

## THE TYPICAL SHORT FORM FOR CONFESSION

*The presbyter begins with these words of exhortation:*

Behold, Child, Christ invisibly stands here to hear your confession. Be not ashamed, neither be afraid, and hide nothing from me. Rather, fear not to tell me all that you have done, so that you may receive forgiveness from our Lord Jesus Christ. Behold, His Icon is before us. And I am only the witness, that I may bear witness before Him of all you tell me. If you hide anything from me, you shall have the greater sin. Take heed, therefore, that having come to the place of the Physician, you not depart unhealed.

*The penitent confesses his or her sins, then the presbyter prays the prayers of absolution, placing the epitrachelion (stole) over the penitent's head:*

O Lord God of the salvation of Thy servants, Who art merciful, compassionate and long-suffering, Who repentest concerning our evil deeds, Who desirest not the death of a sinner, but that he should turn from his way and live: Do Thou Thyself now be merciful unto Thy servant, *N.*, and grant unto him (*her*) an image of repentance, pardon and remission of sins, forgiving him (*her*) every transgression, whether voluntary or involuntary. Reconcile and unite him (*her*) to Thy Holy Church, through Jesus Christ our Lord, with Whom is due unto Thee power and majesty, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

May God Who pardoned David through Nathan the Prophet when he confessed his sins, Peter who wept bitterly for his denial, the Harlot weeping at His feet, the Publican and the Prodigal, forgive you all things, through me a sinner, both in this world and in the world to come, and set you uncondemned before His terrible Judgment Seat. Now, having no further care for the sins which you have confessed, depart in peace.