

Didache Divine Service

Session 23—Confession

6:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 26, 2023

1. Invocation and Prayer
2. Hymn: “Lord, Help Us Ever to Retain” LSB 865
3. **Review of the Catechism:** *Ten Commandments Preach Repentance; The Creed Preaches the Gospel/Faith that Saves us from our sin; the Lord’s Prayer is the voice of faith from a penitent sinner that cries out to God for help and salvation; the Sacraments create, nurture, comfort, strengthen, and sustain us in the Christian faith and life.*
4. **The Bible Reading: Nathan Calls David to Repentance—2 Samuel 11:1—12:23**
 - What is the story of David’s life and faith leading up to 2 Samuel 11 and the sins of adultery and murder?
 - Staying within one’s vocation or station in life is a deterrent to sin and foundational for the holy life.
 - Where did David’s sin begin?
 - How did he sin against the Fourth Commandment?
 - How did David transgress all Ten Commandments?
 - How might David have thought he was “justified” in trying to cover up his sin?
 - As a Christian, what was David’s greatest sin?
 - How is the Divine Call to Nathan to be David’s pastor expressed?
 - Why does Nathan confront David with a parable about a rich man and a poor man?
 - Why aroused David’s anger at the rich man?
 - As the Prodigal Son “came to himself,” what was Nathan calling David to return to?
 - Does the Law allow for ANY self-justification? How is this expressed in the text?
 - How does Nathan frame David’s sin?
 - What does Nathan’s ministry to David result in?
 - What does the absolution of Christ guarantee to the penitent?
 - What does the absolution of Christ NOT guarantee in this life?
 - What purpose would ongoing suffering in David’s life serve?

5. The Small Catechism: Confession—Lutheran Service Book p. 326

- **What is Confession?** p. 326

Confession of sin and confession of faith in Christ are the same:

- a. "I am a sinner"
- b. "Christ is my Savior"

All forms of confession express what we have come to know and believe is true according to God's Word.

- The purpose of confession is to receive Christ's absolution for the strengthening of our faith in Christ. Think of the absolution as the ongoing, "I love you" from the Lord Jesus. Faith lives from his love and forgiveness.

- **What sins should we confess?** p. 326

- a. "Before God" - Confession before God in prayer is a regular part of the Christian life (Lord's Prayer, Evening Prayer, Corporate Confession in the Divine Service, and at other times).
- b. "Before the pastor" – envisions private pastoral care and private confession and absolution.

- **Which are these?** p. 326

- a. Notice the "ordinary" nature of the sins.
- b. Private Confession and Absolution should not be thought of only for what even the world considers to be "big sins"

6. Hymn: "'Surely as I Live,' God Said" – LSB 614 (stanzas 5-8)

7. The Holy Communion Liturgy

8. Hymn: "Awake, My Heart, with Gladness" – LSB 467 (stanzas 5-7)