

Opening Sentences (2 Samuel 22:29)

2Sam. 22:29 For you are my lamp, O LORD,
and my God lightens my darkness.

2Sam. 22:33 This God is my strong refuge
and has made my way blameless.

Psalm to be read responsively. (Ps 71:1-12)

1 In you, O LORD, do I take refuge;

let me never be put to shame!

2 In your righteousness deliver me and rescue me;

incline your ear to me, and save me!

3 Be to me a rock of refuge, to which I may continually come;

you have given the command to save me, for you are my rock and my fortress.

4 Rescue me, O my God, from the hand of the wicked,

from the grasp of the unjust and cruel man.

5 For you, O Lord, are my hope,

my trust, O LORD, from my youth.

6 Upon you I have leaned from before my birth;

you are he who took me from my mother's womb. My praise is continually of you.

7 I have been as a portent to many,

but you are my strong refuge.

8 My mouth is filled with your praise,

and with your glory all the day.

9 Do not cast me off in the time of old age;

forsake me not when my strength is spent.

10 For my enemies speak concerning me;

those who watch for my life consult together

11 and say, "God has forsaken him;

pursue and seize him, for there is none to deliver him."

12 O God, be not far from me;

O my God, make haste to help me!

Call to Confession

Dearly beloved, we have come together in the presence of Almighty God our heavenly Father, to render thanks for the great benefits that we have received at His hands, to set forth His most worthy praise, to hear His holy word, and to ask, for ourselves and on behalf of others, those things that are necessary for our life and our salvation. And so that we may prepare ourselves in heart and mind to worship Him, let us pray in silence, and with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins, that we may obtain forgiveness by His infinite goodness and mercy.

Let us silently then publicly confess our sins unto Almighty God:

Public Prayer of Confession

Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God

Almighty and most merciful God: we acknowledge and confess that we have sinned against Thee in thought, word, and deed; that we have not loved Thee with all our heart and soul, with all our mind and strength; and that we have not loved our neighbor as ourselves. We beseech Thee, O God, to forgive what we have been, to help us to amend what we are, and of Thy merely to direct what we shall be; so that we may henceforth walk in the way of Thy commandments, and do those things which are pleasing in Thy sight, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray saying,

Our Father Which art in heaven, hallowed be Thy Name.

Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:

for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon (1 John 1:8-9)

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Scripture Readings

John 12:37 Though he had done so many signs before them, they still did not believe in him,

John 12:38 so that the word spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: “Lord, who has believed what he heard from us and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?”

John 12:42 Nevertheless, many even of the authorities believed in him, but for fear of the Pharisees they did not confess it, so that they would not be put out of the synagogue;

John 12:43 for they loved the glory that comes from man more than the glory that comes from God.

John 12:44 And Jesus cried out and said, “Whoever believes in me, believes not in me but in him who sent me.

John 12:45 And whoever sees me sees him who sent me.

John 12:46 I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness.

John 12:47 If anyone hears my words and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world.

John 12:48 The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day.

John 12:49 For I have not spoken on my own authority, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment—what to say and what to speak.

John 12:50 And I know that his commandment is eternal life. What I say, therefore, I say as the Father has told me.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Is. 49:1 Listen to me, O coastlands,
and give attention, you peoples from afar.
The LORD called me from the womb,
from the body of my mother he named my name.

Is. 49:2 He made my mouth like a sharp sword;
in the shadow of his hand he hid me;
he made me a polished arrow;
in his quiver he hid me away.

Is. 49:3 And he said to me, “You are my servant,
Israel, in whom I will be glorified.”

Is. 49:4 But I said, “I have labored in vain;
I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity;
yet surely my right is with the LORD,
and my recompense with my God.”

Is. 49:5 And now the LORD says,
he who formed me from the womb to be his servant,
to bring Jacob back to him;
and that Israel might be gathered to him—
for I am honored in the eyes of the LORD,
and my God has become my strength—

Is. 49:6 he says:
“It is too light a thing that you should be my servant
to raise up the tribes of Jacob
and to bring back the preserved of Israel;
I will make you as a light for the nations,
that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.”

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Hymn or Psalm to be Sung

Dismissal

Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you, until the day breaks and all these shadows flee away. 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24, 28