

Confession and Absolution

704 Renew Me, O Eternal Light

- 1 Renew me, O eternal Light,
And let my heart and soul be bright,
Illumined with the light of grace
That issues from Your holy face.
- 2 Remove the pow'r of sin from me
And cleanse all my impurity
That I may have the strength and will
Temptations of the flesh to still.
- 3 Create in me a new heart, Lord,
That gladly I obey Your Word.
Let what You will be my desire,
And with new life my soul inspire.
- 4 Grant that I only You may love
And seek those things which are above
Till I behold You face to face,
O Light eternal, through Your grace.

Text: Johann Friedrich Ruopp, 1672–1708; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, 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

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 98:7–9; antiphon: v. 2

P The LORD has made known his salvation; he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.

C **Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; the world and those who dwell in it!**

P Let the rivers clap their hands; let the hills sing for joy together before the LORD, for he comes to judge the earth.

C **He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with equity.**

P The LORD has made known his salvation; he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.

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 Lord, graciously hear the prayers of Your people that we who justly suffer the consequence of our sin may be mercifully delivered by Your goodness to the glory of Your name; 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

Deuteronomy 30:15–20

¹⁵“See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil. ¹⁶If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I command you today, by loving the LORD your God, by walking in his ways, and by keeping his commandments and his statutes and his rules, then you shall live and multiply, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to take possession of it. ¹⁷But if your heart turns away, and you will not hear, but are drawn away to worship other gods and serve them, ¹⁸I declare to you today, that you shall surely perish. You shall not live long in the land that you are going over the Jordan to enter and possess. ¹⁹I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have

set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live, ²⁰loving the LORD your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him, for he is your life and length of days, that you may dwell in the land that the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

1 Corinthians 3:1–9

¹But I, brothers, could not address you as spiritual people, but as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. ²I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for it. And even now you are not yet ready, ³for you are still of the flesh. For while there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not of the flesh and behaving only in a human way? ⁴For when one says, “I follow Paul,” and another, “I follow Apollos,” are you not being merely human?

⁵What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, as the Lord assigned to each. ⁶I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. ⁷So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. ⁸He who plants and he who waters are one, and each will receive his wages according to his labor. ⁹For we are God’s fellow workers. You are God’s field, God’s building.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia

LSB 190

C Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 5:21–37

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

C Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

²¹[Jesus said:] “You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.’ ²²But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, ‘You fool!’ will be liable to the hell of fire. ²³So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, ²⁴leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. ²⁵Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are going with him to court, lest your accuser hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you be put in prison. ²⁶Truly, I say to you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.

²⁷“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ ²⁸But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart. ²⁹If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell. ³⁰And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell.

³¹“It was also said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.’ ³²But I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of sexual immorality, makes her commit adultery. And whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

³³“Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform to the Lord what you have sworn.’ ³⁴But I say to you, Do not take an oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, ³⁵or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. ³⁶And do not take an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. ³⁷Let what you say be simply ‘Yes’ or ‘No’; anything more than this comes from evil.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

C I believe in one God,
 the Father Almighty,
 maker of heaven and earth
 and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
 the only-begotten Son of God,
 begotten of His Father before all worlds,
 God of God, Light of Light,
 very God of very God,
 begotten, not made,
 being of one substance with the Father,
 by whom all things were made;
 who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
 and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
 and was made man;
 and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
 He suffered and was buried.
 And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
 and ascended into heaven
 and sits at the right hand of the Father.
 And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
 whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the Lord and giver of life,
 who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
 who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
 who spoke by the prophets.
 And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
 I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
 and I look for the resurrection of the dead
 and the life \ddagger of the world to come. Amen.

Sit

394 Songs of Thankfulness and Praise

- 1 Songs of thankfulness and praise,
 Jesus, Lord, to Thee we raise,
 Manifested by the star
 To the sages from afar,
 Branch of royal David's stem
 In Thy birth at Bethlehem:
 Anthems be to Thee addressed,
 God in man made manifest.
- 2 Manifest at Jordan's stream,
 Prophet, Priest, and King supreme;
 And at Cana wedding guest
 In Thy Godhead manifest;
 Manifest in pow'r divine,
 Changing water into wine;
 Anthems be to Thee addressed,
 God in man made manifest.

- 3 Manifest in making whole
Palsied limbs and fainting soul;
Manifest in valiant fight,
Quelling all the devil's might;
Manifest in gracious will,
Ever bringing good from ill;
Anthems be to Thee addressed,
God in man made manifest.
- 4 Sun and moon shall darkened be,
Stars shall fall, the heav'ns shall flee;
Christ will then like lightning shine,
All will see His glorious sign;
All will then the trumpet hear,
All will see the Judge appear;
Thou by all wilt be confessed,
God in man made manifest.
- 5 Grant us grace to see Thee, Lord,
Present in Thy holy Word—
Grace to imitate Thee now
And be pure, as pure art Thou;
That we might become like Thee
At Thy great epiphany
And may praise Thee, ever blest,
God in man made manifest.

Text: Christopher Wordsworth, 1807–85, alt.

Text: Public domain

Sermon

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

As we come to the end of Epiphany, the readings prepare us for Transfiguration next Sunday and Ash Wednesday that following Wednesday, beginning the penitential season of Lent in preparation for Easter.

The church at Corinth has a big problem manifested in multiple little problems. Just ten verses in, Paul addresses the problem of divisions within the church. These divisions are petty. Hopefully you go the Scriptures when Pastor preaches something that doesn't ring true. Without Scriptures to verify what is being preached, it is not hard to image preferring one preacher over another. Maybe that preacher spoke differently, chose different words, came from a similar or different background. Two examples. I struggle to understand people in overseas call centers. I also struggle to hear soft spoken people.

The big problem in Corinth was that they were worldly. Being a seaport, the culture was immersed in the constant flow of people, ideas, and materials. The sea trade brought immorality to a city that offered 12 pagan temples including one to Aphrodite, the Greek Goddess of Love, that connected religion and promiscuity. And in many ways, Christianity was just a set of ideas to be learned. But Christianity isn't just a set of ideas. Christianity isn't just a moral code. Christianity is an ongoing relationship with Jesus Christ, your Lord and Savior. Christianity is your relationship with God. Christianity changes everything. But the Corinthians had merely learned the teachings; they had not come to trust God for all things. They had not trusted God with all their heart and mind and soul. The Word of God hadn't changed their lives.

Instead of growing and moving from the milk of the faith to the meat of faith, the Corinthians still needed spiritual milk had not moved on to solid food. Think about a small child. At what age do they begin to eat solid foods? Babies are ready for solid foods at about six months. But the Corinthians hadn't moved up from spiritual milk. Instead of being the church focused on Jesus Christ as Her Lord and Savior, the Corinthians were still focused on themselves, and on the things of this world.

Paul challenges you this morning to take a sober, serious look at yourself and at today's church. And Paul does so in Christian Love, calling God's chosen people, to assess, evaluate, repent, receive forgiveness, and begin again in God's Grace and Mercy under the bright light of the Holy Spirit who calls you to faith, who strengthens and preserves you individually and collectively, who calls you to repent, to turn away from sin and back to God, guiding and keeps you reconciled to God.

So, what do you need, spiritual milk? Or spiritual meat? What do you crave?

Don't answer too quickly. Paul tells the Romans (12:3) ³ "For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned."

Don't compare yourself to others.

Don't think that being more spiritual, more dedicated, more engaged will get you anywhere. God guides and directs you and your faith as the Holy Spirit works faith in your heart through God's Word and Sacraments.

Be honest with yourself. Do you trust God to care for you and provide all that you need? What other gods are in your heart? Is God someone you work into your busy life, or is God the foundation of your life? Is worship rehearsal for the week ahead in which you hear God's Word and call upon Him in every trouble, pray, praise, and give thanks?

Like the Corinthians, you live in a cosmopolitan world. Yes, Harvel, Raymond, and Morrisonville are cosmopolitan. You hear of things like the earthquake in Syria quickly. You are constantly bombarded by the sinful world through TV, radio, and the internet. A sinful world corrupted by Adam and Eve's sin. A sinful world corrupted by the temptation of the serpent, who, like Adam and Eve, wanted to be God. And while temple prostitution is not widespread, there are modern equivalents. TV and movies place before you sex outside of marriage at every turn. A disregard for the family and the father as the head of the family. Instead of catechizing you to look outside yourself, to God and to one another, to understand God's will and way and how you might serve others, the world teaches you to look inside yourself and to pursue the desires of your heart about which Jeremiah says "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it? The world teaches you to focus on yourself and want more and more. The world demands more and more. But as we will sing this afternoon, "I heard the voice of Jesus say, 'Come unto Me and rest;' (LSB 699) The world leads you to desire more and more. God leads you to be content with His blessings, His gifts, His Mercy and His Love.

So, are you ready for spiritual milk or spiritual meat? Which should you crave? And which do you crave? Take time to be still and know that He is God. Ponder his many blessings in your life. Offer prayers of thanksgiving. Read the Bible daily, beginning with the gospel of Matthew. Take home a Portals of Prayer to use daily. Check out the library downstairs for other devotional materials. Talk to Pastor about online resources including reading plans, and online devotions. Take advantage of the Sunday Morning Bible Study, the Wednesday Morning Bible Study, the Men's Bible Breakfast and the other Bible Studies. Call Pastor and ask questions about the sermon, or your reading or your devotion. Strike up a conversation with your spouse or your friend about what you are reading. Take a few minutes to be thankful for all God's Blessings. Consider Matthew 6:33 ³³ "But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you."

Jesus loves you so much that He gave His life, dying on the cross for your sins, so that you can have His righteousness before God. So that the Father will see His only begotten son instead of your sins. Because God has called you to the waters of Baptism, washed away all your sins, and made you His own redeemed child. And God still reaches out to you, calling you to repent and turn to Him. To be in relationship with Him. To give you His gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation. Hymn 833 says "Listen, listen, God is calling. Through the Word inviting, Offering forgiveness, Comfort, and joy". Be in God's Word, day in and day out. Be nourished by the spiritual food with which God feeds you. Seek to grow in your love for Him, your service of Him, and your service of others, growing in His love, showing his love to others, telling others the good news that Jesus died for sinners like you and me. Dying on the cross, Jesus paid the full atonement price and

reconciled you to the Father. Forgiven, we are set free to be God's people. We are called to be God's servants, God's messengers, to grow in our relationship with God until He calls us to Himself where we will spend all eternity in a perfect, loving relationship with our God. Amen.

And now, may the peace of God which surpasses all understanding keep your heart and mind 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.**

That almighty God, who receives the praise of seas and rivers, would keep us in the baptismal grace He has given us by water and the Word, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For maturity of faith, that our Father in heaven would bless pastors, teachers, parents and all who teach His Word; and that He would give us a constant desire to hear and obey it, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For peace, that God, who condemns unrighteous anger as murderous and who has saved us from His righteous anger by the death of His Son, would move us to repentance and reconciliation, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For purity of heart and mind, that the Lord who created us would deliver us from lustful thoughts and the evil of pornography so that we may lead a sexually pure and decent life in what we say and do, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For integrity, that the Author of truth would preserve us from false oaths and strengthen us to acknowledge His Word and do what He commands, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For the rulers of our nation, that the Lord, who judges all peoples in righteousness and equity, would endow them with wisdom so that we are preserved from unjust division and enabled to live in peace, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For the suffering, [*especially _____,*] that the Lord, our life, would sustain and strengthen them; and for those who mourn, [*including _____,*] that the Lord would console them with the promise of everlasting life in Christ, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For Christian unity, that God, who gives growth to the Church by His Means of Grace, would preserve His people from division and worldly wisdom and unite us in a common confession of His truth, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

To Him we give all glory, honor and worship, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

LSB 194

- P** The Lord be with you.
C And with thy spirit.
P Lift up your hearts.
C We lift them up unto the Lord.

P Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.

C It is meet and right so to do.

Proper Preface (Full)

P It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for what had been hidden from before the foundation of the world You have made known to the nations in Your Son. In Him, being found in the substance of our mortal nature, You have manifested the fullness of Your glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

LSB 195

C Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth;
heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

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.

The Words of Our Lord

LSB 197

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."
In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini

LSB 197

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Agnus Dei

LSB 198

C O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace.
Amen.

Sit

Distribution

The pastor and those who assist him receive the body and blood of Christ first and then distribute them to those who come to receive, saying:

Left Column

LSB 199

Take, eat; this is the true body of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, given into death for your sins.

Amen.

Take, drink; this is the true blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, shed for the forgiveness of your sins.

Amen.

In dismissing the communicants, the following is said:

The Dismissal

LSB 199

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ☩ in peace.

C Amen.

707 Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways

- 1 Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways
To keep His statutes still!
Oh, that my God would grant me grace
To know and do His will!
- 2 Order my footsteps by Thy Word
And make my heart sincere;
Let sin have no dominion, Lord,
But keep my conscience clear.
- 3 Assist my soul, too apt to stray,
A stricter watch to keep;
And should I e'er forget Thy way,
Restore Thy wand'ring sheep.
- 4 Make me to walk in Thy commands—
'Tis a delightful road—
Nor let my head or heart or hands
Offend against my God.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.

Text: Public domain

610 Lord Jesus, Think on Me

- 1 Lord Jesus, think on me
And purge away my sin;
From worldly passions set me free
And make me pure within.
- 2 Lord Jesus, think on me,
By anxious thoughts oppressed;
Let me Your loving servant be
And taste Your promised rest.
- 3 Lord Jesus, think on me
Amid the battle's strife;
In all my pain and misery,
O be my health and life!
- 4 Lord Jesus, think on me
Nor let me go astray;
Through darkness and perplexity
Point out Your chosen way.
- 5 Lord Jesus, think on me
That, when this life is past,
I may the_ eternal brightness see
And share Your joy at last.

Text: Synesius of Cyrene, c. 365–c. 414; tr. Allen W. Chatfield, 1808–96, alt.

Text: Public domain

Stand

Nunc Dimittis

LSB 199

C Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy word,
for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people,
a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel.

**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.**

Thanksgiving

LSB 200

- A** O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,
C and His mercy endureth forever.

Post-Communion Collect

- A** Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; 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.

921 On What Has Now Been Sown

- 1 On what has now been sown
Thy blessing, Lord, bestow;
The pow'r is Thine alone
To make it sprout and grow.
Do Thou in grace the harvest raise,
And Thou alone shalt have the praise!
- 2 To Thee our wants are known,
From Thee are all our pow'rs;
Accept what is Thine own
And pardon what is ours.
Our praises, Lord, and prayers receive,
And to Thy Word a blessing give.
- 3 O grant that each of us,
Now met before Thee here,
May meet together thus
When Thou and Thine appear
And follow Thee to heav'n, our home.
E'en so, amen, Lord Jesus, come!

Text: John Newton, 1725-1807, alt.
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