

# Confession and Absolution

## 399 The Star Proclaims the King Is Here

- 1 The star proclaims the King is here;  
But, Herod, why this senseless fear?  
For He who offers heav'nly birth  
Seeks not the kingdoms of this earth.
- 2 The eastern sages saw from far  
And followed on His guiding star;  
And, led by light, to light they trod  
And by their gifts confessed their God.
- 3 Within the Jordan's sacred flood  
The heav'nly Lamb in meekness stood  
That He, of whom no sin was known,  
Might cleanse His people from their own.
- 4 And oh, what miracle divine,  
When water reddened into wine!  
He spoke the word, and forth it flowed  
In streams that nature ne'er bestowed.
- △ 5 For this Thy glad epiphany  
All glory, Jesus, be to Thee,  
Whom with the Father we adore,  
And Holy Spirit evermore.

Text: Coelius Sedullius, 5th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, 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 151*

- P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.  
**C** But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*Kneel/Stand*

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

## Confession of Sins

*LSB 151*

- P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.  
**C** Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

## Absolution

LSB 151

- P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore 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 147:1, 5, 11–12; antiphon: John 1:14*

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his | glory,\*  
glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of | grace and truth.  
Praise the LORD! For it is good to sing praises | to our God;\*  
for it is pleasant, and a song of praise is | fitting.  
Great is our Lord, and abun- | dant in power;\*  
his understanding is beyond | measure.  
But the LORD takes pleasure in those who | fear him,\*  
in those who hope in his | steadfast love.  
Praise the LORD, O Je- | rusalem!\*  
Praise your God, O | Zion!  
**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son\***  
**and to the Holy | Spirit;**  
**as it was in the be- | ginning,\***  
**is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**  
The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his | glory,\*  
glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of | grace and truth.

### Kyrie

LSB 152

- A** In peace let us pray to the Lord.  
**C** Lord, have mercy.  
**A** For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.  
**C** Lord, have mercy.  
**A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.  
**C** Lord, have mercy.  
**A** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.  
**C** Lord, have mercy.  
**A** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.  
**C** Amen.

### This Is the Feast

LSB 155

- C** This is the feast of victory for our God.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

**Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God.**  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

**Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are His.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God.**  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

**Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:  
Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

### Salutation and Collect of the Day

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Let us pray.

Almighty God, You have poured into our hearts the true Light of Your incarnate Word. Grant that this Light may shine forth in our lives; through the same 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

*1 Kings 3:4–15*

<sup>4</sup>The king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the great high place. Solomon used to offer a thousand burnt offerings on that altar. <sup>5</sup>At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, “Ask what I shall give you.” <sup>6</sup>And Solomon said, “You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant David my father, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you. And you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne this day. <sup>7</sup>And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of David my father, although I am but a little child. I do not know how to go out or come in. <sup>8</sup>And your servant is in the midst of your people whom you have chosen, a great people, too many to be numbered or counted for multitude. <sup>9</sup>Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people?”

<sup>10</sup>It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. <sup>11</sup>And God said to him, “Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, <sup>12</sup>behold, I now do according to your word. Behold, I give you a wise and discerning mind, so that none like you has been before you and none like you shall arise after you. <sup>13</sup>I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honor, so that no other king shall compare with you, all your days. <sup>14</sup>And if you will walk in my ways, keeping my statutes and my commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your days.”

<sup>15</sup>And Solomon awoke, and behold, it was a dream. Then he came to Jerusalem and stood before the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and offered up burnt offerings and peace offerings, and made a feast for all his servants.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

### Gradual

*Isaiah 9:6; Psalm 98:1a*

To us a child is born, to us a son is | given;\*  
and the government shall be upon his | shoulder.  
And his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, | Mighty God,\*  
Everlasting Father, | Prince of Peace.  
Sing to the Lord a | new song,\*  
for he has done | marvelous things!

### Choir Sings

## Epistle

*Ephesians 1:3–14*

<sup>3</sup>Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, <sup>4</sup>even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love <sup>5</sup>he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, <sup>6</sup>to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. <sup>7</sup>In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, <sup>8</sup>which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight <sup>9</sup>making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ <sup>10</sup>as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

<sup>11</sup>In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, <sup>12</sup>so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. <sup>13</sup>In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, <sup>14</sup>who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

## Alleluia and Verse

*LSB 156*

**C** Alleluia.

Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life.

Alleluia, alleluia.

## Holy Gospel

*Luke 2:40–52*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.

**C** Glory to You, O Lord.

<sup>40</sup>The child [Jesus] grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

<sup>41</sup>Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. <sup>42</sup>And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. <sup>43</sup>And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, <sup>44</sup>but supposing him to be in the group they went a day's journey, but then they began to search for him among their relatives and acquaintances, <sup>45</sup>and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him. <sup>46</sup>After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. <sup>47</sup>And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. <sup>48</sup>And when his parents saw him, they were astonished. And his mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress." <sup>49</sup>And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" <sup>50</sup>And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. <sup>51</sup>And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart.

<sup>52</sup>And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

*Sit*

## 410 Within the Father's House

1 Within the Father's house  
The Son has found His home,  
And to His temple suddenly  
The Lord of life has come.

2 The doctors of the Law  
Gaze on the wondrous child  
And marvel at His gracious words  
Of wisdom undefiled.

- 3 Yet not to them is giv'n  
The mighty truth to know,  
To lift the earthly veil that hides  
Incarnate God below.
- 4 The secret of the Lord  
Escapes each human eye,  
And faithful pond'ring hearts await  
The full epiphany.
- 5 Lord, visit Thou our souls  
And teach us by Thy grace  
Each dim revealing of Thyself  
With loving awe to trace

△ 6 Till we behold Thy face  
And know as we are known  
Thee, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,  
Coequal Three in One.

Text: James R. Woodford, 1820–85, alt.  
Text: Public domain

## Sermon

*Stand*

## Nicene Creed

**☩ 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 ✠ of the world to come. Amen.**

*Sit*

## Offering

*Stand*

## Offertory

*LSB 159*

- C** What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me?  
I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving and will call on the name of the Lord.  
I will take the cup of salvation and will call on the name of the Lord.  
I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the presence of all His people,  
in the courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.

## Prayer of the Church

# Service of the Sacrament

## Preface

*LSB 160*

- P** The Lord be with you.  
**C** And also with you.
- P** Lift up your hearts.  
**C** We lift them to the Lord.
- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**C** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

## Proper Preface (Full)

- P** It is truly good, 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 in the mystery of the Word made flesh You have given us a new revelation of Your glory that, seeing You in the person of Your Son, we may know and love those things which are not seen. 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 161*

- C** Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might:  
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.  
Hosanna. Hosanna.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

*LSB 161*

- P** Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

- C** Amen.

## The Words of Our Lord

- 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  $\text{†}$  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  $\text{†}$  blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

## Proclamation of Christ

- P** As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.  
**C** **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

- P** O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

## Lord’s Prayer

- C** **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.**

## Pax Domini

*LSB 163*

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**C** **Amen.**

## Agnus Dei

*LSB 163*

- C** **Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.**

*Sit*

## Distribution

### Distribution Hymns

#### 686 Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

- 1 Come, Thou Fount of ev’ry blessing,  
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;  
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,  
Call for songs of loudest praise.  
While the hope of endless glory  
Fills my heart with joy and love,  
Teach me ever to adore Thee;  
May I still Thy goodness prove.

- 2 Here I raise my Ebenezer,  
 Hither by Thy help I've come;  
 And I hope, by Thy good pleasure,  
 Safely to arrive at home.  
 Jesus sought me when a stranger,  
 Wand'ring from the fold of God;  
 He, to rescue me from danger,  
 Interposed His precious blood.
- 3 Oh, to grace how great a debtor  
 Daily I'm constrained to be;  
 Let that grace now like a fetter  
 Bind my wand'ring heart to Thee:  
 Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it;  
 Prone to leave the God I love.  
 Here's my heart, O take and seal it,  
 Seal it for Thy courts above.
- 4 Oh, that day when freed from sinning,  
 I shall see Thy lovely face;  
 Clothed then in the blood-washed linen,  
 How I'll sing Thy wondrous grace!  
 Come, my Lord, no longer tarry;  
 Take my ransom'd soul away;  
 Send Thine angels soon to carry  
 Me to realms of endless day.

Text: Robert Robinson, 1735–90, alt.  
 Text: Public domain

## 622 Lord Jesus Christ, You Have Prepared

- 1 Lord Jesus Christ, You have prepared  
 This feast for our salvation;  
 It is Your body and Your blood,  
 And at Your invitation  
 As weary souls, with sin oppressed,  
 We come to You for needed rest,  
 For comfort, and for pardon.
- 2 Although You did to heav'n ascend,  
 Where angel hosts are dwelling,  
 And in Your presence they behold  
 Your glory, all excelling,  
 And though Your people shall not see  
 Your glory and Your majesty  
 Till dawns the judgment morning,
- 3 Yet, Savior, You are not confined  
 To any habitation;  
 But You are present even now  
 Here with Your congregation.  
 Firm as a rock this truth shall stand,  
 Unmoved by any daring hand  
 Or subtle craft and cunning.
- 4 We eat this bread and drink this cup,  
 Your precious Word believing  
 That Your true body and Your blood  
 Our lips are here receiving.  
 This Word remains forever true;



All things are possible with You,  
For You are Lord Almighty.

- 5 Though reason cannot understand,  
Yet faith this truth embraces:  
Your body, Lord, is even now  
At once in many places.  
I leave to You how this can be;  
Your Word alone suffices me;  
I trust its truth unfailing.
- 6 Lord, I believe what You have said;  
Help me when doubts assail me.  
Remember that I am but dust,  
And let my faith not fail me.  
Your supper in this vale of tears  
Refreshes me and stills my fears  
And is my priceless treasure.
- 7 Grant that we worthily receive  
Your supper, Lord, our Savior,  
And, truly grieving for our sins,  
May prove by our behavior  
That we are thankful for Your grace  
And day by day may run our race,  
In holiness increasing.
- 8 For Your consoling supper, Lord,  
Be praised throughout all ages!  
Preserve it, for in ev'ry place  
The world against it rages.  
Grant that this sacrament may be  
A blessèd comfort unto me  
When living and when dying.

Text: Samuel Kinner, 1603-68; tr. Emanuel Cronenwett, 1841-1931, alt.  
Text: Public domain

### 384 Of the Father's Love Begotten

- 1 Of the Father's love begotten  
Ere the worlds began to be,  
He is Alpha and Omega,  
He the source, the ending He,  
Of the things that are, that have been,  
And that future years shall see  
Evermore and evermore.
- 2 Oh, that birth forever blessèd,  
When the virgin, full of grace,  
By the Holy Ghost conceiving,  
Bore the Savior of our race,  
And the babe, the world's Redeemer,  
First revealed His sacred face  
Evermore and evermore.

3 This is He whom seers in old time  
Chanted of with one accord,  
Whom the voices of the prophets  
Promised in their faithful word.  
Now He shines, the long-expected;  
Let creation praise its Lord  
Evermore and evermore.

4 O ye heights of heav'n, adore Him;  
Angel hosts, His praises sing.  
Pow'rs, dominions, bow before Him  
And extol our God and King.  
Let no tongue on earth be silent,  
Ev'ry voice in concert ring  
Evermore and evermore.

△ 5 Christ, to Thee, with God the Father,  
And, O Holy Ghost, to Thee  
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving  
And unending praises be,  
Honor, glory, and dominion,  
And eternal victory  
Evermore and evermore. Amen.

Text: Aurelius Prudentius Clemens, 348–c. 413; (sts. 1–4): tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.; (st. 5): tr. Henry W. Baker, 1821–77  
Text: Public domain

*Stand*

### Thank the Lord

*LSB 164*

**C** Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev'ryone what He has done.  
Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear His name.  
He recalls His promises and leads His people forth in joy  
with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.

### 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.

### Benediction

*LSB 166*

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.  
**C** Amen.

### 923 Almighty Father, Bless the Word

1 Almighty Father, bless the Word  
Which through Your grace we now have heard.  
Oh, may the precious seed take root,  
Spring up, and bear abundant fruit!

2 We praise You for the means of grace  
As homeward now our steps we trace.  
Grant, Lord, that we who worshiped here  
May all at last in heav'n appear.

△ 3 Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host:  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Text (sts. 1–2): Church Poetry, 1823, Philadelphia, alt.; (st. 3): Thomas Ken, 1637–1711  
Text: Public domain

## **Acknowledgments**

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