

+SERVICE OF VESPERS+

FOURTH MIDWEEK IN LENT + 22 MARCH 2023



"Confession"

The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

A member congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

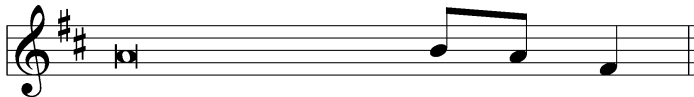
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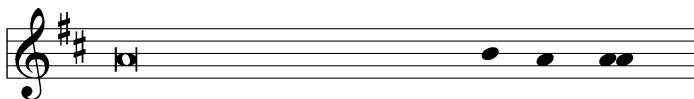
tgslcms.org



L O Lord, o - pen my lips,



C and my mouth will de - clare Your praise.



L Make haste, O God, to de - liv - er me;



C make haste to help me, O Lord.



C Glo-ry be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spir - it;



as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men.



Praise to You, O Christ, Lamb of our sal - va - tion.



Psalmody

Psalm

Psalm 32; antiphon: v. 11

Blessed Are the Forgiven

¹Blessèd is the one whose transgression is for- | given,*
whose sin is | covered.

²**Blessèd is the man against whom the LORD counts no in- | iquity,*
and in whose spirit there is | no deceit.**

³For when I kept silent, my bones wast- | ed away*
through my groaning | all day long.

⁴**For day and night your hand was heavy up- | on me;*
my strength was dried up as by the heat of | summer.**

⁵I acknowledged my sin to you,
and I did not cover my in- | iquity,*
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,"
and you forgave the iniquity | of my sin.

⁶**Therefore let everyone who is godly
offer prayer to you at a time when you | may be found;*
surely in the rush of great waters,
they shall not | reach him.**

⁷You are a hiding place for me;
you preserve me from | trouble;*
you surround me with shouts of de- | liverance.

⁸**I will instruct you and teach you in the way | you should go;*
I will counsel you with my eye up- | on you.**

⁹Be not like a horse or a mule, without under- | standing,*
which must be curbed with bit and bridle,
or it will not stay | near you.

¹⁰**Many are the sorrows of the | wicked,*
but steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts | in the LORD.**

¹¹Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, O | righteous,*
and shout for joy, all you up- | right in heart!

Sit



Office Hymn

428 Cross of Jesus, Cross of Sorrow

1 Cross of Je - sus, cross of sor - row,
 2 Here the King of all the a - ges,
 3 O mys - te - rious con - de - scend - ing!
 4 Cross of Je - sus, cross of sor - row,

Where the blood of Christ was shed,
 Throned in light ere worlds could be,
 O a - ban - don - ment sub - lime!
 Where the blood of Christ was shed,

Per - fect man on thee did suf - fer,
 Robed in mor - tal flesh is dy - ing,
 Ver - y God Him - self is bear - ing
 Per - fect man on thee did suf - fer,

Per - fect God on thee has bled!
 Cru - ci - fied by sin for me.
 All the suf - fer - ings of time!
 Per - fect God on thee has bled!

Text: William J. Sparrow Simpson, 1860–1952

Tune: John Stainer, 1840–1901

Text and tune: Public domain

Readings

Reading

John 20:22–23

P A reading for the Fourth Midweek in Lent from John, chapter 20.

²²And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “**Receive the Holy Spirit.** ²³**If you forgive the sins of anyone, they are forgiven; if you withhold forgiveness from anyone, it is withheld.**”

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Responsory (Lent)

LSB 231



- L** 1 Deliver me, O Lord, my God, for You are
the God of my sal - va - tion.
2 In You, O Lord, do I put my trust, leave me not, O Lord, my God.
3 Deliver me, O Lord, my God, for You are
the God of my sal - va - tion.



- C** Rescue me from my en - e - mies, protect me
from those who rise a - gainst me.

Hymn

608 Lord, to You I Make Confession



- 1 Lord, to You I make con - fes - sion: I have sinned and
2 Yet, though con - science' voice ap - pall me, Fa - ther, I will
3 For Your Son has suf - fered for me, Giv'n Him - self to
4 Lord, on You I cast my bur - den— Sink it in the



gone a - stray, I have mul - ti - plied trans - gres - sion,
seek Your face; Though Your child I dare not call me,
res - cue me, Died to save me and re - store me,
deep - est sea! Let me know Your gra - cious par - don,



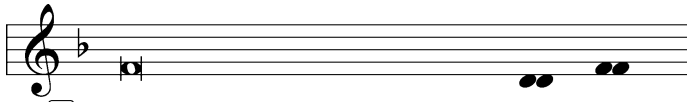
Cho - sen for my - self my way. Led by You to
Yet re - ceive me in Your grace. Do not for my
Rec - on - ciled and set me free. Je - sus' cross a -
Cleanse me from in - iq - ui - ty. Let Your Spir - it



see my er - rors, Lord, I trem - ble at Your ter - rors.
sins for - sake me; Let Your wrath not o - ver - take me.
lone can van - quish These dark fears and soothe this an - guish.
leave me nev - er; Make me on - ly Yours for - ev - er.

Canticle

Stand



L Let my prayer rise before You as in - cense,



C and the lifting up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.

Magnificat

933 My Soul Rejoices



1 My soul re - joic - es, My spir - it voic - es— Sing the
2 His arm now bar - ing, His strength de - clar - ing— Sing the



great - ness of the Lord! For God my Sav - ior Has shown me
great - ness of the Lord! The proud He scat - ters, Their rule He



fa - vor— Sing the great - ness of the Lord! With praise and
shat - ters— Sing the great - ness of the Lord! Op - pres - sion



bles - sing, Join in con - fess - ing God, who is sole - ly Might - y and
halt - ed; The meek ex - alt - ed. Full are the hun - gry; Emp - ty, the



ho - ly— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord! His mer - cy
wealth - y— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord! Here is the



sure - ly Shall rest se - cure - ly On all who fear Him,
to - ken All that was spo - ken To A-br'ham's off - spring



Love and re - vere Him— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord!
God is ful - fill - ing— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord!

Text: Stephen P. Starke, 1955

Tune: Giovanni Giacomo Gastoldi, c. 1556–c. 1622

Offering *Collected after service in the back of the church.*

Prayer

Kneel/Stand

Kyrie

LSB 233



☐ Lord, have mer-cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer-cy.

Lord's Prayer

☐ Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us ✠ from evil.

For Thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.

Collects



L O Lord, hear my prayer.



C And let my cry come to You.

Collect of the Day

P Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Collect for Peace

P O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Stand

Benedicamus

LSB 234



L Let us bless the Lord.



C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

LSB 234

P The grace of our Lord Je - sus Christ and the love of God
and the communion of the Holy Spir - it be with you all.
C A - men.

Hymn to Depart

886 The Day Thou Gavest

1 The day Thou gavest, Lord, is end - ed,
2 We thank Thee that Thy Church, un - sleep - ing
3 As o'er each con - ti - nent and is - land
4 The sun, that bids us rest, is wak - ing
5 So be it, Lord! Thy throne shall nev - er,
The dark - ness falls at Thy be - hest;
While earth rolls on - ward in - to light,
The dawn leads on an - oth - er day,
Thy saints be - neath the west - ern skies,
Like earth's proud em - pires, pass a - way;
To Thee our morn - ing hymns as - cend - ed,
Through all the world her watch is keep - ing,
The voice of prayer is nev - er si - lent,
And hour by hour, as day is break - ing,
Thy king - dom stands and grows for - ev - er,



Thy praise shall sanc - ti - fy our rest.
And nev - er rests by day or night.
Nor dies the strain of praise a - way.
Fresh hymns of thank - ful praise a - rise.
Till all Thy crea - tures own Thy sway.

Text: John Ellerton, 1826–93, alt.
Tune: Clement C. Scholefield, 1839–1904
Text and tune: Public domain

Acknowledgments

Vespers from Lutheran Service Book
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Lenten Midweek Services

Vespers – Wednesday, March 29th @7pm – Sacrament of the Altar
Vespers – Wednesday, April 5th @7pm

Lenten Suppers will be held in the Assembly Room at 6pm before service.

Join us for Holy Week

Maundy Thursday – Thursday, April 6th at 7pm
Good Friday – Friday, April 7th at 7pm

Luther's Small Catechism on Confession

How Christians should be taught to confess

What is Confession?

Confession has two parts. First, that we confess our sins, and second, that we receive absolution, that is, forgiveness, from the pastor as from God Himself, not doubting, but firmly believing that by it our sins are forgiven before God in heaven.

What sins should we confess?

Before God we should plead guilty of all sins, even those we are not aware of, as we do in the Lord's Prayer; but before the pastor we should confess only those sins which we know and feel in our hearts.

Which are these?

Consider your place in life according to the Ten Commandments: Are you a father, mother, son, daughter, husband, wife, or worker? Have you been disobedient, unfaithful, or lazy?

Have you been hot-tempered, rude, or quarrelsome? Have you hurt someone by your words or deeds? Have you stolen, been negligent, wasted anything, or done any harm?

A Short Form of Confession

[Luther intended the following form to serve only as an example of private confession for Christians of his time. For a contemporary form of individual confession, see Lutheran Worship, pp. 310–11; see Lutheran Service Book, pp. 292–93.]

The penitent says:

Dear confessor, I ask you please to hear my confession and to pronounce forgiveness in order to fulfill God's will.

I, a poor sinner, plead guilty before God of all sins. In particular I confess before you that as a servant, maid, etc., I, sad to say, serve my master unfaithfully, for in this and that I have not done what I was told to do. I have made him angry and caused him to curse. I have been negligent and allowed damage to be done. I have also been offensive in words and deeds. I have quarreled with my peers. I have grumbled about the lady of the house and cursed her. I am sorry for all of this and I ask for grace. I want to do better.

A master or lady of the house may say:

In particular I confess before you that I have not faithfully guided my children, servants, and wife to the glory of God. I have cursed. I have set a bad example by indecent words and deeds. I have hurt my neighbor and spoken evil of him. I have overcharged, sold inferior merchandise, and given less than was paid for.

[Let the penitent confess whatever else he has done against God's commandments and his own position.]

If, however, someone does not find himself burdened with these or greater sins, he should not trouble himself or search for or invent other sins, and thereby make confession a torture. Instead, he should mention one or two that he knows: In particular I confess that I have cursed; I have used improper words; I have neglected this or that, etc. Let that be enough.

But if you know of none at all (which hardly seems possible), then mention none in particular, but receive the forgiveness upon the general confession which you make to God before the confessor.

Then the confessor shall say:

God be merciful to you and strengthen your faith. Amen.

Furthermore:

Do you believe that my forgiveness is God's forgiveness? Yes, dear confessor.

Then let him say:

Let it be done for you as you believe. And I, by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, forgive you your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. Go in peace.

A confessor will know additional passages with which to comfort and to strengthen the faith of those who have great burdens of conscience or are sorrowful and distressed.

This is intended only as a general form of confession.

What is the Office of the Keys?*

The Office of the Keys is that special authority which Christ has given to His church on earth to forgive the sins of repentant sinners, but to withhold forgiveness from the unrepentant as long as they do not repent.

Where is this written?*

This is what St. John the Evangelist writes in chapter twenty: The Lord Jesus breathed on His disciples and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven." (John 20:22–23)

What do you believe according to these words?*

I believe that when the called ministers of Christ deal with us by His divine command, in particular when they exclude openly unrepentant sinners from the Christian congregation and absolve those who repent of their sins and want to do better, this is just as valid and certain, even in heaven, as if Christ our dear Lord dealt with us Himself.