

Mid-Week Confession & Absolution—week of March 29th

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen

Reading - Psalm 31:9–16

⁹ Be gracious to me, O LORD, for I am in distress; my eye is wasted from grief; my soul and my body also.

¹⁰ For my life is spent with sorrow, and my years with sighing; my strength fails because of my iniquity, and my bones waste away.

¹¹ Because of all my adversaries I have become a reproach, especially to my neighbors, and an object of dread to my acquaintances; those who see me in the street flee from me.

¹² I have been forgotten like one who is dead; I have become like a broken vessel.

¹³ For I hear the whispering of many—terror on every side!—as they scheme together against me, as they plot to take my life.

¹⁴ But I trust in you, O LORD; I say, “You are my God.”

¹⁵ My times are in your hand; rescue me from the hand of my enemies and from my persecutors!

¹⁶ Make your face shine on your servant; save me in your steadfast love!

CONFESSION OF SINS

Pastor: Dearly beloved, I now ask you before God, who searches the heart: Do you sincerely confess that you have sinned against God and deserve His wrath and punishment?

People: I do confess.

Pastor: Truly, you should confess, for Holy Scripture declares: “If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.” Do you repent of all of your sins committed in thought, word and deed?

People: I do repent.

Pastor: Truly, you should repent as did the penitent sinners: King David, who prayed for a contrite heart; Peter, who wept bitterly; the sinful woman; the prodigal son; and others. Do you sincerely believe that God, by grace, for Jesus’ sake, will forgive you all your sins?

People: I do believe.

Pastor: Truly, you should so believe, for Holy Scripture declares: "God so loved the world that He gave His only-begotten son, that whoever believes in Him will not perish, but have everlasting life."

Do you promise that with the aid of the Holy Spirit you will amend your sinful life?

People: I do promise.

Pastor: Truly, you should so promise, for Christ the Lord says: "Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

Finally, do you believe that through me, a called and ordained servant of God, you will receive the forgiveness of all your sins?

People: I do believe.

Pastor: As you believe, so may it be done to you.

WORDS OF ABSOLUTION

Pastor: 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.

People: Amen.

The Benediction

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.