

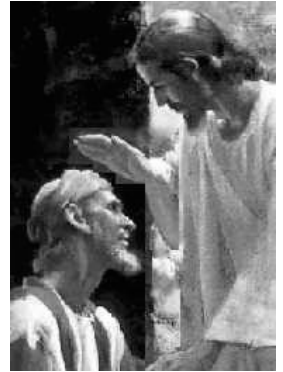
## "THE POWER OF GOD IN PRAYER" Five Week Bible Class:

1. God's Power 2. Adoration 3. **Confession** 4. Thanksgiving 5. Supplication

Date: 5-27-18 Lesson 3 - Confession of Sin

### **TEXTS:**

**(Leviticus 16:20-22)** "And when he has made an end of atoning for the Holy Place and the tent of meeting and the altar, he shall present the live goat. (21) And Aaron shall lay both his hands on the head of the live goat, and **confess** over it all the iniquities of the people of Israel, and all their transgressions, all their sins. And he shall put them on the head of the goat and send it away into the wilderness by the hand of a man who is in readiness. (22) The goat shall bear all their iniquities on itself to a remote area, and he shall let the goat go free in the wilderness.



**(Leviticus 26:40-42)** "But if they **confess their iniquity** and the iniquity of their fathers in their treachery that they committed against me, and also in walking contrary to me, (41) so that I walked contrary to them and brought them into the land of their enemies--if then their uncircumcised heart is humbled and they make amends for their iniquity, (42) then I will remember my covenant with Jacob, and I will remember my covenant with Isaac and my covenant with Abraham, and I will remember the land.

**(Numbers 5:6-8)** "Speak to the people of Israel, When a man or woman commits any of the sins that people commit by breaking faith with the Lord, and that person realizes his guilt, (7) he shall **confess his sin** that he has committed. And he shall make full restitution for his wrong, adding a fifth to it and giving it to him to whom he did the wrong.

**(Psalm 32:1-5)** Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. (2) Blessed is the man against whom the Lord counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit. (3) For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. (4) For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. (5) I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, "**I will confess** my transgressions to the Lord," and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.

**(Psalm 38:18-22)** (18) **I confess** my iniquity; I am sorry for my sin. (19) But my foes are vigorous, they are mighty, and many are those who hate me wrongfully. (20) Those who render me evil for good accuse me because I follow after good. (21) Do not forsake me, O Lord! O my God, be not far from me! (22) Make haste to help me, O Lord, my salvation!

**(Ezra 10:1-3)** While Ezra prayed and made **confession**, weeping and casting himself down before the house of God, a very great assembly of men, women, and children, gathered to him out of Israel, for the people wept bitterly. (2) And Shecaniah the son of Jehiel, of the sons of Elam, addressed Ezra: "We have broken faith with our God and have married foreign women from the peoples of the land, but even now there is hope for Israel in spite of this. (3) Therefore let us make a covenant with our God to put away all these wives and their children, according to the counsel of my lord and of those who tremble at the commandment of our God, and let it be done according to the Law.

**(Nehemiah 9:1-7)** (2) And the Israelites separated themselves from all foreigners and stood and confessed their sins and the iniquities of their fathers. (3) And they stood up in their place and read from the Book of the Law of the Lord their God for a quarter of the day; for another quarter of it they made **confession** and worshiped the Lord their God... they cried with a loud voice to the Lord their God... "Stand up and bless the Lord your God from everlasting to everlasting. Blessed be your glorious name, which is exalted above all blessing and praise. (6) "You are the Lord, you alone. You have made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them; and you preserve all of them; and the host of heaven worships you.

**(All of Daniel chapter 9)**

**(James 5:15-16)** And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. (16) Therefore, **confess** your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.

**(1 John 1:7-10)** But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. (8) If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. (9) If **we confess our sins**, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (10) If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

## STUDY NOTES:

**1. A definition of confession:** ὁμολογέω “homologeō” = confess, profess, acknowledge, agree, assent, declare, admit, concede

## **2. Confession and Absolution in the divine service** <https://www.lcms.org/worship/liturgy-parts#confession>

**Divine Service 3** 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.

**Divine Service 1** 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.

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.

**Divine Service 4** P: If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C: But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

P: Since we are gathered to hear God’s Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and **confess** before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

C: Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

“Above all else, **Confession** and Absolution keep us honest — honest with ourselves and honest before God. The act of **confession** is not some work that we lay before the Father’s throne; rather, it is the simple acknowledgment that God’s Word is true and right and that when we measure ourselves against its demands, we come up short. God’s Word says “you shall not give false testimony,” but in truth we have lied and gossiped and slandered. And so, the Christian **confesses**: “Lord, Your Word is true; I have sinned.”

Christians know that, but they also need to hear it often. We need to be reminded that those familiar words, “I forgive you all your sins,” are not just some impersonal announcement. They say what they mean and accomplish what they promise. Jesus himself said to his disciples that the sins they forgive are forgiven (John 20:23).

In the **Confession** and Absolution we are being readied for our appearance before Christ on the Last Day. And hidden behind those comforting words that our sins are forgiven is the invitation, “Come, you who are blessed by my father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world” (Matt. 25:34). When our Lord speaks those words to us at the Last Day, **Confession** and Absolution as we know it will cease, for we will then bask in the eternal absolution of the Lamb.”

## **3. Confession in The Small Catechism-** 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?

## **HYMNS for LIFE APPLICATION:**

My faith would lay its hand  
On that dear head of Thine,  
While as a penitent I stand,  
And there **confess** my sin.

Lord, I **confess** my sins  
And mourn their wretched bands;  
A contrite heart is sure to find  
Forgiveness at Your hands.