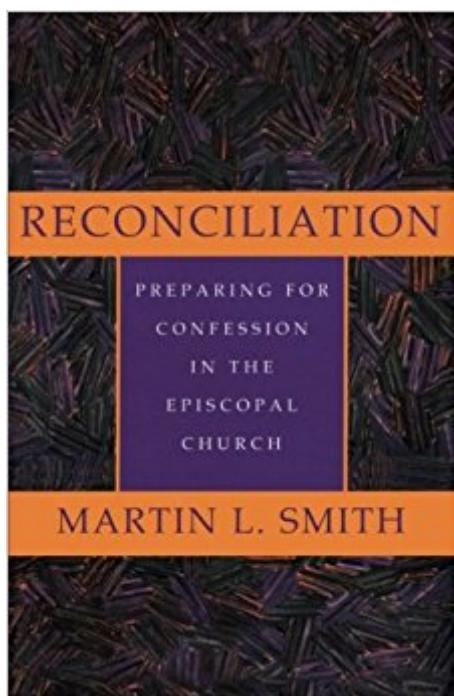


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# Reconciliation: Preparing For Confession In The Episcopal Church



## **Synopsis**

The author overviews the theological and spiritual background of the sacrament of reconciliation, and offers practical suggestions for the practice of hearing and making a confession.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

In this brief volume, Martin Smith . . . presents a practical guide to those who are preparing for their initial sacramental confession. The book does two things. It sketches a road map of the process of confession and it provides some excellent exercises for self-examination that may be used in the weeks prior to one's confession. . . . The strength of this book is that it remains true to its aim and focus. It provides a clear guide to confession that would be a valuable resource in preparing parishioners for confession. Smith's work is undergirded with sound theology, a clear understanding of what one experiences in sacramental confession, and an awareness of the complexity and seduction of human rationalization and the cleansing, convicting activity of the Holy Spirit. As a Lenten study, this volume could be useful in preparing priest and people for Pre-Easter sacramental confession. (Peter B. Stube Virginia Seminary Journal) Martin Smith . . . has written a theologically sensitive and personally insightful book addressed primarily to those who wish to make use of this new rite (in either of its two forms) and who desire to 'receive the forgiveness of God' not just as a general truth or a vague promise, but personally, immediately, in actual experience' (p.1). His aim, then, is to assist the penitent in preparing for his or her first sacramental confession. It is surely also a valuable guide for those who regularly or on occasion hear

confessions as well as for those who regularly or on occasion make their confessions. For each of these, the book is a rich resource, one that leads the reader into a deeper understanding of the theology of reconciliation and of the nature of God's forgiving love. . . . Two appendices . . . are useful additions to Smith's timely and discerning book. It is a book that provides a rich resource for the deepening of one's understanding of Christian faith and life. (Donald F. Winslow, Episcopal Divinity School)

MARTIN L. SMITH is an Episcopal priest and the author of *The Word Is Very Near You*.

The author leads the reader from start to finish, covering the basics. He writes about the power of forgiveness, the Rite of Reconciliation in the Episcopal Church, what is sin, (beyond the obvious), and how to prepare for a first confession, including an examen. This book would be a great help for those who have never experienced the rite, and feel the need, or are afraid to do so. I used it to help teach a confirmation class, and was impressed.

A great read in preparing for Reconciliation in the Episcopal Church

If you are considering reconciliation or "confession" this book is an absolute necessity! It allows you to search your soul in such depth and to look at yourself with compassion. I would never consider entering into confession without the direction this book offers.

An important book.

OK

Martin Smith has provided a very helpful tool in this book. I found the book provides background on the topic based in Scriptures and there were several nice follow up study tips. I would recommend this to anyone, Lay or Clergy, interested in the topic of reconciliation and this book is also a nice source for study and mediation.

Deep and excellent

Many people in the Episcopal Church have never experienced the Sacrament of Reconciliation,

including ordained clergy. If we truly believe that sacraments are the "outward sign of inward grace" and if we acknowledge our personal failures (as well as our corporate failures as we do during our worship), then we might consider "confessing our sins to one another" as St. Paul instructs. Martin Smith's book guides its readers through the process of preparing for this so-called "minor" sacrament. The gentle invitation to examine one's life and set one's intention (ie, what grace do you seek from the reception of this sacrament at this time?) is a lesson in humility and honesty. This book is especially helpful for adults preparing to receive this sacrament for the first time.

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