

Confession and Absolution

537 Beautiful Savior

- 1 Beautiful Savior,
King of creation,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Truly I'd love Thee,
Truly I'd serve Thee,
Light of my soul, my joy, my crown.
- 2 Fair are the meadows,
Fair are the woodlands,
Robed in flow'rs of blooming spring;
Jesus is fairer,
Jesus is purer,
He makes our sorr'wing spirit sing.
- 3 Fair is the sunshine,
Fair is the moonlight,
Bright the sparkling stars on high;
Jesus shines brighter,
Jesus shines purer
Than all the angels in the sky.
- 4 Beautiful Savior,
Lord of the nations,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor,
Praise, adoration
Now and forevermore be Thine!

Text: Münsterisch Gesangbuch, 1677, Münster; tr. Joseph A. Seiss, 1823-1904
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

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.

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.

Service of the Word**Introit***Psalm 99:1–5; antiphon: v. 9*

- P** Exalt the LORD our God, and worship at his holy mountain; for the LORD our God is holy!
- C** The LORD reigns; let the peoples tremble! He sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake!
- P** The LORD is great in Zion; he is exalted over all the peoples.
- C** Let them praise your great and awesome name! Holy is he!
- P** The King in his might loves justice. You have established equity; you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob.
- C** Exalt the LORD our God; worship at his footstool! Holy is he!
- P** Exalt the LORD our God, and worship at his holy mountain; for the LORD our God is holy!

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.
O God, in the glorious transfiguration of Your beloved Son You confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the testimony of Moses and Elijah. In the voice that came from the bright cloud You wonderfully foreshowed our adoption by grace. Mercifully make us co-heirs with the King in His glory and bring us to the fullness of our inheritance in heaven; 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*Exodus 24:8–18*

⁸And Moses took the blood and threw it on the people and said, “Behold the blood of the covenant that the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words.”

⁹Then Moses and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel went up, ¹⁰and they saw the God of Israel. There was under his feet as it were a pavement of sapphire stone, like the very heaven for clearness. ¹¹And he did not lay his hand on the chief men of the people of Israel; they beheld God, and ate and drank.

¹²The LORD said to Moses, “Come up to me on the mountain and wait there, that I may give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction.” ¹³So Moses rose with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God. ¹⁴And he said to the elders, “Wait here for us until we return to you. And behold, Aaron and Hur are with you. Whoever has a dispute, let him go to them.”

¹⁵Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. ¹⁶The glory of the LORD dwelt on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it six days. And on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the midst of the cloud. ¹⁷Now the appearance of the glory of the LORD was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel. ¹⁸Moses entered the cloud and went up on the mountain. And Moses was on the mountain forty days and forty nights.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm*Psalm 2:6–12; antiphon: v. 6*

⁶“As for me, I have set my King on Zion, my holy hill.”

⁷I will tell of the decree:
The LORD said to me, “You are my Son;
today I have begotten you.

⁸Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage,
and the ends of the earth your possession.

⁹You shall break them with a rod of iron
and dash them in pieces like a potter’s vessel.”

¹⁰Now therefore, O kings, be wise;
be warned, O rulers of the earth.

¹¹Serve the LORD with fear,
and rejoice with trembling.

¹²Kiss the Son,
lest he be angry, and you perish in the way,
for his wrath is quickly kindled.

Blessèd are all who take refuge in him.

Epistle*2 Peter 1:16–21*

¹⁶For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. ¹⁷For when he received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased,” ¹⁸we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain. ¹⁹And we have something more sure, the prophetic word, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, ²⁰knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone’s own interpretation. ²¹For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

*Stand***Alleluia***LSB 190***C Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.****Holy Gospel***Matthew 17:1–9***P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the seventeenth chapter.**C Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

¹After six days Jesus took with him Peter and James, and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. ²And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light. ³And behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. ⁴And Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good that we are here. If you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah.” ⁵He was still speaking when, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.” ⁶When the disciples heard this, they fell on their faces and were terrified. ⁷But Jesus came and touched them, saying, “Rise, and have no fear.” ⁸And when they lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only.

⁹And as they were coming down the mountain, Jesus commanded them, “Tell no one the vision, until the Son of Man is raised from the dead.”

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***413 O Wondrous Type! O Vision Fair**

- 1 O wondrous type! O vision fair
Of glory that the Church may share,
Which Christ upon the mountain shows,
Where brighter than the sun He glows!
- 2 With Moses and Elijah nigh
The incarnate Lord holds converse high;
And from the cloud the Holy One
Bears record to the only Son.
- 3 With shining face and bright array
Christ deigns to manifest today

What glory shall be theirs above
Who joy in God with perfect love.

- 4 And faithful hearts are raised on high
By this great vision's mystery,
For which in joyful strains we raise
The voice of prayer, the hymn of praise.

- △ 5 O Father, with the_ eternal Son
And Holy Spirit ever one,
We pray Thee, bring us by Thy grace
To see Thy glory face to face.

Text: Sarum Breviary, 1495, Salisbury; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.
Text: Public domain

Sermon

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

Today, we celebrate the Transfiguration, God showing His Glory in Jesus. Throughout the season of Epiphany, God shows us Jesus, His Only Begotten Son, the Light of the World. In both the Baptism of the Lord and the Transfiguration, the Sundays that book-end Epiphany, God reveals who Jesus truly is. At Jesus's Baptism by John, God speaks from heaven "This is my beloved Son,⁴ with whom I am well pleased." (Matthew 3:17). And at the Transfiguration, a voice from the cloud, God, says "This is my beloved Son,¹ with whom I am well pleased; listen to him." Only Matthew addresses God's Words at Jesus's Baptism to those present instead of to Jesus Himself, giving the beginning and end of Jesus's ministry a symmetry, a common beginning and end.

Transfiguration also shapes our observance of Lent, giving us a glimpse into the glory of Jesus that will be triumphantly displayed on Easter after Jesus rises from the dead. During Lent, we join Jesus and the disciples on their journey to the cross. We penitentially prepare for Maundy Thursday's Lord's Supper within the context of the Passover Seder and Jesus's Agony in dark Gethsemane. On Good Friday, we witness His scourging, crucifixion, death, and burial. And on Easter, we celebrate the empty tomb and Jesus's conquest of sin, death, and the devil.

Peter proclaims what he witnessed - the Transfiguration, a pre-figuring of Jesus's glory for all eternity. Peter knows his time is short and doesn't want the early Christians to succumb to the false teachers who regard Christianity as something made up. Just like today, those without faith regard Christianity and God's Word as lacking. As the men heard during a Saturday morning Bible Breakfast, opponents of the Bible believe copying errors were introduced that invalidate the Scriptures. The opposite is true. As more ancient manuscripts are found, the accuracy rate increases. For example, the Dead Sea Scrolls have been scientifically tested and appear to have been created within the last two centuries before Christ and the first two centuries after Christ, older than the then oldest manuscripts by 1000 years. And yet, very few discrepancies were found, showing that the Holy Spirit used the processes and people to create handwritten copies throughout the ages to faithfully preserve God's Word as originally written under the inspiration by the Holy Spirit.

The Transfiguration pales in comparison to the Old Testament prophecies that point to Jesus as the Savior of the World. Just as Peter's eyewitness testimony is true, so too are the Scriptures, the Old Testament. At that time, the New Testament hadn't come together. That happens almost 400 AD (at the Council of Carthage). But the various letters and the gospels were used in the early church and that was a criteria for inclusion or exclusion from the Bible. 2 Peter 3:15-16 "¹⁵ Bear in mind that our Lord's patience means salvation, just as our dear brother Paul also wrote you with the wisdom that God gave him. ¹⁶ He writes the same way in all his letters, speaking in them of these matters. His letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do the other Scriptures, to their own destruction." Thus, Peter acknowledges the authority of St. Paul and validates Paul's letters as a part of Scriptures.

God's written Word, the Bible, is God's light, shining into the darkness of this sinful world. God's Word shows us our sins and shows us our Savior, Jesus Christ. Indeed, from "in the beginning" that begins Genesis to "Amen, Come, Lord Jesus" that ends Revelation, Scriptures are God's Holy Spirit's love letter to every one of us. The Bible shows us the Father's Love for us. John 3:16 ¹⁶ "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." Romans 5:8 ⁸ "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

We are sinners. We turn our back on God and one another. We don't always cherish God's Word. We don't always keep Jesus in the center of our lives. We have other gods, things of this world that overshadow God and His will for us. We don't always turn to Him in times of trouble. We don't always see God as the source of all good things. We don't always pray, praise, and give thanks. We don't love God with our whole heart and soul and mind. We don't always love our neighbor as ourselves. We get caught up in things of this world. We are to be faithful stewards of the possessions God gives us. Our lives are to be centered on God and His son gloriously revealed.

Jesus bore your sins and is your redeemer. Jesus is the Pascal Lamb that takes away the sins of the world. Jesus is the savior prophesied of old. The whole scripture points to Jesus. The whole Bible is about Jesus. Jesus, the only begotten Son, with whom the Father is well pleased. Jesus who lived the life that we cannot live. Jesus was perfect and because He was perfect during His time on Earth, Jesus is the perfect, all-availing sacrifice who took your sins to His Cross where He cried out ⁴⁶ "..., *"Eli, Eli, [E] lema sabachthani?"* (which means "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"). (Matthew 27:46) Jesus also cried out from the cross "It is finished" Jesus bowed his head and gave up His spirit. Jesus shed His blood for your sins. Jesus descended into Hell to announce God's victory over sin, death and the devil. God raised Jesus from the dead that first Easter Morning, proving God had accepted Jesus's sacrifice for your sins and the sins of the whole world. Jesus who ascended into heaven, sits at the right hand of God the Father and will come again to judge the living and the dead. God and Jesus sent the Holy Spirit who works the proclamation of the Good News of our Salvation and works in the hearer to create and strengthen faith. The Holy Spirit called you to the waters of Baptism where your sins were washed away, the Old Adam put to death and the new, spiritual Adam arose from the Baptismal waters.

The Holy Spirit gives you opportunities to be a faithful witness, just as Peter was. The Holy Spirit gives you relationships so that others may come to know Jesus as their Lord and Savior. The Holy Spirit does the hard work of bringing others to faith. Your mission, should you choose to accept it, is to be a faithful, Spirit-filled witness to what God has done in your life. To show you how God called to faith and brought you into His family, and how God has formed and shaped you and your witness to Him. To proclaim the Good News that despite being a sinner, God loves you, provides for you, strengthens, and encourages you in both good times and bad. With faith in Jesus, you face the challenges of this life and look forward to the day when you shall see Him face to face in the new heavens and the new earth. Not because of what you have done, but because of who He is, our gracious and merciful heavenly father who gives us all things out of his divine, Fatherly compassion and mercy. And so, you await the day when every tear will be wiped away and all believers will be brought into the glory of God for all eternity. Amen.

And now, may the peace of God which surpasses all understanding keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus to life everlasting. 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.

Prayer of the Church

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

For the baptized, that we would heed our heavenly Father's admonition to listen to His Son as He speaks to us through His Holy Word and Sacraments; and that we would by faith behold Him in His glory as He continues to tabernacle among us, delivering forgiveness, life and salvation, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For this congregation, especially our catechumens, that as we behold the glory of God in the face of Christ, we would be transformed into His image; and that we would be given boldness of spirit to share His glory abroad, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For all pastors and church workers, that God would grant them wisdom to open the Scriptures in such a way that everyone would hear the voice of Jesus, to whom Moses and Elijah bore witness, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For families, that parents would teach the faith to their children and that the forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in all households; and for all expectant mothers, that they and their babies would be kept safe and healthy throughout their pregnancies, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For all those who have been placed in authority, that they would serve with integrity and honor for the good of all; and for our country, that division, conflict and strife would give way to unity, peace and quietness, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For the afflicted, [*especially Susie, Jerry, Leslie_____ and those we name in our hearts,*] that they would know God's presence, taste His peace that passes understanding and receive healing according to His gracious will, ever trusting in the hope of the resurrection, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord God, Your power is beyond compare and Your glory beyond understanding. Open our hearts to know You through the glory of Your Son, whose saving will and purpose has rescued us from sin and death and made us Your own people by Baptism and faith; for to You, blessed and eternal Father, belong all honor and glory, worship and praise, with Your beloved Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and 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.

873 Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies

- 1 Christ, whose glory fills the skies,
 Christ, the true and only light,
 Sun of righteousness, arise;
 Triumph o'er the shades of night.
 Dayspring from on high, be near;
 Daystar, in my heart appear.
- 2 Dark and cheerless is the morn
 Unaccompanied by Thee;
 Joyless is the day's return
 Till Thy mercy's beams I see,
 Till they inward light impart,
 Glad my eyes, and warm my heart.
- 3 Visit then this soul of mine,
 Pierce the gloom of sin and grief;
 Fill me, radiance divine,
 Scatter all my unbelief;
 More and more Thyself display,
 Shining to the perfect day.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-88
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