

# Service of Confession, Forgiveness and Reconciliation

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*Forgiveness and Reconciliation are important themes throughout the Bible. Throughout the Biblical Narrative God continually calls his people to love and forgive each other just as he continues to love and forgive us. On the Day of Atonement or Yom Kippur, Jewish people throughout the world gather to confess their sins before God and beg forgiveness. It is marked by fasting, prayer and works of charity. In the Bible this day required an offering of several sacrifices. one being a goat sacrificed to God and one goat which bore the sins of the community for past year. It was then sent into the wilderness never to return. As Christians we no longer have to beg forgiveness in this manner or make sacrifice of animals but simply turn to Jesus Christ who through his life, death and resurrection reconciles us to God. This service sets a tone to remind of our sin, the need for repentance and to also remember God's forgiveness in the person of Jesus Christ.*

Notes:

All Scripture References are from the NRSV

The Kyrie is from Setting 10 in Evangelical Lutheran Worship

## WELCOME AND PRELUDE

### †GATHERING†

שְׁמַע יִשְׂרָאֵל יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ יְהוָה אֶחָד

Shema, Israel, Adonai, Elohenu, Adonai, A'had

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם

Baruch Atah Adonai Melech Ha'Olam

Hear, O Israel, the Lord is our God, The Lord is one  
Blessed be the Lord our God, King of the Universe  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit One God Now and Forever.

**Amen**

**Blessed are You, O Lord of All, who calls us to be  
holy with your commandments and calls us into  
your light and mercy.**

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known,  
and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our  
hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may  
perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name,  
through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**O God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, our only Savior, the Prince of Peace: Give us grace and conviction to acknowledge the great dangers we are in by our unhappy divisions; take away all hatred and prejudice, and whatever else may hinder us from godly union and concord; that, as there is but one Body and one Spirit, one hope of our calling , one Lord, one Faith, one Baptism, one God and Father of us all, so we may be all of one heart and of one soul, united in one whole bond of truth and peace, of faith and charity, and may with one mind.**

**Amen**

## **SONG**

**326 Bless Now, O God, the Journey**

**†THE WORD†**

**FIRST READING**

**Jeremiah 4:1-4** (NRSV)

If you return, O Israel, says the LORD,  
if you return to me,

if you remove your abominations from my presence,  
and do not waver,

<sup>2</sup> and if you swear, “As the LORD lives!”  
in truth, in justice, and in uprightness,  
then nations shall be blessed by him,  
and by him they shall boast.

<sup>3</sup> For thus says the LORD to the people of Judah and to the  
inhabitants of Jerusalem:

Break up your fallow ground,  
and do not sow among thorns.

<sup>4</sup> Circumcise yourselves to the LORD,  
remove the foreskin of your hearts,  
O people of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem,  
or else my wrath will go forth like fire,  
and burn with no one to quench it,  
because of the evil of your doings.

**PSALM 51** (NRSV)

**Prayer for Cleansing and Pardon**

*To the leader. A Psalm of David, when the prophet Nathan came to him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba.*

- <sup>1</sup> Have mercy on me, O God,  
according to your steadfast love;  
according to your abundant mercy  
blot out my transgressions.
- <sup>2</sup> **Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,  
and cleanse me from my sin.**
- <sup>3</sup> For I know my transgressions,  
and my sin is ever before me.
- <sup>4</sup> **Against you, you alone, have I sinned,  
and done what is evil in your sight,  
so that you are justified in your sentence  
and blameless when you pass judgment.**
- <sup>5</sup> Indeed, I was born guilty,  
a sinner when my mother conceived me.
- <sup>6</sup> **You desire truth in the inward being;  
therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.**
- <sup>7</sup> Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;  
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
- <sup>8</sup> **Let me hear joy and gladness;  
let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.**
- <sup>9</sup> Hide your face from my sins,  
and blot out all my iniquities.
- <sup>10</sup> **Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and put a new and right spirit within me.**
- <sup>11</sup> Do not cast me away from your presence,  
and do not take your holy spirit from me.

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- 12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation,  
and sustain in me a willing spirit.**
- 13** Then I will teach transgressors your ways,  
and sinners will return to you.
- 14 Deliver me from bloodshed, O God,  
O God of my salvation,  
and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance.**
- 15** O Lord, open my lips,  
and my mouth will declare your praise.
- 16 For you have no delight in sacrifice;  
if I were to give a burnt offering, you would not be  
pleased.**
- 17** The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit;  
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.
- 18 Do good to Zion in your good pleasure;  
rebuild the walls of Jerusalem,**
- 19 then you will delight in right sacrifices,  
in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings;  
then bulls will be offered on your altar.**

## SECOND READING

**2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 5:14-21** (NRSV)

For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore, all have died. And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them.

From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

## **GOSPEL**

**Matthew 18:15-22** (NRSV)

‘If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax-collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.’

Then Peter came and said to him, ‘Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?’ Jesus said to him, ‘Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.’

## **HOMILY**

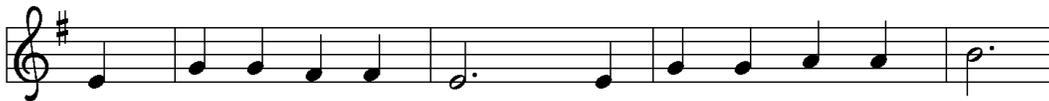
## **SONG**

**592 Just As I Am, without One Plea**

## CORPORATE CONFESSION

Thus says The Lord, “Cast away from you all transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, Turn, then and Live.” *(adapted from Ezekiel 18:30-32)*

### Kyrie



- 1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
- 2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
- 3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.  
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.  
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

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**If we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.** *(1 John 1:8-9)*

## Service of Confession, Forgiveness and Reconciliation

### **We confess:**

We have made idols of many things. We have replaced these things in our hearts in the place where you should abide. We have failed to recognize we were made in your image.

**Forgive us, pardon us, atone for us.**

### **We confess:**

We have profaned your name and used it in deceitful ways. We have not honored you or lived as an example of your mercy.

**Forgive us, pardon us, atone for us.**

### **We confess:**

We have not kept the Sabbath, We have crowded out your teachings for others things in our lives. We have forgotten to rest and enjoy all that you have made.

**Forgive us, pardon us, atone for us.**

### **We confess:**

We have not honored those in authority especially our Fathers and Mothers. We have been rebellious. We have warred with our family and neighbors instead of seeking peace.

**Forgive us, pardon us, atone for us.**

## Service of Confession, Forgiveness and Reconciliation

### **We confess:**

We have murdered in both thought and deed. We have not taken care of our brothers and sisters. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

**Forgive us, pardon us, atone for us.**

### **We confess:**

We have committed adultery in word, thought and deed. We have not honored the relationships you have given us. We have disgraced your gift of sexuality.

**Forgive us, pardon us, atone for us.**

### **We confess:**

We have stolen from you, our neighbors and ourselves. We have been selfish and not shared our abundance.

**Forgive us, pardon us, atone for us.**

### **We confess:**

We have gossiped, lied and said unkind things about our neighbors. We have spoken half-truths to get what we want. We have not been honest with you or others.

**Forgive us, pardon us, atone for us.**

### **We confess:**

We have been jealous in our hearts. We have not been content with the things you have graciously given us. We have lived beyond our means.

**Forgive us, pardon us, atone for us.**

# Service of Confession, Forgiveness and Reconciliation

## **We confess:**

We have failed to recognize the sin we commit through our inaction or silence. We have sinned intentionally and unintentionally. We have not forgiven those who have sinned against us.

**Forgive us, pardon us, atone for us.**

Our high priest Jesus Christ shall make atonement for us concerning our sin, fulfilling the law, and we shall be forgiven.

**Have Mercy on us, O God according to your lovingkindness; wash us from our wickedness, and cleanse us from our sin. Lead us, O Lord, down the path of righteousness, so that we may love you more.**

*Time for Silent Reflection and  
Private Confession and forgiveness*

## **ABSOLUTION**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe and trust in Jesus Christ he gives the power to become the Children of God and Bestows on them the Holy Spirit. You who were dead in sin, Go now and Live. **Amen.**

**The LORD is compassionate and gracious,  
slow to anger, abounding in love.**

**He will not always accuse,  
nor will he harbor his anger forever;  
he does not treat us as our sins deserve  
or repay us according to our iniquities.  
For as high as the heavens are above the earth,  
so great is his love for those who fear him;  
as far as the east is from the west,  
so far has he removed our transgressions from us.**

*(Psalm 103:8-13)*

## **‡SENDING‡**

### **SHARING OF THE PEACE**

Blessed are those whose sins have been forgiven, whose evil deeds have been forgotten. Rejoice in the Lord and receive the peace that passes all understanding.

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you**

Share with each other a sign of Christ's peace.

### **SENDING SONG**

#### **624 Jesus, Still Lead On**

Go and Forgive as Christ has Forgiven Us

**Thanks be to God**