

Confession and Absolution

696 O God, My Faithful God

- 1 O God, my faithful God,
True fountain ever flowing,
Without whom nothing is,
All perfect gifts bestowing:
Give me a healthy frame,
And may I have within
A conscience free from blame,
A soul unstained by sin.
- 2 Grant me the strength to do
With ready heart and willing
Whatever You command,
My calling here fulfilling;
That I do what I should
While trusting You to bless
The outcome for my good,
For You must give success.
- 3 Keep me from saying words
That later need recalling;
Guard me lest idle speech
May from my lips be falling;
But when within my place
I must and ought to speak,
Then to my words give grace
Lest I offend the weak.
- 4 Lord, let me win my foes
With kindly words and actions,
And let me find good friends
For counsel and correction.
Help me, as You have taught,
To love both great and small
And by Your Spirit's might
To live in peace with all.
- 5 Let me depart this life
Confiding in my Savior;
By grace receive my soul
That it may live forever;
And let my body have
A quiet resting place
Within a Christian grave;
And let it sleep in peace.
- 6 And on that final day
When all the dead are waking,
Stretch out Your mighty hand,
My deathly slumber breaking.
Then let me hear Your voice,
Redeem this earthly frame,
And bid me to rejoice
With those who love Your name.

Text: Johann Heermann, 1585–1647; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, 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

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.

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 19:1–4a, b; antiphon: v. 14

P Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

C **The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.**

P Day to day pours out speech, and night to night reveals knowledge.

C **There is no speech, nor are there words, whose voice is not heard.**

P Their measuring line goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them he has set a tent for the sun.

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 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

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 and everlasting God, who governs all things in heaven and on earth, mercifully hear the prayers of Your people and grant us Your peace through all our days; 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 49:1–7

¹Listen to me, O coastlands,
and give attention, you peoples from afar.
The LORD called me from the womb,
from the body of my mother he named my name.
²He made my mouth like a sharp sword;
in the shadow of his hand he hid me;
he made me a polished arrow;
in his quiver he hid me away.
³And he said to me, "You are my servant,
Israel, in whom I will be glorified."
⁴But I said, "I have labored in vain;
I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity;
yet surely my right is with the LORD,
and my recompense with my God."
⁵And now the LORD says,
he who formed me from the womb to be his servant,
to bring Jacob back to him;
and that Israel might be gathered to him—
for I am honored in the eyes of the LORD,
and my God has become my strength—

⁶he says:

“It is too light a thing that you should be my servant
to raise up the tribes of Jacob
and to bring back the preserved of Israel;
I will make you as a light for the nations,
that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.”

⁷Thus says the LORD,
the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One,
to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nation,
the servant of rulers:
“Kings shall see and arise;
princes, and they shall prostrate themselves;
because of the LORD, who is faithful,
the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

1 Corinthians 1:1–9

¹Paul, called by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus, and our brother Sosthenes,
²To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together
with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:
³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ
Jesus, ⁵that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge—⁶even as the
testimony about Christ was confirmed among you—⁷so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift, as
you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, ⁸who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day
of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus
Christ our Lord.

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

John 1:29–42a

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

²⁹The next day [John] saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes
away the sin of the world! ³⁰This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks before me,
because he was before me.’ ³¹I myself did not know him, but for this purpose I came baptizing with
water, that he might be revealed to Israel.” ³²And John bore witness: “I saw the Spirit descend from
heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. ³³I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptize
with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with
the Holy Spirit.’ ³⁴And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God.”

³⁵The next day again John was standing with two of his disciples, ³⁶and he looked at Jesus as he
walked by and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God!” ³⁷The two disciples heard him say this, and they
followed Jesus. ³⁸Jesus turned and saw them following and said to them, “What are you seeking?” And

they said to him, “Rabbi” (which means Teacher), “where are you staying?”³⁹ He said to them, “Come and you will see.” So they came and saw where he was staying, and they stayed with him that day, for it was about the tenth hour.⁴⁰ One of the two who heard John speak and followed Jesus was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother.⁴¹ He first found his own brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which means Christ).⁴² He brought him to Jesus.

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

468 I Am Content! My Jesus Ever Lives

- 1 I am content! My Jesus ever lives,
In whom my heart is pleased.
He has fulfilled the Law of God for me,
God’s wrath He has appeased.
Since He in death could perish never,
I also shall not die forever.
I am content!
I am content!
- 2 I am content! My Jesus is my head;
His member I shall be.
He bowed His head when on the cross He died
With cries of agony.
Now death is brought into subjection
For me by Jesus’ resurrection.
I am content!
I am content!
- 3 I am content! My Jesus is my light,
My radiant sun of grace.
His cheering rays beam blessings forth for all,
Sweet comfort, hope, and peace.
This Easter sun has brought salvation
And everlasting exultation.

I am content!

I am content!

- 4 I am content! At length I shall be free,
Awakened from the dead,
Arising glorious evermore to be
With You, my living head.
The chains that hold my body, sever;
Then shall my soul rejoice forever.

I am content!

I am content!

Text: attr. Johann Joachim Möller, 1660–1733; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.

Text: Public domain

Sermon

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen..

The church in Corinth is in turmoil. The church of Corinth is a hot mess. The congregation is divided as to which evangelist they follow. Some follow Paul; some follow Apollos. And neither are the true object of one's faith. Instead, Jesus alone, is the focus of our lives, the one to whom we pray, praise, and give thanks. The one to whom we turn in times of need and for all good things. The one who gives our lives purpose.

That's only the tip of the iceberg. Sexual immorality that is shameful even in today's world is going on within the church. Brothers and sisters in Christ are suing each other in court. Some are consuming food sacrificed to idols and undermining their weaker brother's faith. Some are taking the Lord's Supper and becoming ill and dying because they are eating and drinking condemnation on themselves. Some are claiming to be better believers because they have spiritual gifts that others do not. Some are speaking in tongues to bring glory to themselves, and thereby spoiling worship for others. Others are believing and teaching that Jesus did not rise from the dead. What a mess.

There is a Facebook meme "If St. Paul were alive, you all would be getting a letter". Sad to say, modern America would wear Paul out writing. The same sexual sins prevail as Corinth, from pre-marital sex to living together, to same sex relationships and incest. Arguably, the amount of pornography consumed is at an all time high, exploiting those whose image is displayed for the whole world to see and creating unreasonable expectations for its consumers. And the more porn that is consumed, the greater the desire to consume more.

We live in a consumer age; consumers whose desires are never satisfied. As soon as the latest and greatest comes to market, the buzz and hype for the next generation begins. Society emphasizes the individual and ignores God. Modern man has traded an intelligent creator for evolution, for a series of random events that supposedly lead to the highly organized world we live in. And with God out of the way, morality and ethics become relative standards, left to the whims and desires of the individual who is seen as the master of his or her own destiny.

Mankind believes it can solve its own problems. Mankind can stop climate change. Mankind can conquer cancer and all other diseases. Mankind can even solve the problems mankind has created for themselves. The individual is the epitome of good instead of intrinsically corrupted by sin, and unable to free oneself from one's sinful condition. But as Christians, we know better. We know that we are sinful and unclean. God's Law shows us our sins and our need for a savior. Jesus is "the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world" as the Baptizer proclaimed twice in today's Gospel.

In his first Epistle, John writes "See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him." Through your baptism, you became a child of God. God adopted you to be His very own dear child. God has called you to be a saint. Paul tells the Ephesians (2:4-7) ⁴ But^[e] God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— ⁶ and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷ so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus." Your salvation is based solely on God's grace and mercy. Not because of who you

are. Not because of what you have done. God's grace is a freely given gift which you can acknowledge or reject. You can't earn God's grace. All your works are like filthy rags. For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

While the church at Corinth certainly had its share of issues and sins, it was still God's church. God's church filled with God's saints, called to faith in Jesus Christ by the Holy Spirit and made holy, set aside for God's purposes. To be about God's redemptive work in the world then. To share the Good News that Jesus died for the sins of the whole world. To give each of them a story to tell. To shape their lives so that others could see Jesus in them. So they could tell their story of God's great love and forgiveness. Unlike those around them, their lives had a purpose and wasn't just a constantly repeating series of events.

And so it is today. Trinity Harvel is God's church. God's church filled with you, God's saints, called to faith in Jesus Christ by the Holy Spirit and made holy, set aside for God's purposes. About God's redemptive work in the world today. Sharing the Good News that Jesus died for your sins and my sins and the sins of the whole world. Giving you and me a story to tell of God's work in our lives. Shaping your life and my life so that others see Jesus. Giving you and me a story to tell, as faithful witnesses to God's great love, mercy, and forgiveness. Your life has a purpose, unlike so many in the world today.

With Jesus on His throne in your heart, at the center of your life, your life has purpose and meaning, unlike so many in the world today. You love God and those around you. You share faith story with those God places in your life. God gives you and His Church spiritual gifts for shaping your life and the lives of others, just as God gives you all that is needed for this life and for all eternity. You live in a community of believers, a church much like the church in Corinth, to love, honor and serve God and one another. You are your brother's keeper. You forgive others as God forgives you. You love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind, soul, and strength and your neighbor as yourself. You live in community with your fellow believers, gathered around Word and Sacraments. As Luther explains the 3rd Article of the Creed "but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers. On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ."

Despite your struggles with sin, you are God's own dear child, bought with the precious blood of Jesus Christ shed on the cross. God provides you with all that you need for this life and all eternity. God has showered His love, mercy, and grace upon you. Jesus died for your sins. Your sins are forgiven. Sins forgiven, you are God's saints who will be declared guiltless on the last day when Jesus comes to judge the living and dead. Not because of what you have done, but by God's mercy and grace which give you purpose and make you part of Christ's bride, the holy Christian Church, headed by her savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

And now may the peace of God which surpasses all understanding 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.**

That the Lord, our Rock and Redeemer, would sanctify the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts, that our prayers might reflect His gracious promises, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For faithfulness, that the Lord who formed His Son in Mary's womb to be a light for the nations would enlighten and strengthen us by His Word and Sacraments; and that we might reflect the light of Christ to those around us, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

That the Lord, who created the heavens and establishes day and night, would bless all teachers and students of the arts and sciences to see His creativity and glorify Him, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For our households, that the Lord who watched over the tribes of Jacob would provide both daily bread and redemption in abundant measure to His people, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For those in authority, that our Holy God would fortify them with courage and wisdom to govern justly and cultivate in them penitent hearts so that they would prostrate themselves before their Redeemer with joy on the Last Day, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For healing and deliverance, that the Lamb of God who takes away our sins and infirmities would be merciful those who are in need of His care, [*especially _____,*] and grant them rescue and confidence in His grace, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

Grant that we who have celebrated the incarnation of our Lord may die to sin and rise to new life in Him, and that we may treasure up and ponder in our hearts the Christ announced by Your forerunner; through the same 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

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.

795 Voices Raised to You We Offer

- 1 Voices raised to You we offer;
 Tune them, God, for songs of praise.
 Hearts and hands we bring in tribute
 For Your gifts through all our days.
 Alleluia! Alleluia!
 Triune God, to You we sing!
- 2 All creation joins to praise You;
 Earth and sky Your works display.

Art and music, gifts You lend us,

We return to You today.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

God, Creator, source of life!

- 3 Christ, the song of Love incarnate,
Touching earth with heaven's grace,
For Your living, suff'ring, dying,
For Your rising, hear our praise!
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Christ, Redeemer, Lord of life!

- 4 Spirit, flaming through creation,
Kindle faith within each heart.
Lift our voices high in chorus;
Through our hands Your love impart.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Spirit, Helper, breath of life!

- 5 How can any praise we offer
Measure all the thanks we owe?
Take our hearts and hands and voices—
Gifts of love we can bestow.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Triune God, to You we sing!

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle, Jr., 1923–2007

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