

# Confession and Absolution

## 663 Rise, My Soul, to Watch and Pray

- 1 Rise, my soul, to watch and pray;  
From your sleep awaken!  
Be not by the evil day  
Unawares o'ertaken;  
For the foe,  
Well we know,  
Is a harvest reaping  
While the saints are sleeping.
- 2 Watch against the devil's snares  
Lest asleep he find you;  
For indeed no pains he spares  
To deceive and blind you.  
Satan's prey  
Oft are they  
Who secure are sleeping  
And no watch are keeping.
- 3 Watch! Let not the wicked world  
With its lies defeat you  
Lest with bold deceptions hurled  
It betray and cheat you.  
Watch and see  
Lest there be  
Faithless friends to charm you,  
Who but seek to harm you.
- 4 Watch against yourself, my soul,  
Lest with grace you trifle;  
Let not self your thoughts control  
Nor God's mercy stifle.  
Pride and sin  
Lurk within,  
All your hopes to shatter;  
Heed not when they flatter.
- 5 But while watching, also pray  
To the Lord unceasing.  
God protects you day by day,  
Strength and faith increasing,  
So that still  
Mind and will  
Shall unite to serve Him  
And forever love Him.

Text: Johann Burkhard Freystein, 1671–1718; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.  
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*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

*Psalms 147:8–11; antiphon: v. 7*

Sing to the LORD with thanks- | giving,\*  
make melody to our God | on the lyre!  
He covers the heavens with clouds; he prepares rain | for the earth,\*  
he makes grass grow | on the hills.  
He gives to the | beasts their food,\*  
and to the young ravens | that cry.  
His delight is not in the strength | of the horse,\*  
nor his pleasure in the legs | of a man,  
but the LORD takes pleasure in those who | fear him,\*  
in those who hope in his | steadfast love.  
**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.**  
Sing to the LORD with thanks- | giving,\*  
make melody to our God | on the lyre!

## 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.  
Almighty and merciful God, it is by Your grace that we live as Your people who offer acceptable service. Grant that we may walk by faith, and not by sight, in the way that leads to eternal life; 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

*Genesis 15:1–6*

<sup>1</sup>After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: “Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.” <sup>2</sup>But Abram said, “O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?” <sup>3</sup>And Abram said, “Behold, you have given me no offspring, and a member of my household will be my heir.” <sup>4</sup>And behold, the word of the LORD came to him: “This man shall not be your heir; your very own son shall be your heir.” <sup>5</sup>And he brought him outside and said, “Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.” <sup>6</sup>And he believed the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness.

- A** This is the Word of the Lord.  
**C** Thanks be to God.

## Gradual

*Psalms 34:9, 19, alt.*

Fear the LORD, | you his saints,\*  
for those who fear him lack | nothing!  
Many are the afflictions of the | righteous,\*  
but the LORD delivers him out | of them all.

## 750 If Thou But Trust in God to Guide Thee

- 1 If thou but trust in God to guide thee  
And hope in Him through all thy ways,  
He'll give thee strength, whate'er betide thee,  
And bear thee through the evil days.  
Who trusts in God's unchanging love  
Builds on the rock that naught can move.

- 2 What can these anxious cares avail thee,  
 These never-ceasing moans and sighs?  
 What can it help if thou bewail thee  
 O'er each dark moment as it flies?  
 Our cross and trials do but press  
 The heavier for our bitterness.
- 3 Be patient and await His leisure  
 In cheerful hope, with heart content  
 To take whate'er thy Father's pleasure  
 And His discerning love hath sent,  
 Nor doubt our inmost wants are known  
 To Him who chose us for His own.
- 4 God knows full well when times of gladness  
 Shall be the needful thing for thee.  
 When He has tried thy soul with sadness  
 And from all guile has found thee free,  
 He comes to thee all unaware  
 And makes thee own His loving care.
- 5 Nor think amid the fiery trial  
 That God hath cast thee off unheard,  
 That he whose hopes meet no denial  
 Must surely be of God preferred.  
 Time passes and much change doth bring  
 And sets a bound to ev'rything.
- 6 All are alike before the Highest;  
 'Tis easy for our God, we know,  
 To raise thee up, though low thou liest,  
 To make the rich man poor and low.  
 True wonders still by Him are wrought  
 Who setteth up and brings to naught.
- 7 Sing, pray, and keep His ways unswerving,  
 Perform thy duties faithfully,  
 And trust His Word; though undeserving,  
 Thou yet shalt find it true for thee.  
 God never yet forsook in need  
 The soul that trusted Him indeed.

Text: tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.; Georg Neumark, 1621–81  
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## Epistle

*Hebrews 11:1–16*

<sup>1</sup>Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. <sup>2</sup>For by it the people of old received their commendation. <sup>3</sup>By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.

<sup>4</sup>By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain, through which he was commended as righteous, God commending him by accepting his gifts. And through his faith, though he died, he still speaks. <sup>5</sup>By faith Enoch was taken up so that he should not see death, and he was not found, because God had taken him. Now before he was taken he was commended as having pleased God. <sup>6</sup>And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him. <sup>7</sup>By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, in reverent fear constructed an ark for the saving of his household. By this he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.

<sup>8</sup>By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. <sup>9</sup>By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. <sup>10</sup>For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God. <sup>11</sup>By faith Sarah herself received power to conceive, even when she was past the age, since she considered him faithful who had promised. <sup>12</sup>Therefore from one man, and him as good as

dead, were born descendants as many as the stars of heaven and as many as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.

<sup>13</sup>These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. <sup>14</sup>For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. <sup>15</sup>If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. <sup>16</sup>But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

**Alleluia**

*LSB 190*

**C** Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

**Holy Gospel**

*Luke 12:22–34*

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

**C** Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

<sup>22</sup>[Jesus] said to his disciples, “Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat, nor about your body, what you will put on. <sup>23</sup>For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. <sup>24</sup>Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! <sup>25</sup>And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? <sup>26</sup>If then you are not able to do as small a thing as that, why are you anxious about the rest? <sup>27</sup>Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. <sup>28</sup>But if God so clothes the grass, which is alive in the field today, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you, O you of little faith! <sup>29</sup>And do not seek what you are to eat and what you are to drink, nor be worried. <sup>30</sup>For all the nations of the world seek after these things, and your Father knows that you need them. <sup>31</sup>Instead, seek his kingdom, and these things will be added to you.

<sup>32</sup>“Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. <sup>33</sup>Sell your possessions, and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys. <sup>34</sup>For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”

**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*

### 735 Have No Fear, Little Flock

- 1 Have no fear, little flock;  
Have no fear, little flock,  
For the Father has chosen  
To give you the Kingdom;  
Have no fear, little flock!
- 2 Have good cheer, little flock;  
Have good cheer, little flock,  
For the Father will keep you  
In His love forever;  
Have good cheer, little flock!
- 3 Praise the Lord high above;  
Praise the Lord high above,  
For He stoops down to heal you,  
Uplift and restore you;  
Praise the Lord high above!
- 4 Thankful hearts raise to God;  
Thankful hearts raise to God,  
For He stays close beside you,  
In all things works with you;  
Thankful hearts raise to God!

Text (st. 1): Heinz Werner Zimmermann, 1930–2022; (sts. 2–4): Marjorie A. Jillson, 1931–2010  
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### Sermon

*Stand*

### Offertory

*LSB 192*

- ☩** 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.

*Sit*

### Offering

*Stand*

### Prayer of the Church

### 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.
- ☩** For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

- 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  $\text{✠}$  give you peace.
- C** Amen, amen, amen.

**743 Jesus, Priceless Treasure**

- 1 Jesus, priceless treasure,  
Fount of purest pleasure,  
Truest friend to me,  
Ah, how long in anguish  
Shall my spirit languish,  
Yearning, Lord, for Thee?  
Thou art mine,  
O Lamb divine!  
I will suffer naught to hide Thee;  
Naught I ask beside Thee.
- 2 In Thine arms I rest me;  
Foes who would molest me  
Cannot reach me here.  
Though the earth be shaking,  
Ev'ry heart be quaking,  
Jesus calms my fear.  
Lightnings flash  
And thunders crash;  
Yet, though sin and hell assail me,  
Jesus will not fail me.
- 3 Satan, I defy thee;  
Death, I now decry thee;  
Fear, I bid thee cease.  
World, thou shalt not harm me  
Nor thy threats alarm me  
While I sing of peace.  
God's great pow'r  
Guards ev'ry hour;  
Earth and all its depths adore Him,  
Silent bow before Him.
- 4 Hence, all earthly treasure!  
Jesus is my pleasure,  
Jesus is my choice.  
Hence, all empty glory!  
Naught to me thy story  
Told with tempting voice.  
Pain or loss,  
Or shame or cross,  
Shall not from my Savior move me  
Since He deigns to love me.

5 Evil world, I leave thee;  
Thou canst not deceive me,  
Thine appeal is vain.  
Sin that once did blind me,  
Get thee far behind me,  
Come not forth again.  
Past thy hour,  
O pride and pow'r;  
Sinful life, thy bonds I sever,  
Leave thee now forever.

6 Hence, all fear and sadness!  
For the Lord of gladness,  
Jesus, enters in.  
Those who love the Father,  
Though the storms may gather,  
Still have peace within.  
Yea, whate'er  
I here must bear,  
Thou art still my purest pleasure,  
Jesus, priceless treasure!

Text: Johann Franck, 1618–77; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.  
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