



Confession



After the Invocation, we move to the confession of sins. When we approach the most holy Lord in worship, it is appropriate that we confess our sins to Him and seek His forgiveness in absolution. We are reminded that sinful people only stand before God through the merits of Christ Jesus; never by our own goodness. Indeed, the confession of sins puts the hard truth of our situation plainly, *“We are by nature sinful and unclean,”* or *“I, a poor, miserable sinner.”*

Note that confession isn’t a confession of the sin of the day as if our problem wasn’t so bad so that with the proper amount of effort we could improve ourselves. Confession speaks to the heart of our problem. We are totally corrupt before God without Christ Jesus. We have no power to correct our problem, since the heart of the human problem is the problem of the human heart! Christianity is not a self improvement program. It is about God, specifically, the Second Person of the Blessed Holy Trinity, doing for us what we cannot do for ourselves.

It is worth noting that when the Lutheran Confessions speak of Confession and Absolution they are primarily referring to private confession. Unfortunately, this is not practiced in Lutheran churches as it once was, yet it is still available today (see LSB, pg. 292).

I sincerely urge you; even exhort you, to contact me to set up a time for Individual Confession and Absolution. You must know that I am bound, by oath, not to reveal that which is spoken to him in the context of Individual Confession. This is a great gift given to you by your LORD, please consider accepting and utilizing His gift!

Peace be with you!

Pastor Jeff Patterson ✝