Beloved in the Lord, it is known to you that we have several times announced to you the sin committed and the offence given by our fellow member, N________, to the end that he might by your admonition and prayers be brought to repentance. But we cannot conceal from you that he has shown no token of true repentance, but, on the contrary, in spite of the patience of the Church, daily aggravates his sin.

We are therefore now, according to the command of God in his holy Word, constrained with deep sorrow to proceed to the final step of discipline, in order that our erring brother may, if possible, be made ashamed of his sin and that God’s name may not be blasphemed in the Church.

Therefore we, the minister and elders of this church, do declare before that you, in the name and authority of our Lord Jesus Christ, we have excommunicated N________ from the Church of Christ and from the communion of the holy Sacraments and from the spiritual benefits which God bestows on his Church, so long as he shall impenitently persist in his sins.

Nevertheless, we exhort you, beloved Christians, to count him not as an enemy, but to admonish him at all times as a brother. And let every one take warning by this sad example to fear the Lord and diligently take heed unto himself. Knowing the wiles of the wicked one, let us guard against the beginnings of evil, and watch and pray lest we enter into temptation.

Since we are assured that there is forgiveness with the Lord, that he may be feared, let us together call on him, with confession of our sins and supplication for his mercy.

Prayer
II
Readmission of the Penitent

Beloved in the Lord, it is known to you that some time ago we were constrained to separate our fellow member, N________, from the communion of the Church. We may now rejoice in the blessed results of Christian discipline, and thankfully announce that our brother desires to be readmitted into the following of Christ’s people. And whereas no one has alleged any reason why such readmission should not take place, we therefore now proceed to receive him again into the Church of Christ.

Our Lord Jesus Christ, having confirmed the sentence of his Church in the discipline of such as are impenitent, declares also that whatever his ministers loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven, thereby teaching that those who may be cut off from his Church are not deprived of all hope of salvation, but may again by his grace be restored. Again he declares, “If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven.” Therefore no one who truly repents may doubt that he is assuredly received by God in mercy.

I ask you therefore, N________, whether you do acknowledge before God and his Church that you are sincerely sorry for your sin and truly believe that the Lord has forgiven you; and are you desirous henceforth to live in all godliness?

Answer:

Yes, truly.

We then, here assembled in the name of the Lord, receive you again into the communion of the Church of Christ and of all its spiritual benefits; and may the eternal God preserve you and us therein to the end.

And you, beloved Christians, receive this your brother with hearty affection, and count him no longer as a stranger, but as a fellow citizen with the saints and of the household of God.

And let us together praise and magnify the Lord Almighty.

Prayer