not taken away from them, but they can be freed from the bonds of damnation again. Since God declares in His Word that He does not delight in the death of the sinner but in their repentance and life, the church always has hope for the repentance of the wayward sinner and keeps her arms open to receive the repentant again.

Jn 20:23 Therefore, no one who sincerely repents should doubt that he/she is certainly accepted by God in grace. Christ Himself confirms this: If you forgive people their sins, they are forgiven by God; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven by God.

2 Cor 2:6-8 Furthermore, Paul not only commands that a sinner be removed from the congregation but also that he/she be forgiven and encouraged after he/she has come to understanding through admonition.

Therefore, welcome him/her in love and praise the Lord.

Beloved brother/sister in the Lord Christ,

Questions You stand here before God and his holy congregation to openly declare that the excommunication was just, that you have confessed your sins, shown remorse, and turned away from your wrong path. We therefore ask you to sincerely answer each of the following questions:

Do you believe that the Lord has forgiven your sins for the sake of Jesus Christ?

Answer: Yes.

Do you desire to be readmitted into the congregation of Christ?

Answer: Yes.

Do you promise to continually repent and live faithfully according to the Word of God?

Answer: Yes.

Mt 18:18

NN, in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ, we declare that the excommunication is now lifted.

Eph 4:12-16
Rom 8:30

You are readmitted into the congregation of Christ and therefore have a share in the fellowship of Christ, in the holy sacraments, and in all the spiritual blessings of God that the congregation receives according to the promises of God. Be assured of God's grace, watch and strive against sin, the devil, and his deceit.

And may God keep you to the end for the sake of Jesus Christ. Amen.

And you, beloved congregation, receive your brother/sister with heartfelt love back into the kingdom of God and as a brother/sister in the congregation. Rejoice, for he/she was dead and have come to life again, were lost and are found.

Lk 15:24

Rejoice with the angels in heaven over this sinner who has repented.

Lk 15:1-10

Let us now praise and thank the Lord!

Our Father who is in heaven,

Prayer

We thank you for the repentance and new life you have given our brother/sister. We rejoice in your grace and longsuffering.

Ezek 18: 23

We pray that you continue to be gracious to him/her; renew him/her in your true image, so that he/she may serve you with joy.

Eph 4:23-24

Grant him/her strength to persevere in faith to the end and let us learn from this example that there is grace with you. We pray that you assure him/her and us that we are all co-heirs of eternal life for the sake of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Mt 24:13

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