

Confession and Absolution

662 Onward, Christian Soldiers

- 1 Onward, Christian soldiers,
 Marching as to war,
 With the cross of Jesus
 Going on before.
 Christ, the royal master,
 Leads against the foe;
 Forward into battle
 See His banners go! Refrain
- ref Onward, Christian soldiers,
 Marching as to war,
 With the cross of Jesus
 Going on before.
- 2 Like a mighty army
 Moves the Church of God;
 Brothers, we are treading
 Where the saints have trod.
 We are not divided,
 All one body we,
 One in hope and doctrine,
 One in charity. Refrain
- 3 Crowns and thrones may perish,
 Kingdoms rise and wane,
 But the Church of Jesus
 Constant will remain.
 Gates of hell can never
 'Gainst that Church prevail;
 We have Christ's own promise,
 And that cannot fail. Refrain
- 4 Onward, then, ye faithful,
 Join our happy throng,
 Blend with ours your voices
 In the triumph song:
 Glory, laud, and honor
 Unto Christ, the king;
 This through countless ages
 Men and angels sing. Refrain

Text: Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834-1924, alt.

Text: Public domain

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

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.

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- 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 ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

- C** Amen.

Stand

Service of the Word

Introit

Psalm 105:39–43; antiphon: v. 1

- P** Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon his name; make known his deeds among the peoples!
C He spread a cloud for a covering, and fire to give light by night.
P They asked, and he brought quail, and gave them bread from heaven in abundance.
C He opened the rock, and water gushed out; it flowed through the desert like a river.
P For he remembered his holy promise, and Abraham, his servant.
C So he brought his people out with joy, his chosen ones with singing.
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 Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon his name; make known his deeds among the peoples!

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.

Heavenly Father, though we do not deserve Your goodness, still You provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may acknowledge Your gifts, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 55:1–5

¹“Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters;
and he who has no money, come, buy and eat!

Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.

²Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy?

Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food.

³Incline your ear, and come to me; hear, that your soul may live;

and I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David.

⁴Behold, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples.

⁵Behold, you shall call a nation that you do not know, and a nation that did not know you shall run to you,

because of the LORD your God, and of the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle

Romans 9:1–5 [6-13]

¹I am speaking the truth in Christ—I am not lying; my conscience bears me witness in the Holy Spirit—²that I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. ³For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brothers, my kinsmen according to the flesh. ⁴They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises. ⁵To them belong the patriarchs, and from their race, according to the flesh, is the Christ who is God over all, blessed forever. Amen.

[⁶But it is not as though the word of God has failed. For not all who are descended from Israel belong to Israel, ⁷and not all are children of Abraham because they are his offspring, but “Through Isaac shall your offspring be named.” ⁸This means that it is not the children of the flesh who are the children of God, but the children of the promise are counted as offspring. ⁹For this is what the promise said: “About this time next year I will return and Sarah shall have a son.” ¹⁰And not only so, but also when Rebecca had conceived children by one man, our forefather Isaac, ¹¹though they were not yet born and had done nothing either good or bad—in order that God’s purpose of election might continue, not because of works but because of his call—¹²she was told, “The older will serve the younger.” ¹³As it is written, “Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated.”]

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

Matthew 14:13–21

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fourteenth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹³Now when Jesus heard [about the death of John], he withdrew from there in a boat to a desolate place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. ¹⁴When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them and healed their sick. ¹⁵Now when it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, “This is a desolate place, and the day is now over; send the crowds away to go into the villages and buy food for themselves.” ¹⁶But Jesus said, “They need not go away; you give them something to eat.” ¹⁷They said to him, “We have only five loaves here and two fish.” ¹⁸And he said, “Bring them here to me.” ¹⁹Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass, and taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing. Then he broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. ²⁰And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up twelve baskets full of the broken pieces left over. ²¹And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

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

528 Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

1 Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing
My great Redeemer’s praise,
The glories of my God and King,
The triumphs of His grace!

- 2 My gracious Master and my God,
 Assist me to proclaim,
 To spread through all the earth abroad,
 The honors of Thy name.
- 3 Jesus! The name that charms our fears,
 That bids our sorrows cease;
 'Tis music in the sinner's ears,
 'Tis life and health and peace.
- 4 He breaks the pow'r of canceled sin;
 He sets the pris'ner free.
 His blood can make the foulest clean;
 His blood avails for me.
- 5 Look unto Him, ye nations; own
 Your God, ye fallen race.
 Look and be saved through faith alone,
 Be justified by grace.
- 6 See all your sins on Jesus laid;
 The Lamb of God was slain.
 His soul was once an off'ring made
 For ev'ry soul of man.
- 7 To God all glory, praise, and love
 Be now and ever giv'n
 By saints below and saints above,
 The Church in earth and heav'n.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-88, alt.
 Text: Public domain

Sermon

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

In St. Louis, where you went to High School says a lot about you, where you grew up and likely what your family's socio-economic status was. Most Ladue kids had affluent parents, while Ritenour kids had blue collar parents. And even amongst Catholic High Schools, Kennedy High School kids from West County were better off than the DuBourg kids from South St. Louis. And while years often separated alumni, there was a sense of comradery amongst the graduates of a particular High School. They had something in common.

Paul writes to the house churches in Rome at an interesting point in the young Christian church's life. The Jews had been expelled from Rome by the Emperor Claudius in 49 AD. This was the third time. The first time in 139 BC was for corrupting Roman morals. The second time in 19 AD was because the Jews "were flocking to Rome and converting many". Keep in mind that in Rome, besides the gods of Greek and Roman mythology, the emperor considered and proclaimed himself to be a god. Still, the Jews were allowed to practice their religion. This third time was different. Claudius expelled the Jews for "rioting over Chrestus", likely an errant transliteration of Christ. Paul's experience certainly bore out this conflict. In each city Paul visited, he encountered Jews who resisted and fought against Paul's proclamation of Jesus as the Christ, the Messiah. Christianity was seen as a sect of Judaism, and thus allowed in the Roman Empire. In 54 AD, shortly after the death of Claudius, the Jews began to return to Rome and re-integrate into the house churches of Rome. But how would they be received? Would the churches accept the Jews back into fellowship or would there be Gentile Christian Churches and Jewish Christian Churches?

While Paul was certainly the apostle to the Gentiles, Paul was Jewish, and if you will, went to a Jewish High School. Paul's heart ached for his people, the Jews. The case was so compelling for Paul that he struggled to understand why the Jews rejected Jesus. The Jews had the big picture of God's Plan of Salvation throughout

their Scriptures, the Old Testament, the same Old Testament that Protestant Christianity uses today. As a trained Jewish Scholar, Paul knew the Old Testament. Inspired by the Holy Spirit, Paul saw clearly the prophecies point to Jesus as the Messiah.

In Romans 9, Paul prays for the people of Israel, the descendants of those who received God's promises and became God's people. God's promises remain. God promised to bless all nations through Abraham. God promised to raise up a king from David's line, a descendent of Isaac and Jacob. God always stands behind his promises.

Just as Jesus was willing to lay aside himself, to take on your sins and the sins of the whole world, so too Paul stands ready to lay aside himself, his faith, that the Jews might come to faith in Jesus. Paul has placed such a great value on his faith in Jesus as His Lord and Savior that he has suffered greatly. Paul expounds in 2 Corinthians 11:23-27 ²³ "Are they servants of Christ? I am a better one—I am talking like a madman—with far greater labors, far more imprisonments, with countless beatings, and often near death. ²⁴ Five times I received at the hands of the Jews the forty lashes less one. ²⁵ Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I was adrift at sea; ²⁶ on frequent journeys, in danger from rivers, danger from robbers, danger from my own people, danger from Gentiles, danger in the city, danger in the wilderness, danger at sea, danger from false brothers; ²⁷ in toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night, in hunger and thirst, often without food, ^[b] in cold and exposure." Despite all of that, Paul wishes to lay aside his precious faith, that the people of Israel would come to faith.

Likely, you know someone who has abandoned the faith. Some intentionally with forethought; some simply got out of the habit of coming to church. You know the heartache that Paul feels. And you don't know what to do about it, how to handle the situation. The most difficult conversations about faith are often with those we are the closest to. You may be intimidated, fearing alienation. You can lose sight of the big picture. Your loved one's eternal salvation hangs in the balance. You are on God's mission. You are God's ambassador. God places you into situations and relationships so that you may be His heart, voice, hands and feet. The Holy Spirit gives you words to speak Jesus into the world, and especially into the lives of those around you. The Holy Spirit gives you your proclamation and uses your proclamation to bring about faith in others.

Paul shows you how to begin. Paul's heart aches for his relatives, especially those resisting the faith. Paul's heart aches fearing divisions in the church. Paul responds lovingly with prayer, offering himself to others in Christian Love and Service. Paul's heart aligns with Jesus's heart. Paul's mission is the Father's mission that was entrusted to Jesus first, then Paul and the Apostles, all the way down to you and I. Paul's words are winsome and sweet. Paul welcomes all into God's family; sinners who need a savior. Sinners whose actions don't always align with their faith.

As God's chosen people, Israel sinned repeatedly, turning to other gods. Israel lost sight of God's promises, God's mercy and forgiveness. Israel transgressed God's Law, bringing upon themselves the consequences of their sins. But, throughout the Old Testament, God shows His faithfulness when Israel was unfaithful. Despite the opinions of many, the Old Testament shows us the Gospel by showing us God's Grace and forgiveness to Israel, not just the Law.

We too are sinners, too apt to stray. Influence by the culture, the world around us, we see ourselves as most important. We count our needs and desires as more than others. We are too quick to bend and break the rules for our own benefit. We lose sight of who we are and whose we are. Isaiah writes "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned everyone to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all." (Isaiah 53:6)

God remains faithful to His chosen, both the Israelites of the Old Testament and the bride of Jesus, the New Testament church. The Holy Spirit moves us to repent and confess our sins and then forgives our sins, keeping us in the one true faith with Jesus in His church, the family of all believers, according to His promises. God

uses our voices, hearts, hands and feet just as he did Paul's. We too seek the unity of the church, both here in Harvel, around the United States, and around the world, without compromising God's Word, the Law which accuses and convicts and the Gospel which proclaims that Jesus came to save sinners, of which I am the worst. We lift those in our lives and those we encounter in prayer, asking that the Holy Spirit would work saving faith in these individuals that each may know that God so loved the world and each of us that He sent His Son to be our Savior, to take our sins to His cross and take our punishment to fulfill God's promises. We live as His redeemed children and wait for God to bring His Chosen of all time into the new heavens and the new earth to rule and reign with Him for all eternity. Amen. And now, may the peace of God which surpasses all understanding keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Stand

Offering

Prayer of the Church

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

For the people of God, that in the steadfast love of their Lord they may give thanks and have confidence that no danger, trouble or hardship can separate them from the love of Christ, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For all pastors and church workers, that the Lord would bless their service and bless all who are considering and preparing for church work, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

In gratitude for all God provides for our bodies and lives, that we might not covet or turn elsewhere for what comes from His hand alone, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For eyes to see the Lord's mercies anew every morning, and for grateful hearts to receive and share our Lord's rich and daily grace with the needy and His Church, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For those who serve us in government and protect us in our communities, that they may discern the right path and lead us with honor and integrity, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For the sick, troubled, grieving and dying, that they may receive grace according to God's merciful will, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

We thank you Heavenly Father for a successful Synodical Convention in which all things were done in good order, and without division or contention. let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

O Lord, let us seek You while You may be found, call upon You in the day of salvation and be prepared by Your mercy for the day of judgment; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

**☩ 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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