

# Confession and Absolution

## 790 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

- 1 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!  
O my soul, praise Him, for He is your health and salvation!  
Let all who hear  
Now to His temple draw near,  
Joining in glad adoration!
- 2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is wondrously reigning  
And, as on wings of an eagle, uplifting, sustaining.  
Have you not seen  
All that is needful has been  
Sent by His gracious ordaining?
- 3 Praise to the Lord, who has fearfully, wondrously, made you,  
Health has bestowed and, when heedlessly falling, has stayed you.  
What need or grief  
Ever has failed of relief?  
Wings of His mercy did shade you.
- 4 Praise to the Lord, who will prosper your work and defend you;  
Surely His goodness and mercy shall daily attend you.  
Ponder anew  
What the Almighty can do  
As with His love He befriends you.
- 5 Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore Him!  
All that has life and breath, come now with praises before Him!  
Let the Amen  
Sound from His people again;  
Gladly forever adore Him!

Text: Joachim Neander, 1650–80; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.

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*Stand*

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

## Invocation

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

## Exhortation

203

**P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C** **who made heaven and earth.**

**P** If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

**C** **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

**P** Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, and call upon Him in prayer and praise, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

*Kneel/Stand*

## Confession of Sins

LSB 203

**C** **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

**Absolution**

LSB 203

**P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the  $\text{†}$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

Stand

**Service of the Word****Introit***Psalm 104:24, 27–28, 30; antiphon: v. 33*

**P** I will sing to the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have being.

**C** O LORD, how manifold are your works! In wisdom have you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.

**P** These all look to you, to give them their food in due season.

**C** When you give it to them, they gather it up; when you open your hand, they are filled with good things.

**P** When you send forth your Spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the ground.

**C** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

**P** I will sing to the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have being.

**Kyrie**

LSB 204

**C** Lord, have mercy;  
Christ, have mercy;  
Lord, have mercy.

**Gloria in Excelsis**

LSB 204

**C** 1 To God on high be glory  
And peace to all the earth;  
Goodwill from God in heaven  
Proclaimed at Jesus' birth!  
We praise and bless You, Father;  
Your holy name, we sing—  
Our thanks for Your great glory,  
Lord God, our heav'nly King.

2 To You, O sole-begotten,  
The Father's Son, we pray;  
O Lamb of God, our Savior,  
You take our sins away.  
Have mercy on us, Jesus;  
Receive our heartfelt cry,  
Where You in pow'r are seated  
At God's right hand on high—

3 For You alone are holy;  
You only are the Lord.  
Forever and forever,  
Be worshiped and adored;  
You with the Holy Spirit  
Alone are Lord Most High,  
In God the Father's glory.  
"Amen!" our glad reply.

Text: Stephen P. Starke

**Salutation and Collect of the Day****P** The Lord be with you.**C** **And also with you.****P** Let us pray.

Almighty God, Your mercies are new every morning and You graciously provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may acknowledge Your goodness, give thanks for Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience all our days; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.***Sit***Old Testament Reading***Deuteronomy 8:1–10*

<sup>1</sup>“The whole commandment that I command you today you shall be careful to do, that you may live and multiply, and go in and possess the land that the LORD swore to give to your fathers. <sup>2</sup>And you shall remember the whole way that the LORD your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, that he might humble you, testing you to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep his commandments or not. <sup>3</sup>And he humbled you and let you hunger and fed you with manna, which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that he might make you know that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD. <sup>4</sup>Your clothing did not wear out on you and your foot did not swell these forty years. <sup>5</sup>Know then in your heart that, as a man disciplines his son, the LORD your God disciplines you. <sup>6</sup>So you shall keep the commandments of the LORD your God by walking in his ways and by fearing him. <sup>7</sup>For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and springs, flowing out in the valleys and hills, <sup>8</sup>a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey, <sup>9</sup>a land in which you will eat bread without scarcity, in which you will lack nothing, a land whose stones are iron, and out of whose hills you can dig copper. <sup>10</sup>And you shall eat and be full, and you shall bless the LORD your God for the good land he has given you.”

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.**C** **Thanks be to God.****Epistle***1 Timothy 2:1–4*

<sup>1</sup>First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, <sup>2</sup>for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. <sup>3</sup>This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, <sup>4</sup>who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.**C** **Thanks be to God.***Stand***Alleluia and Verse****Alleluia***LSB 205***C** **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.****Verse***LSB 205***C** **These things are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.****Alleluia***LSB 205***C** **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.****Holy Gospel***Luke 17:11–19***P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the seventeenth chapter.**C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>11</sup>On the way to Jerusalem [Jesus] was passing along between Samaria and Galilee. <sup>12</sup>And as he entered a village, he was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance <sup>13</sup>and lifted up their voices, saying,

“Jesus, Master, have mercy on us.” <sup>14</sup>When he saw them he said to them, “Go and show yourselves to the priests.” And as they went they were cleansed. <sup>15</sup>Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; <sup>16</sup>and he fell on his face at Jesus’ feet, giving him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan. <sup>17</sup>Then Jesus answered, “Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? <sup>18</sup>Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?” <sup>19</sup>And he said to him, “Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well.”

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

## Apostles’ Creed

**C** I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried.

He descended into hell.

The third day He rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy Christian Church,

the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body,

and the life † everlasting. Amen.

*Sit*

## 785 We Praise You, O God

- 1 We praise You, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;  
In grateful devotion our tribute we bring.  
We lay it before You, we kneel and adore You;  
We bless Your holy name, glad praises we sing.
- 2 We worship You, God of our fathers, we bless You;  
Through trial and tempest our guide You have been.  
When perils o’ertake us, You will not forsake us,  
And with Your help, O Lord, our struggles we win.
- 3 With voices united our praises we offer  
And gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.  
With You, Lord, beside us, Your strong arm will guide us.  
To You, our great Redeemer, forever be praise!

Text: Julia B. Cory, 1882–1963, alt.

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## Sermon

Grace, Mercy, and Peace to you from God our Father and our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Tonight, we celebrate a National Holiday, something unique, especially in this day and age. It is rare when the US government points her people to a religious concept. Ironically, Abraham Lincoln started Thanksgiving during the midst of the Civil War. In the midst of the chaos of our country fighting against itself. Yes, the holiday has changed over the years and now signals the start of the Christmas shopping season and has been

moved from the last Thursday in November to the fourth Thursday to give more time for Christmas Shopping. But we all know that retailers started the Christmas shopping season back before Halloween.

So, what do we have to be thankful for? While our lists of material blessings would be quite long, our spiritual blessings far outshine the material blessings. You have been chosen by God to become His dear child. Luther explains the introduction to the Lord's Prayer "With these words God tenderly invites us to believe that He is our true Father and that we are His true children, so that with all boldness and confidence we may ask Him as dear children ask their dear father." While our earthly fathers may or may not have been godly, for most, this gives us the image of God caring for our every need. Picture a father doing his best to provide for and care for his newborn baby. Think about how as the baby changes, the relationship with her father changes, going from being totally dependent on her parents to being an independent young lady. In some ways, as she changes and grows, her father's love doesn't change. And yet, as she matures, her needs change and her father's love changes.

As we grow and mature as Christians, our relationship with Our Heavenly Father changes, but His love and relationship with us does not change. The Holy Spirit works faith in us through the proclamation of God's Word, which the Holy Spirit also guides and directs. With faith in our hearts, the Holy Spirit leads us to Baptism where God claims us as His own. In the waters of Baptism, we die to sin and a new spiritual person arises from the waters. Paul writes in Romans 6:3-4 "Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life." Instead of being children of death and devil, we became God's children. But the spiritual battle didn't end there. Our sinful nature, the world and the devil are always active, always trying to snatch us from God's hand, trying to convince us to sin against God and one another. After all, we can reject God's Love, Grace, and Mercy.

We don't always "fear, love, and trust in God above all things." Or "fear and love God so that we do not curse, swear, use satanic arts, lie, or deceive by His name, but call upon it in every trouble, pray, praise, and give thanks. We don't always "fear and love God so that we do not despise preaching and His Word, but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it." We don't always respect and cherish those around us, especially those whom God has placed in authority over us. We hurt and harm those around us. In the sexually charged world around us, we don't always "fear and love God so that we lead a sexually pure and decent life in what we say and do, and husband and wife love and honor each other." For too many, infidelity and pornography destroys relationships and one's own sexuality. We don't always "fear and love God so that we do not take our neighbor's money or possessions, or get them in any dishonest way, but help him to improve and protect his possessions and income." We don't always "fear and love God so that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray him, slander him, or hurt his reputation, but defend him, speak well of him, and explain everything in the kindest way. We too often covet and desire what those around us have but we have not been given, especially relationships and possessions.

In God's great Fatherly love for us, God knew we would sin and need a savior. God knew that Adam and Eve would be tempted in the Garden of Eden. God knew that they would sin, falling short of the Glory of God. But being a just God, God could not just look the other way. God isn't a doting grandfather who just looks the other way when sin happens. And thanks be to God, God had a solution for our sin problem. It was a costly solution. God's solution cost Jesus his life on the cross. Jesus was born of the virgin Mary as we will celebrate at Christmas. Jesus lived the perfect life that you and I cannot live. And because Jesus took on human flesh and lived a perfect life, Jesus took your sins and the sins of the whole world to the Cross where He paid your sin debt in full, willingly, voluntarily. Jesus's life and death reconciled you to your Perfect Heavenly Father, opening the kingdom of heaven to you. Opening eternal life to you. Enabling you to become God's own dear child.

God didn't stop there. God brought you into this world and gave you life. God gives you all that you need for this life and for eternal life. When we pray "give us this day our daily bread" Luther explains "God certainly gives daily bread to everyone without our prayers, even to all evil people, but we pray in this petition that God would lead us to realize this and to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving." Luther continues "*What is meant by daily bread?* Daily bread includes everything that has to do with the support and needs of the body, such as food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, home, land, animals, money, goods, a devout husband or wife, devout children, devout workers, devout and faithful rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, self-control, good reputation, good friends, faithful neighbors, and the like."

For many people in the world today, just daily bread which we take for granted would cause them to give thanks. Yet we have so much more. We live in the most materially blessed nation in the world. We rarely miss a meal. We rarely get cold because of well-built housing and reliable utilities. We rarely get sick from the water we drink because the water is purified and treated. From just the physical aspect, we have so much to be thankful for.

But we also have so much to be thankful for from the spiritual perspective. As we pray in the Seventh Petition, "and deliver us from evil", Luther explains "We pray in this petition, in summary, that our Father in heaven would rescue us from every evil of body and soul, possessions and reputation, and finally, when our last hour comes, give us a blessed end, and graciously take us from this valley of sorrow to Himself in heaven.

You have so much to be thankful for. A national holiday to give thanks to God. All your material blessings. Being God's own dear child for whom Jesus died to forgive your sins. Having God's Word to guide and direct your life as you prepare for eternal life. "Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever!" (Psalm 107:1) Amen.

The peace of God which surpasses all understanding will keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus to life everlasting. Amen.

*Stand*

## **Prayer of the Church**

In peace, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For grateful hearts and generosity of spirit, that God would receive our thanks for the rich bounty the earth has provided and for the daily bread that supplies all we need for this body and life; and that He would teach us to be generous with His gifts, willingly sharing with those in need, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For those the Lord has sent to preach the Gospel, that we who do not live by bread alone may hear the Word that comes from the mouth of God and live, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For husbands and wives, parents and children, that the Lord would bless them, make His face shine upon them and make known to them His saving power, that they in turn may make His truth known on the earth to the coming generation, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For Joseph and all who hold high positions among us, that God would bless them and that we may lead peaceful and quiet lives, godly and dignified in every way, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For [\_\_\_\_\_ and] all who suffer in our midst, that the Lord would grant them health in accord with His perfect will and guard their hearts and minds in Christ Jesus, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For all who partake in the great Thanksgiving feast of Christ's body and blood, that with repentant and thankful hearts we may recognize all His benefits toward us in Christ, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For a legacy of faith, that just as we look to the saints who have gone before us, we, too, may be found faithful by the next generation of believers, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For contentment in our Lord's care, that we may learn the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need, able to do all things through Christ who strengthens us, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

Hear us, heavenly Father, for the sake of Christ Jesus, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## Lord's Prayer

**C** Our Father who art in heaven,  
 hallowed be Thy name,  
 Thy kingdom come,  
 Thy will be done on earth  
 as it is in heaven;  
 give us this day our daily bread;  
 and forgive us our trespasses  
 as we forgive those  
 who trespass against us;  
 and lead us not into temptation,  
 but deliver us from evil.  
 For Thine is the kingdom  
 and the power and the glory  
 forever and ever. **Amen.**

## Post-Communion Collect

**A** Let us pray.  
 Almighty God, grant to Your Church Your Holy Spirit and the wisdom that comes down from above, that Your Word may not be bound but have free course and be preached to the joy and edifying of Christ's holy people, so that in steadfast faith we may serve You and, in the confession of Your name, abide unto the end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**C** Amen.

## Benedicamus

*LSB 212*

**A** Let us bless the Lord.  
**C** Thanks be to God.

## Benediction

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
 The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
 The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.  
**C** Amen.

## 895 Now Thank We All Our God

1 Now thank we all our God  
 With hearts and hands and voices,  
 Who wondrous things has done,  
 In whom His world rejoices;  
 Who from our mothers' arms  
 Has blest us on our way  
 With countless gifts of love  
 And still is ours today.

2 Oh, may this bounteous God  
 Through all our life be near us,  
 With ever joyful hearts  
 And blessed peace to cheer us  
 And keep us in His grace

And guide us when perplexed  
And free us from all ills  
In this world and the next!

△ 3 All praise and thanks to God  
The Father now be given,  
The Son, and Him who reigns  
With them in highest heaven,  
The one eternal God,  
Whom earth and heav'n adore;  
For thus it was, is now,  
And shall be evermore.

Text: Martin Rinckart, 1586–1649; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.  
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