

Augustana Service Book and Hymnal

Invitatory

Pastor: Beloved in the Lord...

Versicles

P. Our Help... / R. Who made...

P. I said I will... / R. And Thou forgavest...

{from the Synodical Conference's English Translation of Church Liturgy for Evangelical Lutheran Congregations of the Unaltered Augsburg Confession, CPH 1881, p.45-46}

Confession

P. and C. O Almighty God, merciful Father, **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto Thee all my sins and iniquities with which I have offended Thee and justly deserved Thy temporal and eternal punishment.**

But I am heartily sorry for them and truly repent of them,

and I pray Thee of Thy boundless mercy, and for the sake of the holy innocent, bitter suffering and death of Thy beloved Son, Jesus Christ to be gracious to me, **a poor sinful being.**

Absolution (indicative operative, "I")

P. 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 **who heartily repent of your sins, believe on Jesus Christ, and sincerely and earnestly purpose by the assistance of God the Holy Ghost hence forth to amend your sinful lives, 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 Ghost.

C. Amen

*{The Lutheran Hymnal, p. 15-16, not the blue}
{Lutheran Worship, p. 136 left column, not the blue}*

From Saxon Church Order of 1581, and used in Kirchen Agende, 1856.

Common Service Book

Invitatory

Pastor: Beloved in the Lord...

Versicles

P. Our Help... / R. Who made...

P. I said I will... / R. And Thou forgavest...

Confession

P. Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, **we poor sinners** confess unto Thee, that **we are by nature sinful and unclean, and that we have sinned against Thee by thought, word, and deed.** Wherefore we flee for refuge to Thine infinity mercy, seeking and imploring Thy grace, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Prayer

P. and C. O Most Merciful God, who has given thine Only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us, and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Thy Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of Thee, and of Thy will, and true obedience to Thy Word, to the end that by Thy grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Declaration of Grace (optative, "We")

P. Almighty God, our heavenly Father, hath had mercy upon us, and hath given his only Son to die for us, and for his sake forgiveth us all our sins. **To them that believe on his Name,** he giveth power to become the sons of God, and hath promise them his Holy Spirit. He that believeth, and is baptized, shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

C. Amen

*{The Lutheran Hymnal, p. 5-6}
{Lutheran Worship, p. 136 right column}*

From Melancthon's church order for Mecklenburg 1545, Wittenberg 1559, and then in Evangelical Lutheran Hymn-Book, 1912.

Hebrews 10:22 let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

1 John 1:8-9 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Ps 124:8 Our help is in the name of the Lord, Who made heaven and earth.

Psalm 32:3, 5 When I kept silent, my bones grew old Through my groaning all the day long.... I acknowledged my sin to You, And my iniquity I have not hidden. **I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,” And You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

Psalm 51:1-4 Have mercy upon me, O God, According to Your lovingkindness; According to the multitude of Your tender mercies, Blot out my transgressions. **2** Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, And cleanse me from my sin. **3** For I acknowledge my transgressions, And my sin is always before me. **4** Against You, You only, have I sinned, And done this evil in Your sight— That You may be found just when You speak, And blameless when You judge.

Proverbs 28:13 He who covers his sins will not prosper, But whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy.

John 20:21-23 So Jesus said to them again, “Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.” ²²And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

AC II: Of Original Sin.

1] Also they teach that since the fall of Adam all men begotten in the natural way are born with sin, that is, without the fear of God, without trust in God, and with 2] concupiscence; and that this *disease*, or *vice of origin*, is truly sin, even now condemning and bringing eternal death upon those not born again through Baptism and the Holy Ghost....

AC, XXV: Of Confession.

1] Confession in the churches is not abolished among us; for it is not usual to give the body of the Lord, except to them that have been previously examined and absolved. And 2] the people are most carefully taught concerning faith in the absolution, about which formerly there 3] was profound silence. Our people are taught that they should highly prize the absolution, as being the voice of God, 4] and pronounced by God’s command. The power of the Keys is set forth in its beauty and they are reminded what great consolation it brings to anxious consciences, also, that God requires faith to believe such absolution as a voice sounding from heaven, and that such faith in Christ truly obtains and receives the forgiveness of sins....

Martin Chemnitz in his *Enchiridion* does mention both a private and general confession of sins (p.136-137). He also includes a corporate confession and absolution in his *Church Order for Braunschweig-Wolfenbüttel*, 1569, which is quite similar to the general absolution in ASBH. (*Church Order* by CPH 2015, p.84-85)

The Roman Catholic Priest's preparation

{See *The Liturgy of the Mass*, Pius Parsch,}

Invocation

Psalm 43 "Judge me, O God...

Antiphon: "I will go to the altar of God. /
Unto God who gives joy to my youth.

Ps. 43, and then Ant. repeated

Confessions of Sin (*Confiteor*) with enumeration
of many saints

A form of absolution

Versicles/Salutation

Collect for Purity

Collect forgiveness (& saintly relics)

The Prones

(a brief vernacular office from 8th century, which
followed the sermon. It could include:)

Biddings to prayer (*bidding of the bedes*)

A confession and absolution

The Creed

Lord's Prayer

Ten Commandments

Offene Schuld from the 12th Century

Creed

Confession

Absolution (*Misereatur* and *Indulgentiam*)

Lord's Prayer

Prayer of the Church

Following the Reformation...

What remained here was

The General Prayer (*Allegemeine Kirchengebet*)

The Lord Prayer

The Exhortation

Then at the beginning of the Service...

Invocation

Confession and Absolution

Psalm 124

A Song of Ascents. Of David.

1 “If it had not been the Lord who was on our side,” Let Israel now say—

2 “If it had not been the Lord who was on our side, When men rose up against us,

3 Then they would have swallowed us alive, When their wrath was kindled against us;

4 Then the waters would have overwhelmed us, The stream would have gone over our soul;

5 Then the swollen waters Would have gone over our soul.”

6 Blessed be the Lord, Who has not given us as prey to their teeth.

7 Our soul has escaped as a bird from the snare of the fowlers; The snare is broken, and we have escaped.

8 Our help is in the name of the Lord, Who made heaven and earth.

Psalm 32

A Psalm of David. A Contemplation.

1 Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, Whose sin is covered.

2 Blessed is the man to whom the Lord does not impute iniquity, And in whose spirit there is no deceit.

3 When I kept silent, my bones grew old Through my groaning all the day long.

4 For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; My vitality was turned into the drought of summer. *Selah*

5 I acknowledged my sin to You, And my iniquity I have not hidden. **I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,”**

And You forgave the iniquity of my sin. *Selah*

6 For this cause everyone who is godly shall pray to You In a time when You may be found; Surely in a flood of great waters They shall not come near him.

7 You are my hiding place; You shall preserve me from trouble; You shall surround me with songs of deliverance.

Selah

8 I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with My eye.

9 Do not be like the horse or like the mule, Which have no understanding, Which must be harnessed with bit and bridle, Else they will not come near you.

10 Many sorrows shall be to the wicked; But he who trusts in the Lord, mercy shall surround him.

11 Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, you righteous; And shout for joy, all you upright in heart!