

Mid-Week Confession & Absolution—week of May 10th

INVOCATION

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

People: **Amen**

Reading - Psalm 66:8-20

⁸ Bless our God, O peoples; let the sound of his praise be heard, ⁹ who has kept our soul among the living and has not let our feet slip.

¹⁰ For you, O God, have tested us; you have tried us as silver is tried.

¹¹ You brought us into the net; you laid a crushing burden on our backs; ¹² you let men ride over our heads; we went through fire and through water; yet you have brought us out to a place of abundance.

¹³ I will come into your house with burnt offerings; I will perform my vows to you, ¹⁴ that which my lips uttered and my mouth promised when I was in trouble.

¹⁵ I will offer to you burnt offerings of fattened animals, with the smoke of the sacrifice of rams; I will make an offering of bulls and goats.

¹⁶ Come and hear, all you who fear God, and I will tell what he has done for my soul.

¹⁷ I cried to him with my mouth, and high praise was on my tongue.

¹⁸ If I had cherished iniquity in my heart, the Lord would not have listened.

¹⁹ But truly God has listened; he has attended to the voice of my prayer.

²⁰ Blessed be God, because he has not rejected my prayer or removed his steadfast love from me!

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.**