

Mid-Week Confession & Absolution—week of April 19th

INVOCATION

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

People: **Amen**

Reading - Psalm 116:1-14

¹ I love the Lord, for he heard my voice; he heard my cry for mercy.

² Because he turned his ear to me, I will call on him as long as I live.

³ The cords of death entangled me, the anguish of the grave came over me; I was overcome by distress and sorrow.

⁴ Then I called on the name of the Lord: "Lord, save me!"

⁵ The Lord is gracious and righteous; our God is full of compassion.

⁶ The Lord protects the unwary; when I was brought low, he saved me.

⁷ Return to your rest, my soul, for the Lord has been good to you.

⁸ For you, Lord, have delivered me from death, my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling, ⁹ that I may walk before the Lord in the land of the living.

¹⁰ I trusted in the Lord when I said, "I am greatly afflicted"; ¹¹ in my alarm I said, "Everyone is a liar."

¹² What shall I return to the Lord for all his goodness to me?

¹³ I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord.

¹⁴ I will fulfill my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people.

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.**