

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



Announcement	<p>Beloved in the Lord Jesus Christ, It is with great joy that the church council announces that N, who was excommunicated from Christ's church a while ago, has expressed the sincere desire to be readmitted to the church. Through the remedy of excommunication, serious admonition, and prayer, he/she has confessed his/her sins in heartfelt remorse and repented of his/her sinful ways. As God commands us, we must joyfully receive once again all who repent and so, upon agreement by the church, the church council will loose N from the bond of excommunication that he/she may again share in the celebration of the Lord's Supper. If anyone has a valid reason against this, he/she must timeously inform the church council of this objection. Let us meanwhile thank the Lord for the grace He has shown this sinner and pray that the Lord will keep this brother/sister in His fatherly care for his/her eternal salvation.</p>
The form for readmission	<p>Beloved in the Lord Jesus Christ, It is with great joy that the church council informed you that brother/sister N has sincerely repented that he/she may be readmitted to the church of Christ. Upon confirming in Matthew 18 the sentence of impenitent sinners, the Lord Jesus also declared that "...whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven" (Matt. 16:19). He thereby tells us that being cut off from His church does not deny him/her all hope of salvation, but that he/she can once again be freed of the ties of condemnation. Since God declares in His Word that He takes no joy in the death of a sinner, but that he/she would repent, the church always hopes for the return of the sinner and receives him/her with open arms. Therefore, no one who repents needs to doubt that God receives him/her in His grace. Christ Himself confirmed this when He said: "If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven" (John 20:23). Paul commands us that a sinner must be removed from the church, but also be forgiven and encouraged once this punishment has brought him/her to repentance. Welcome him/her, therefore, with love and praise the Lord.</p>
Address	<p>Beloved brother/sister in the Lord Jesus Christ You now stand before God and His holy church to openly declare the exclusion from the church just, confess your sins, and repent of your sinful ways. We, therefore, request that you truthfully answer the following questions.</p>
Questions	<p>Do you believe that the Lord has forgiven your sins in Jesus Christ?</p>
Answer:	Yes.
	Do you wish to be readmitted to the Christ's church?
Answer:	Yes.
	Do you promise to continue to repent and faithfully live according to the Word of God?
Answer:	Yes.

N, in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ we hereby declare the excommunication lifted.

You are hereby readmitted to Christ's church and once again share in the fellowship with Christ, the holy sacraments and all spiritual blessings God granted the church by virtue of God's promises. Be assured of God's grace, guard and fight against sin, the devil and his temptations.

May God preserve you to the end, for Jesus Christ's sake, amen.

Beloved brothers and sisters, receive this brother/sister into God's kingdom and as brother/sister of the church. Rejoice, because he/she who was dead is alive again, was lost and has been found.

Rejoice with the angels in heaven that this sinner has repented.

Let us now praise and thank the Lord!

Prayer of Heavenly Father,
Gratitude: We thank You for the repentance and new life You have granted our brother/sister. We rejoice in Your patience and grace. We pray that You may show him/her continued grace. Renew him/her in Your image that he/she may joyfully serve You. Grant him/her the strength to persevere in faith to the end and may we once again be assured that grace is found in You. Grant him/her the assurance that in the Lord Jesus Christ we are all co-heirs of eternal life. Amen