

Removing Our Guilt "The Lord is not slow to do what he promised.... Instead, he is patient for your sakes, not wanting anyone to perish, but all to come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9). Luther began his famous debate theses noting that Scripture's call to repentance is intended as a way of life. Using David's great penitential Psalm 51, penned following his affair with Bathsheba and the murder of Uriah, we explore the depths of our sinful depravity, the brokenness of our relationship with God, our dire need for rescue, and the good news of forgiveness, cleansing, and rejoicing in our restored relationship with God and the promise of eternal life through Jesus our Savior. Today's focus is on Psalm 51:8-9 and how God removes our guilt.

GATHERING RITE - CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Stand

M: Our help is in the name of the Lord.

C: Who made heaven and earth.

M: Brothers and sisters in Christ, during the days of Lent, we fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of God.

The time of Lent reminds us that to know Christ and the power of his resurrection, we must also know the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death.

As disciples of the Lord Jesus, we are called to struggle against everything that leads us away from love of God and neighbor. I invite you, therefore, to confess your sins, ask our Father for forgiveness, and commit yourselves to this struggle.

C: We confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and action, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbor as ourselves. We deserve you present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Jesus, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways to the glory of your holy name. Amen.



Our mission is to

Glorify God

as we

Gather

around the Gospel to help people

Grow

in the **Gospel** and

Go

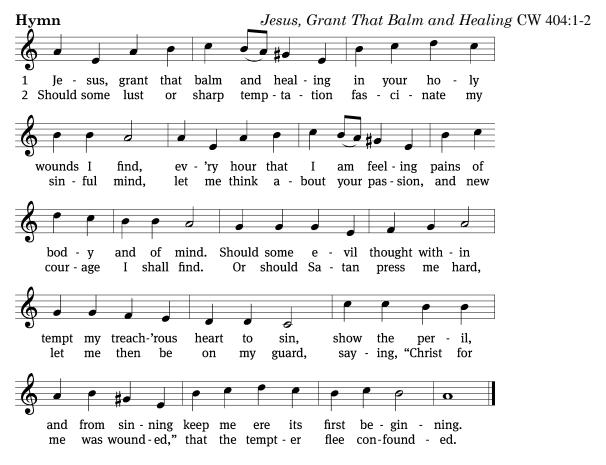
with the Gospel

Welcome! We thank God that you have joined us at worship today.

Restrooms are located in the basement. Hearing loop headphones and Large Print Hymnals are available from an usher.

If your children need to leave worship, please take them to the basement. A TV broadcasts the service in the basement.

Today we gather together in the presence of God. He is present among us in a special way through his Word and Sacrament. We acknowledge our sin and rejoice in the good news of forgiveness through the life and death of Christ. This is the focus of our worship.



M: Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, does not desire the death of sinners but rather that they turn from their wickedness and live. Therefore, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son U and of the Holy Spirit.

During these days of Lent, let us implore God to give us renewal and his Holy Spirit. May we continue to abide in the true faith and at the last be received by him through the merits of Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.



Tune: Johann B. König, 1691–1758 Text and tune: Public domain

Be seated

THE WORD

Passion History

Luke 22:39-54

Jesus prayed and then willingly submitted to arrest, knowing he would suffer and be killed. He did this so we might call upon his name and receive rest his Sabbath rest.

³⁹ Jesus went out as usual to the Mount of Olives, and his disciples followed him. ⁴⁰ On reaching the place, he said to them, "Pray that you will not fall into temptation." ⁴¹ He withdrew about a stone's throw beyond them, knelt down and prayed, ⁴² "Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done." ⁴³ An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him. ⁴⁴ And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground.

⁴⁵ When he rose from prayer and went back to the disciples, he found them asleep, exhausted from sorrow. ⁴⁶ "Why are you sleeping?" he asked them. "Get up and pray so that you will not fall into temptation."

C: ⁴⁷While he was still speaking a crowd came up, and the man who was called Judas, one of the Twelve, was leading them.

M: He approached Jesus to kiss him, ⁴⁸ but Jesus asked him, "Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?"

C: ⁴⁹When Jesus' followers saw what was going to happen, they said, "Lord, should we strike with our swords?"

M: ⁵⁰ And one of them struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his right ear.

 51 But Jesus answered, "No more of this!" And he touched the man's ear and healed him.

⁵² Then Jesus said to the chief priests, the officers of the temple guard, and the elders, who had come for him, "Am I leading a rebellion, that you have come with swords and clubs? ⁵³ Every day I was with you in the temple courts, and you did not lay a hand on me. But this is your hour—when darkness reigns."

⁵⁴ Then seizing him, they led him away and took him into the house of the high priest. Peter followed at a distance. (NIV)

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 51 (Red Hymnal)





Endow the King with your justice, O God,* the royal Son with your righteousness.

Have mercy on <u>me</u>, O God,* according to your unfailing love.

Wash away all my in<u>iq</u>uity,* and cleanse me from my sin.

For I know my transgressions,* and my sin is always before me.

Refrain

Against you, you only, <u>have</u> I sinned* and done what is evil in your sight.

Surely I was sin<u>ful</u> at birth,* sinful from the time my mother con<u>ceived</u> me.

Hide your face <u>from</u> my sins,* and blot out all my iniquity.

Restore to me the joy of your sal<u>va</u>tion,* and grant me a willing spirit, to sus<u>tain</u> me.

Glory be to the Father and <u>to</u> the Son* and to the Holy <u>Spir</u>it, as it was in the be<u>gin</u>ning,* is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Refrain

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Reading Isaiah 6:1-8

Isaiah admitted he was sinfully unclean, unqualified to stand in God's presence. The LORD not only takes Isaiah's sin away but also sends Isaiah out as a messenger of grace.

¹In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on a throne; and the train of his robe filled the temple. ²Above him were seraphim, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. ³And they were calling to one another:

"Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory."

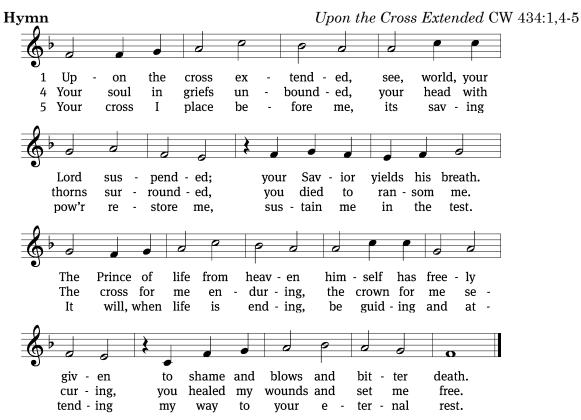
⁴At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke.

⁵"Woe to me!" I cried. "I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty."

⁶Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. ⁷With it he touched my mouth and said, "See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for."

⁸Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?"

And I said, "Here am I. Send me!" (NIV)



Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–1676, abr.; tr. John Kelly, 1833–1890, alt. Tune: Heinrich Isaac, c. 1450–1517

Text and tune: Public domain

Devotion Psalm 51:8-9

 $^8\,\mathrm{Let}$ me hear joy and gladness;

let the bones you have crushed rejoice.

⁹ Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity.

Please sign the friendship register located in your pew.

Offering

Stand

Guests please don't feel a necessity to give an offering today. "Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7).

Confession of Faith

from the Small Catechism

M: What is Confession?

C: Confession has two parts. First, that we confess our sins, and second, that we receive absolution, that is, forgiveness, from the pastor as from God Himself, not doubting, but firmly believing that by it our sins are forgiven before God in heaven.

Prayer

Benediction

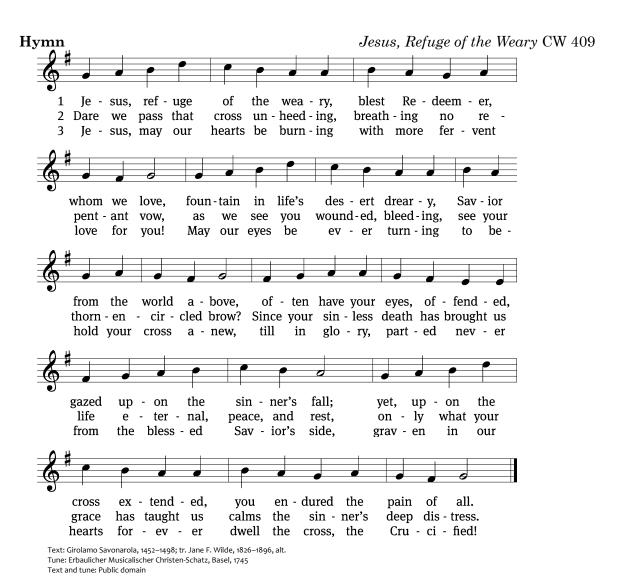
M: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen.

Be Seated



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