

Mid-Week Confession & Absolution—week of April 26th

INVOCATION

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

People: Amen

Reading - Psalm 23

¹The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

²He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters.

³He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

⁴Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

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.