

Confession and Absolution

718 Jesus, Lead Thou On

- 1 Jesus, lead Thou on
Till our rest is won;
And although the way be cheerless,
We will follow calm and fearless.
Guide us by Thy hand
To our fatherland.
- 2 If the way be drear,
If the foe be near,
Let not faithless fears o’ertake us;
Let not faith and hope forsake us;
For through many_a woe
To our home we go.
- 3 When we seek relief
From a long-felt grief,
When temptations come alluring,
Make us patient and enduring.
Show us that bright shore
Where we weep no more.
- 4 Jesus, lead Thou on
Till our rest is won.
Heav’nly leader, still direct us,
Still support, console, protect us,
Till we safely stand
In our fatherland.

Text: Nicolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf, 1700–60; tr. Jane L. Borthwick, 1813–97, 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

LSB 184

- P** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.
P Our help is in the name of the Lord,
C **who made heaven and earth.**
P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
C **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

Kneel/Stand

Silence for reflection on God’s Word and for self-examination.

Confession of Sins

LSB 184

- P** O almighty God, merciful Father,
C **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

Absolution

LSB 185

- P** Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I 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 37:5–7; antiphon: v. 4*

- P** Delight yourself in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart.
- C** **Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him, and he will act.**
- P** He will bring forth your righteousness as the light, and your justice as the noonday.
- C** **Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him; fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way, over the man who carries out evil devices!**
- 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** Delight yourself in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart.

Gloria Patri

LSB 186

- C** **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

Kyrie

LSB 186

- C** **Lord, have mercy upon us.**
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

Gloria in Excelsis

LSB 187

- P** Glory be to God on high:
- C** **and on earth peace, goodwill toward men.**
We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee,
we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.
O Lord God, heav'nly King, God the Father Almighty.
O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ;
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.
Thou that takest away the sin of the world, receive our prayer.
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us.
For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord.
Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost,
art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And with thy spirit.**
- P** Let us pray.
 Almighty God, Your Son willingly endured the agony and shame of the cross for our redemption. Grant us courage to take up our cross daily and follow Him wherever He leads; through the same 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***Jeremiah 15:15–21*

¹⁵O LORD, you know;
remember me and visit me,
and take vengeance for me on my persecutors.

In your forbearance take me not away;
know that for your sake I bear reproach.

¹⁶Your words were found, and I ate them,
and your words became to me a joy
and the delight of my heart,
for I am called by your name,
O LORD, God of hosts.

¹⁷I did not sit in the company of revelers,
nor did I rejoice;
I sat alone, because your hand was upon me,
for you had filled me with indignation.

¹⁸Why is my pain unceasing,
my wound incurable,
refusing to be healed?
Will you be to me like a deceitful brook,
like waters that fail?

¹⁹Therefore thus says the LORD:
“If you return, I will restore you,
and you shall stand before me.
If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless,
you shall be as my mouth.

They shall turn to you,
but you shall not turn to them.

²⁰And I will make you to this people
a fortified wall of bronze;
they will fight against you,
but they shall not prevail over you,
for I am with you
to save you and deliver you,
declares the LORD.

²¹I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked,
and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle*Romans 12:9–21*

⁹Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. ¹⁰Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹²Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. ¹³Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

¹⁴Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be conceited. ¹⁷Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. ¹⁸If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.” ²⁰To the contrary, “if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to

drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head.”²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia

LSB 190

C Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 16:21–28

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

C Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

²¹From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. ²²And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you.” ²³But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.”

²⁴Then Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. ²⁵For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. ²⁶For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his life? Or what shall a man give in return for his life? ²⁷For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay each person according to what he has done. ²⁸Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise be to Thee, 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

851 Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us

1 Lord of glory, You have bought us
With Your lifeblood as the price,
Never grudging for the lost ones
That tremendous sacrifice;
And with that have freely given

- Blessings countless as the sand
 To the_unthankful and the evil
 With Your own unsparing hand.
- 2 Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to give You
 Gladly, freely of Your own.
 With the sunshine of Your goodness
 Melt our thankless hearts of stone
 Till our cold and selfish natures,
 Warmed by You, at length believe
 That more happy and more blessed
 'Tis to give than to receive.
- 3 Wondrous honor You have given
 To our humblest charity
 In Your own mysterious sentence,
 "You have done it all to Me."
 Can it be, O gracious Master,
 That You deign for alms to sue,
 Saying by Your poor and needy,
 "Give as I have giv'n to you"?
- 4 Lord of glory, You have bought us
 With Your lifeblood as the price,
 Never grudging for the lost ones
 That tremendous sacrifice.
 Give us faith to trust You boldly,
 Hope, to stay our souls on You;
 But, oh, best of all Your graces,
 With Your love our love renew.

Text: Eliza S. Alderson, 1818–89, alt.

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Sermon

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

Trinity, Harvel's Community Garden started as a vicarage outreach project. The premise is simple. Show the community whose local grocery options are limited to non-existent that Trinity loves them by providing free produce to all. We engaged the community to help raise and harvest the vegetables, helping neighbors become friends and building community. Then we bless others with veggies that God blesses us with. The Food Pantries were happy to take fresh veggies, so little to nothing is wasted.

I was recently told that one of the early volunteers was on hospice and that she wanted to talk to me. We had conversed as we worked. When I went to visit, she had a small church figurine made of beads and safety pins. As she gave this to me, she told me "A church isn't a church without a Pastor. A Pastor isn't a Pastor without a church. Now you'll always have a church". We had chatted about faith before but hadn't gotten too deep. In this conversation, I asked whether she had been baptized. Her answer surprised me. She said no and that she couldn't be as she couldn't bend backwards. With a little explanation, we went to her kitchen sink and I baptized her. Sure, we've built good relationships with the community. We've shown them the love of God. We haven't been as outreach oriented as we could be. But one soul was baptized. One soul became God's dear child.

A friend had a signature block on her emails from Margaret Mead "Never believe that a few caring people can't change the world. For, indeed, that's all who ever have." This certainly applies to Jesus and the Apostles. Paul

has spent the first chapters of Romans deeply explaining the theology of Jesus. Paul has shifted to living out that theology. Jesus changes lives. Jesus changed the world. Jesus changes everything. God's love changes everything. God's love in Jesus shifts your eyes from yourself towards others. Paul's list is daunting. Paul's list is overwhelming. There are at least 14 imperatives here, Paul telling the Romans how to live as Christians. As Scriptural commands, these are the Law. It is easy to make these into the "must do" of Christian life.

Think back to Confirmation Class. Remember the three uses of the Law? Curb, Mirror, and Guide. The first use, curb, prevents gross immorality. The second use, mirror, shows us our sins and our need for a savior to free us from our sinful condition. Finally, guide tells us how we are live in response to God's love, grace, and mercy.

All these items are clearly third use, guide, items, how we live, things we do individually and collectively as the body of Christ. These were ways that Christians stood out in Paul's day and how we stand out today as Christians.

Here's the list again "Rejoice... weep... live in harmony... do not be haughty... associate with the lowly... never be conceited... repay no one evil... give thought to do what is honorable... live peaceably... never avenge yourselves... leave it to the wrath of God... feed your enemy... give him something to drink... do not be overcome by evil... overcome evil with good." How do you stand on this list? If you are honest, you are better at some of these than others. Some come easily and other not so much. And if we are honest, we as the church are better at some than others. Like the rest of the Law, failing in one point means failing the whole law. As Luther points out in the Catechisms, the First Commandment is the most frequently broken because breaking any of the others breaks the First Commandment. Commandments such as coveting what God hasn't given you, either things or relationships. Your relationships with others aren't always what it should be. There's always someone that you just cannot get along with. Notice how Paul qualifies that statement. Verse 18 is clear "If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all." Some people, some relatives, especially, can't or won't let there be peace. But that doesn't mean that you shouldn't make peace. You don't always put the best construction on everything. You don't always look out for others as you should. You don't always love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind, soul, and strength.

The world around us calls us to disunity; the Gospel calls us to unity. The world teaches that you are independent, that your needs are more important than those around you. You are numero uno. You are to do unto others before they do unto you. The Gospel calls you to see that others around you are to be your focus. You are to love one another. Not just the "feeling" or decision, but also the action of loving others. You are to serve one another. You are to love others as much as you love yourself.

At birth, a baby cries to have her needs met, be that food, or a clean diaper, or being loved and cuddled. A baby doesn't know how to meet the needs of others, but only herself. All the baby's needs must be met by others. As we mature, our focus shifts from our needs only to the needs of others. We move from self-centered babies to other-centered adults. Our needs take a back seat to the needs of others. As we mature, we come to see God's love for us through others. We show others God's love.

God always initiates and re-initiates your relationship with Him. God knew that you cannot free yourself from your sinful condition. You needed a Savior. You need a Savior. I need a Savior. God sent Jesus to be your Savior. Jesus died for your sins and the sins of the whole world. God gives you his unmerited grace and mercy. Jesus takes your sins and gives you His Righteousness. The Holy Spirit calls you to faith. The Holy Spirit calls you to become God's dear child in Baptism. The Holy Spirit builds and nurtures your faith. The Holy Spirit leads you to repent when you sin and then forgives your sin, restoring you to a right relationship with God. There are still temporal consequences of your sins. Relationships are strained by your sins and the sins of others. God provides your righteousness in your relationship with Him, but you are to strive for righteousness with one another. It is up to you to restore the relationship with another by admitting your sin and asking

forgiveness. The Holy Spirit moves you to love God and others. John writes in 1 John 4:19-20 “¹⁹ We love because he first loved us. ²⁰ If anyone says, “I love God,” and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen.” And out of God’s love, The Holy Spirit gives you God’s gifts as Paul writes in Galatians 5:22-23 “²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.”

God loves you. In response to God’s Love and gracious provision, you love God and your neighbor. You manifest God’s love to those around you, to those in your life. You place the needs of others before your needs. You serve God and one another through the many acts of love that Paul mentioned. God loves you and has given you gifts to love and serve one another. You face the challenges of this life confident that God loves you and will bring you into eternal life in His Kingdom. Amen.

Votum

- P** The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.
C Amen.

Stand

Offertory

LSB 192

- C** Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
 Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.
 Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

Sit

Offering

Stand

Prayer of the Church

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

For trust in the fatherly care of our avenging God, that we would not seek our own vengeance, but rather bless those who curse us, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For the Church of God and all who proclaim the Word of God, that we may forsake the revelers who despise God’s Word and always hear what is precious, the Gospel of Jesus Christ, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For Christian neighbors in our community and in each home, that as the beloved of God, we may be unashamed to serve each other in genuine love, truthful speech and constant patience, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For our nation, its leaders, and those who serve for the good of our people and for their protection, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For peace in our time and the peace that God alone can give, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For [_____ and] all in need of healing and restoration, that they may bear their crosses and endure to see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For those persecuted for the name of Christ, that in communion with all the saints we may bear our crosses faithfully, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

All these things and whatever else You know that we need, grant us, Father, for the sake of Him who died and rose again and now lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God forever. **Amen.**

Lord’s Prayer

LSB 196

- P** 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.

C 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.

Salutation

LSB 201

P The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spirit.

Benedicamus

LSB 202

A Bless we the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

LSB 202

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.

C Amen, amen, amen.

842 Son of God, Eternal Savior

- 1 Son of God, eternal Savior,
 Source of life and truth and grace,
 Word made flesh, whose birth among us
 Hallows all our human race,
 You our Head, who, throned in glory,
 For Your own will ever plead:
 Fill us with Your love and pity,
 Heal our wrongs, and help our need.
- 2 As You, Lord, have lived for others,
 So may we for others live.
 Freely have Your gifts been granted;
 Freely may Your servants give.
 Yours the gold and Yours the silver,
 Yours the wealth of land and sea;
 We but stewards of Your bounty
 Held in solemn trust will be.
- 3 Come, O Christ, and reign among us,
 King of love and Prince of Peace;
 Hush the storm of strife and passion,
 Bid its cruel discords cease.
 By Your patient years of toiling,
 By Your silent hours of pain,

Quench our fevered thirst of pleasure,
Stem our selfish greed of gain.
4 Son of God, eternal Savior,
Source of life and truth and grace,
Word made flesh, whose birth among us
Hallows all our human race:
By Your praying, by Your willing
That Your people should be one,
Grant, O grant our hope's fruition:
Here on earth Your will be done.

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