



CONGREGATIONAL PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

Preamble

Corporate confession of sin is both necessary and fitting, not only following particular seasons of corporate backsliding and covenant breaking (Ezra 10:1-17; Neh. 9:1-38), but at the outset of each week when the Lord's people present themselves before God in public worship. Not only are we party to weekly breakages of God's law, we also offend God's holy character in innumerable ways.

Yet God, in his grace, has given us the gift of confession, the use of which resets our relationship with him, so that we worship him aright. The New Testament (Greek) verb "to confess" (*homologeō* meaning, literally, "same word") helps us to understand this, for in sincere confession we are in line with the verdict of God about our sins (e.g., 1 Jn. 1:9). While confession isn't the basis of our forgiveness—forgiveness rests solely on the work of Christ on our behalf—it is nevertheless true to say that none may expect forgiveness without confession. Thus, confession of sin helps us to start the worship of the Lord's day and the work of the week on a right note. The manner of corporate confession may differ, whether led by the pastor extemporaneously or via the corporate recitation of a prayer composed by the pastor (or member of the session of elders), but the corporate act of confessing sin is a fitting aspect of worship.

Following the Westminster Directory of Public Worship (1645), the confession comes before the ministry of the Word and encourages readiness to receive it.¹ In thorough Puritan fashion, the Directory begins its treatment of prayer as follows:

To acknowledge our great sinfulness, First, by reason of original sin, which (beside the guilt that makes us liable to everlasting damnation) is the seed of all other sins, hath depraved and poisoned all the faculties and powers of soul and body, doth defile our best actions, and (were it not restrained, or our hearts renewed by grace) would break forth into innumerable transgressions, and greatest rebellions against the Lord that ever were committed by the vilest of the sons of men; and next, by reason of actual sins, our own sins, the sins of magistrates, of ministers, and of the whole nation, unto which we are many ways accessory: which sins of ours receive many fearful aggravations, we having broken all the commandments of the holy, just, and good law of God, doing that which is forbidden, and leaving undone what is enjoined; and that not only out of ignorance and infirmity, but also more presumptuously, against the light of our minds, checks of our consciences, and motions of his own Holy Spirit to the contrary, so that we have no cloak for our sins; yea, not only despising the riches of God's goodness, forbearance, and long-suffering, but standing out against many invitations and offers of grace in the gospel; not endeavouring, as we ought, to receive Christ into our hearts by faith, or to walk worthy of him in our lives.

To bewail our blindness of mind, hardness of heart, unbelief, impenitency, security, lukewarmness, barrenness; or not endeavouring after mortification and newness of life, nor after the exercise of godliness in the power thereof; and that the best of us have not so stedfastly walked with God, kept our garments so unspotted, nor been so zealous of his glory, and the good of others, as we

¹ "AFTER reading of the word, (and singing of the psalm,) the minister who is to preach, is to endeavour to get his own and his hearers hearts to be rightly affected with their sins, that they, may all mourn in sense thereof before the Lord, and hunger and thirst after the grace of God in Jesus Christ, by proceeding to a more full confession" of sin, with shame and holy confusion of face, and to call upon the Lord to this effect".

ought: and to mourn over such other sins as the congregation is particularly guilty of, notwithstanding the manifold and great mercies of our God, the love of Christ, the light of the gospel, and reformation of religion, our own purposes, promises, vows, solemn covenant, and other special obligations, to the contrary.

To acknowledge and confess, that, as we are convinced of our guilt, so, out of a deep sense thereof, we judge ourselves unworthy of the smallest benefits, most worthy of God's fiercest wrath, and of all the curses of the law, and heaviest judgments inflicted upon the most rebellious sinners; and that he might most justly take his kingdom and gospel from us, plague us with all sorts of spiritual and temporal judgments in this life, and after cast us into utter darkness, in the lake that burneth with fire and brimstone, where is weeping and gnashing of teeth for evermore.

Notwithstanding all which, to draw near to the throne of grace, encouraging ourselves with hope of a gracious answer of our prayers, in the riches and all-sufficiency of that only one oblation, the satisfaction and intercession of the Lord Jesus Christ, at the right hand of his Father and our Father; and in confidence of the exceeding great and precious promises of mercy and grace in the new covenant, through the same Mediator thereof, to deprecate the heavy wrath and curse of God, which we are not able to avoid, or bear; and humbly and earnestly to supplicate for mercy, in the free and full remission of all our sins, and that only for the bitter sufferings and precious merits of that our only Saviour Jesus Christ.

That the Lord would vouchsafe to shed abroad his love in our hearts by the Holy Ghost; seal unto us, by the same Spirit of adoption, the full assurance of our pardon and reconciliation; comfort all that mourn in Zion, speak peace to the wounded and troubled spirit, and bind up the broken-hearted: and as for secure and presumptuous sinners, that he would open their eyes, convince their consciences, and turn them from darkness unto light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they also may receive forgiveness of sin, and an inheritance among them that are sanctified by faith in Christ Jesus.

With remission of sins through the blood of Christ, to pray for sanctification by his Spirit; the mortification of sin dwelling in and many times tyrannizing over us; the quickening of our dead spirits with the life of God in Christ; grace to fit and enable us for all duties of conversation and callings towards God and men; strength against temptations; the sanctified use of blessings and crosses; and perseverance in faith and obedience unto the end.

To encourage the practice of public confession, we upload here an accumulation of brief prayers of confession. They were requested by the Session and Worship Committee of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Malaysia, for use in the weekly liturgies. This collection dates back to the interim moderatorship in 2021 which preceded commencement of my tenure as minister of the congregation (June 2022). They are included according to their themes which are listed alphabetically. We shall continue to add to them. The prayers may be used as is, or adapted to address local needs. They do not pretend to compete with the length and breadth of the confessions advocated in the Directory of Public Worship, and certainly are not intended to limit greater corporate expressions of sin and of divine grace, but, in an age in which sin is treated lightly, they aim to encourage churches without much confession of sin to include it in their worship services.

May God be glorified by these modest compositions.

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Access to God

April 16, 2023

Our LORD and our God, your name is to be praised! Although you are high above all nations you have looked far down on the heavens and the earth.

Small and sinful though we be, you have given us the LORD Jesus, our great High Priest, to mediate between us. We rejoice in the access we have to you through him.

We confess we do not value this access as we could and should. We are slow to seek the fellowship you offer and to confess our many grievances against your Spirit. We often leave our earnest praying until we are in difficulty, then expect immediate answers.

Continue sanctifying and maturing us we pray, that the display of your glory and the fellowship of your presence may be our highest and purest desires. Through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

June 26, 2022

Our God and our Father, we heed your call to draw near to you. We are thankful that we have access to you through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Redeemer. We praise you that we are made able and willing to come to you by the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

We confess our personal sins of the past week, the ones we know of and the ones of which we are yet to become conscious. Your Word defines them, your Spirit makes us aware of them, and the dryness we sense can attest to them. Raise our sights to you once more we pray, that we may be refreshed for worship, service, and the week ahead. Remind us once more of how lavish is your grace toward us. Help us in our gratitude to put to death our sins, to seek you first in life, and to live as unto the day when we shall worship in your nearer presence. All this we humbly ask to glorify your name. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

June 19, 2022

Our great God, you are from everlasting to everlasting!

We come to you bound by time, busy and rushing, yet thankful for this day of rest. You have given it to us for worshiping you, for restoration, for renewal, and for service.

We confess, as we enter your presence, that our thoughts, seen by you, have not been all they should have been. We contradict your grace and truth more than we know. Likewise, our words have not always been holy, bespeaking life and hope, and encouraging strength.

Forgive us, we humbly pray, for falling short of your glory, for failing to resound your heart, and for marring our witness to Christ. May we know your transforming grace, opening our hearts to be taught from your Word, reproved, corrected, and trained in righteousness.

In Jesus Christ, our Mediator, we seek your cleansing and help. Amen

October 2, 2022

As mighty as you are, O God, your arms are open to receive us, small though we be.

Thank you for bringing us to yourself. We confess that, left to ourselves, we have no desire to draw near. We are made to worship you, but prefer to worship ourselves, our people, and our plans. Forgive us for our idols. Help us to love short of idolatry, clinging in adoration alone to you.

Thank you, Father, for Christ our Saviour, crushed for our iniquities yet praying to you for us. Thank you also for the Spirit. He has made us alive, drawn us to you, convicted us of our sins, granted us repentance and faith, and matures us in Christ.

Bless today's means of grace that we might be the people you have called us to be. Through your wonderful love in Christ we pray. Amen.

Advent and Christmas

December 11, 2022

Our heavenly Father, you kept your promise to send Messiah, even your Son Jesus, the Saviour and Lord of all who call on you.

We profess the Lord Jesus to be our Redeemer and our consolation. He has indeed set us free, reigning over us to subdue remaining sin, and to protect us from our flesh, the world, and the devil.

Forgive us that we still select the sins we want mortified, preferring earthly fears to the reverence and full renewal to which you have called us.

With the hymnist, we pray that you would, by your eternal Spirit, rule in all our hearts, raising us by Christ's all-sufficient merit to your glorious throne, both now and in the hour of our deaths.

May this be the joy of every longing heart, for your glory and our consolation we humbly pray. Amen.

December 4, 2022

Our God, we rejoice that Emmanuel has come! He has broken Satan's tyranny, paid the ransom for our redemption, driven away shades of night, and opened to us heaven's door.

Forgive us, we humbly pray, for remaining sin within us. Increase our desire to be free of Satan's influence, of sin's appeal and the damage it inflicts, and of the shadows it casts.

Restore us again, we plead. Renew our sense of your presence, of the joy of being reconciled to you, and of the peace of God that affords. Glorify your name in our hearts and homes, in our church and in our community. Through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Saviour, we pray. Amen.

December 26, 2021

Our great God and Father, we have delighted to celebrate once more this Advent and Christmas the gift of your Son for our salvation. No one has ever seen you, yet your Son, clothed in our flesh, has made you known. We testify that all receiving him, receive from his fullness grace upon grace.

We confess that this year again we have not always drawn from the fullness of Christ. Our study of your Word has fluctuated, as does our dependence on your Spirit for our enlightening. We have not always submitted to Christ's Lordship over his day, nor committed faithfully to the means of grace. We have, too often then, allowed fear to overshadow faith, and the attitudes of the world to obscure our fruit of the Spirit. Rather than glorying in Christ, we have fixated too often on ourselves: our wills, our ambitions, our prestige, our safety, our trials.

Cleanse us, we pray, through your Son. By your grace he not only dwelt among us, but died among us, bearing our shame. Yet you raised him to life, assuring us that there remains to us, grace upon grace. Help us to draw better from Christ's fullness in 2022, in his exalted name we pray. Amen.

Covenant-breaking

August 15, 2021

Our great God and Father, we confess that we are capable of treating your truth as but another ideology. We have not always used it to draw near to you through the shed blood of your Son, and when we have drawn near, we have not always done so with a true heart and full assurance of faith. Moreover, we have not always held fast our confession, choosing instead to doubt what you have made clear and to make demands where you have granted liberty of conscience. Furthermore, we have we not always been faithful to assemble together on the Lord's Day, to stir up each other to love and good works. Forgive us we pray, and grant us your grace to hold onto our confidence in Christ, to commit afresh to the pursuit of your will, and to resist shrinking back from the love and commitment, the worship and service, that is to distinguish our lives. Thus, we seek your face for the strength to endure, that your glory and greatness may be displayed before a watching world. In the precious name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

August 8, 2021

Our eternal God, we praise you for entering into a covenant with us, promising to be our God and making us, through the blood of your Son, to be your people. We confess that while you have always been faithful to us, we have broken your covenant so frequently, in thought, word, and deed, by sins of commission and by sins of omission. At the outset of this new week, we pray for fresh restoration, purity for our minds, softening for our hearts, and redirection of our wills according to yours. All this we pray through Jesus, the one who said, "I always do those things that please my Father." Amen.

Day Drawing Near

January 15, 2023

Our Father in heaven, we praise you for ordaining a way whereby we, though so sinful, can come to you.

Our Brother in heaven, we praise you that, in our flesh, you spilled your life's blood, to pay our penalty and to cover our sins from view.

Our Comforter in heaven, we praise you for filling our hearts with assurance that we are forgiven, accepted, and loved in heaven.

As the Day draws near when we shall meet you face to face, we confess our remaining sins of thought, word, and deed, seeking your help to see them, your grace to kill them, your wisdom to replace them with the fruit of your Spirit, and your love to pray the same for our brothers and sisters.

In the name of Jesus, the one who opened for us this way into your presence, we ask all this. Amen.

Doubt

October 10, 2021

Our Lord and our God, we come to you amid our days, privileged to begin each week worshipping you, but conscious of our sins since last we gathered.

Please forgive us where we are hesitant and doubting rather than confident and convicted. Help us daily to remember your character, your covenant, and the many promises you have given us. Forgive us, conversely, where we have rushed ahead of you, confident, but in ourselves. We come humbly before you, reminded that only in you can we so live, worship, and serve, as to glorify your name.

Please cleanse us from sins which defeat us, which blur our sight of your standards, and which revive the insecurities of our flesh. Please mature us so that in seeking to be faithful we do not doubt your ability to hold us tight, should we be terrorized, penalized, or marginalized on account of your gospel.

Grant us in this new week to overcome the world, the flesh, and the devil. Solely through the merit and power of Jesus, your Son and our Savior, we ask. Amen.

September 26, 2021

Our covenant-making and covenant-keeping God, we praise you for the many precious promises in your Word. We are unworthy of them, but gladly receive them to fill our minds, to touch our hearts, and to direct our lives.

Forgive us when we doubt your ability to keep your promises. You truly can find a way where there is no way. Forgive us also when we question your willingness to bless us. Your Word and experience teach us that you delight to bless us and our children. Forgive us, moreover, when we question the truthfulness of your promises. We have no excuses. It is by your power, love, and faithfulness that we have come to this

moment in our lives.

Give us, we pray, minds, hearts, and wills to study your names, your character, your covenant, and your promises. We look to you, since you are faithful and just to forgive us our sins. For this, we humbly ask, through Christ, your Son and our Mediator. Amen.

Easter

April 9, 2023

Our God and Father, we praise you for your gifts of Christ our Saviour and of the Holy Spirit our Comforter. We rejoice that the Spirit has united us to Christ in his death and resurrection.

Forgive us, we pray, that we do not always die to self or seek the things that are above. We are too easily preoccupied, like the world, with the things that offer no ultimate meaning and which shall quickly pass away.

Help us this Easter to commit afresh to living in the power of Christ's resurrection, so that although sharing his sufferings, we may be confident in attaining the resurrection from the dead.

We pray all this thankful for the victory and hope we have through Christ Jesus our Lord, seeking your fresh filling with the Spirit. Amen.

Embarrassment of Christ/Cropping of the gospel

October 9, 2022

Our God and our Father, we confess you to be our Almighty Creator. Lord Jesus, we confess you to be our only Saviour. Holy Spirit, we confess you to be our spiritual energy, comforter, and guide.

Forgive us for not always reflecting your heart for all peoples, neither boldly proclaiming your truth, nor lifting high Christ's cross as man's only saving hope. We mourn our memories of being embarrassed by Christ, of cropping his teaching, and of limiting the flow of your grace to those we like.

Cleanse us from such heartlessness, we humbly pray. Cause us to remember that we, too, were outside of Christ. So melt us that those we encounter may feel your heart through ours. This we plead, for the fulfillment of your plan, our Father; for your satisfaction, Lord Jesus; and for your joy, Holy Spirit. Amen.

Families/parenthood

August 21, 2022

Our Lord and our God, we thank you for setting us in families. Yet, against your goodness, we have sinned.

We are not always grateful for one another, nor does the grace of Christ always govern how we relate within our homes. Forgive us as parents when we fall short in teaching and in modeling Christ to our children. Forgive us as children when we disobey our parents, dishonouring them and ignoring their call to seek you for forgiveness of our sins.

Renew a right spirit in each of us, we humbly pray. Our hearts yearn for your cleansing, for the uniting of our families in Christ, and for your blessing of our witness to a watching world. For all this we plead through Jesus Christ, the Saviour of all who call on your name. Amen.

November 6, 2021

Our God and our Father, thank you for giving us life. You have indeed blessed us from our mothers' arms. Our blessings we have not deserved. Yet, by them we present ourselves before you today. Help us to worship you aright! We adore you for what you are and are grateful for all you do for us.

Let not our sins mar the worship we bring, for we confess times of ingratitude and dissatisfaction. Specifically, we lament, as parents, our sins against our children, and, as children, the grief we have given our parents. Direct us afresh to the forgiveness found only through the reconciling work of your beloved Son. May peace abound in the family of God and the earthly families we represent. All this we ask for the display of your glory, the health of your people, and the attraction of the lost. We do so in Christ, by whose perfect obedience we can alone draw near to you. Amen.

Fellowship with God

April 30, 2023

Our Lord and our God, it is our joy to begin this new week worshipping you, for you are our best thought by day and by night. Raise us heavenward once more, granting us fresh delight in you.

Clear from our minds the counsel of the wicked, from our hearts the way of sinners, and from our wills the rebellion of scoffers. Cleanse us of their influence and forgive us that we open ourselves up to it. Be ever our vision and Lord of our lives.

We yearn that we would know this day more of heaven's joys, and the assurance in this new week that you are our shield and sword for the fight. And when victory is won, still be our vision, O Ruler of all.

Our great Father, we humbly pray all this through Christ, the one who is your true Son and our righteousness and wisdom. Amen.

Freedom from sin

November 27, 2022

Our God and Father, we praise you for the great gift of your Son. Bound by nature in our sins and fearful in their darkness, he was given us to set us free.

Lord Jesus, we praise you for destroying by your death Satan's stranglehold over us. Now exalted high, how glad we are that your reign is spreading over our hearts and over the earth.

Holy Spirit, we praise you for bringing us to life, for enabling our faith and repentance, and for guiding us in the holy use of our freedom.

We confess, though, that we have not lived as freely from sin as we could have and should have. There are sins we still cherish, folly we engage, darkness we experience, and fears we treat as virtues.

Come to us this advent, we plead. Release us from remaining sin and fear. So brighten our lives that the world may see confirmed in them the liberating power of Christ. In his name and for your triune glory we pray. Amen.

Joy in God

June 5, 2022

Our Lord and our God, singing your praise comes to us so easily, yet, we confess, we do not always rejoice. There are times we come to worship preoccupied with the affairs of this world and without preparing to meet with you. We forget or take for granted the great things you have done. We lose sight of our 'perfect redemption' in Christ and of the wonder of pardon the moment we believed. Forgive us, we pray, and restore to us a vision of your glory and grace. Grant us once more a 'great rejoicing thru Jesus the Son.' In his name and for his glory's sake we pray. Amen.

Making this World Our Heaven

February 26, 2023

LORD our God, we have come to your house to praise you. It is pleasant to do so! You have chosen us for yourself that we may know you, worship you, serve you, and be with you forever!

We confess that even our best endeavours to honour you need your forgiveness and cleansing. We praise you for Christ our High Priest. His shed blood covers all trace of our sin; his intercession sustains us to do your will, until you call us home or set up your eternal home here.

Forgive us that we too often treat this present life as all there is; or, remembering heaven, we seek to make this life our heaven. We do not always prepare for Christ's return, tolerating unholiness and disobedience in ourselves, forgetting that we have been ransomed from sin by the precious blood of Christ. Grant us afresh

this day a sincere love for you, for our brothers and sisters in Christ, for the lost, but also for ourselves for we bear your image.

In Christ, we pray. He is the lamb without spot or blemish foreknown before the foundation of the world but now revealed for our sakes. Amen.

New Year

January 1, 2023

God, you are Most High, the Almighty Creator Heaven and Earth!

It is our privilege and joy to hold fast to you in love as we enter a new year, thankful that by your grace we know your name. You are our Father, the Lord Jesus is our Brother, the Holy Spirit is our Comforter.

Please forgive us for the sins of 2022; the thoughts that have grieved your Spirit, the words and actions that have also grieved our peers. Often, we have been too slow to confess, too proud to apologize, and too hardened to recall how our sin crucified the Lord Jesus. We admit that it can take trouble to bring us back to you.

Yet, because of your great salvation, you rescue us when we call on you, you transform us when we submit to you, and you honor us that we may in turn honor You. Grant us, then, in 2023 great victories over the world, the flesh, and the Devil. In Jesus' name we humbly pray. Amen.

Pride

July 31, 2022

Our God, you are mighty, but we, of ourselves, are weak.

Forgive us, then, when we get above ourselves. Trusting that we can live without you, we assume we can withstand sin and Satan. Yet we find, to our shame, that we are ignorant of Satan's devices and fall into sin.

Forgive us, conversely, when, having fallen, we live in defeat. Looking downward instead of upward, and inward rather than outward to you and to your grace in Christ, we deny the gospel. Help us, then, to embrace your mercies, your will to restore our lives, and your ability to use our failings for your glory.

All this we ask, through Jesus Christ our Saviour, for you are a Mighty God and yet are full of tender mercies. Amen.

Propitiation

January 29, 2023

Heavenly Father, we are called and drawn by your love to worship you this day!

Our hearts are full of gratitude for the gift of your Son, Jesus Christ. By your ordaining, he has turned away your wrath against us, transforming your throne of judgment into a throne we may approach with holy boldness.

Thank you Holy Spirit for convicting us of our sins and for granting hope through the propitiation your people have in Christ.

Forgive us, in the light of Christ's great sufferings, for treating lightly our remaining sin within. Convict us of the thoughts which grieve you; of the words said and unsaid which fall short of Christ's grace and truth; and of the actions, reactive and proactive, which are contrary to your will. Take hold of our minds, our hearts, and our wills this day, for the sake of your glory, the peace of your church, the attraction of the lost, and for the joy of our salvation. In his exalted name, we pray. Amen.

Purification

February 19, 2023

Our great God, we confess that by nature we are ungodly, full of worldly passions, dishonouring you by enthroning self. Yet, you have given yourself to us in Christ, to purify us. We praise and thank you for our precious atoning lamb, rejoicing that his shed blood never loses its power.

Forgive us, we lament, for the worldly passions we still embrace, and the impurities we still tolerate. Wash us thoroughly from our iniquity, and cleanse us from our sin. May the cost of our cleansing and the realization that we are now yours inspire us to renounce all ungodliness. Help us to live for your glory "self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age." Through Christ Jesus we pray. Amen.

Reconciliation

February 5, 2023

Our Father, you amaze us! Our sins have broken your law, offended your holiness, grieved your Spirit, occasioned your anger, and separated us from you. Yet, you have not abandoned us! In your love, you have granted us your Son as our propitiation, and by his shed blood have reconciled us to you and to each other.

Forgive us, that we do not apply your reconciling gospel to our conduct as fully as we should. We confess our broken relationships, our bitter spirits, our withholding of forgiveness, our clinging on to history, our aggressive behaviours, our party spirits, and, in every instance, our failure to display your love.

Move by your Word and Spirit among us to live out the gospel, to manifest your love, to build up your church, to attract our enemies, and, in all these ways, to glorify your name. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, we pray. Amen.

Salvation

June 25, 2023

LORD God, we rejoice not only that salvation is available to us, but that through faith in your Son you are our salvation.

When we consider your justice and how we have broken your law, your holiness and how we have offended your character, how gracious you are to save us!

Despite weighing our actions, you have loved us and love us still. Help us, then, to put away our pride. We bow before you, proclaiming that there is no god like you, for there is none besides you.

Consecrate our minds, our hearts, and our wills that we may worship you aright this day, and serve you fully this week. Through your Son Jesus and for your pleasure, we bring our confession. Amen.

April 2, 2023

Our Lord and our God, we rejoice that you have become our salvation! We praise you that in Jesus our Saviour and our King, your goodness and steadfast love are known and felt. He has purged our stains and opened up his kingdom to us.

Please forgive us for wanting on occasion Jesus' cleansing but not his reign over our lives; his protection from the world and the devil but not his subduing of our remaining sin or his direction of our lives.

Yet, we love you Lord, rejoicing in glorious hope of our eternal home. We lift up our hearts and to rejoice that the Lord Jesus is our King! In his mighty name we pray. Amen.

Seeking God

May 21, 2023

Our Lord and our God, we confess that only by your grace and favour can we present ourselves before you. Through your Son Jesus you have ransomed, restored, forgiven, and healed us, that we may worship and serve you all our days.

We seek you then, that we may walk blamelessly before you. Forgive us for allowing the world to shape our thinking and to determine our actions. Reveal our blind spots that we may see what you see, and grant us the humility to seek more of your transforming grace.

We yearn to glorify your name, and to know and to display more of your blessedness. Through your Son and our Saviour we pray. Amen.

March 26, 2023

Our great God and Father, we are so heartened by your invitation to seek you. We confess that you are not lost nor hiding from us. We are the ones who, in ourselves, have been lost, wandering far from you, hiding from you when you come calling for us.

Forgive us that we seek our satisfaction and purpose in the gifts you give us rather than in you, the Giver. Have compassion on us, we pray, cleansing us from the sins in our pleasure-seeking which grieve you and break your law.

Help us to see and to find in you our greatest pleasure, delighting in your Word and meditating on it day and night. May it accomplish in our lives what you purpose for us, so that we succeed in the things that display your glory in this world and the next.

In Jesus Christ we pray ~ the One you sent to seek and to save us. Amen.

September 5, 2021

Our blessed God and Saviour, thank you for Christ Jesus, your Son. We sense your yearning for us through his life, death, resurrection, and intercession. He has opened the way for us to come to you. We do so now with our confession.

Forgive how faintly we yearn for you. Even when we pray, we do not always seek your face. Nor do we always walk with you. When we drift far off, we abandon your Word. Grieving your Spirit, we miss your illumination of its truth. Losing our reverent fear, we opt for rebellion over obedience. Our witness dims, and the world dismisses your truth.

Forgive, cleanse, restore, and mature us, we pray. Make us the people you have called us to be. We long to see more of your glory displayed in and through us. All this, we humbly ask, through *your* Son and *our* Mediator, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

August 29, 2021

Our great God and Father, we thank you for revealing yourself through your written and living Word.

We confess, though, that we have not always sought your face as directed by your Word. Left to ourselves, we, like Cain, feign to worship you while rejecting your rule over our lives. We do not always see, as did Abel, our privilege in drawing near to you through an atoning sacrifice, even of your only Son, Jesus Christ. By your ordaining he shed his blood unto death, turning away your anger against us and covering all our sins.

And yet, for all this grace, we don't always walked closely with you, as did Enoch. Nor do we freely commend your grace to others. Forgive us when we live for ourselves instead of for you. In Christ our Savior and Lord, we humbly bring these confessions. Amen.

Self-satisfaction

August 22, 2021

Lord God, we thank you for the dawning of this new week. As we heed your call to gather for worship, we humble ourselves before you, confessing our sins of the last week, and yearning for fresh grace for the week to come.

We confess that we have sometimes evaded conviction of our sins and your call to rest in Christ for our salvation. Too often, we have satisfied ourselves with a mere intellectual assent to your revealed truth. And when we have rested in Christ, our conduct has been known to undermine its assurance and conviction, and our resultant doubts the power of your transforming grace. Forgive us, we pray, and so work in us by your Spirit, that we, too, like your people of old, may be commended for glorifying your holy name before a watching world. All this grace we seek through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. Amen.

The grace of God

September 25, 2022

Our great God, how gracious you are!

Despite all we thought, spoke, and did last week, and didn't think, speak, or do, you bid us come near to you. Thank you for the blood of Jesus by which alone we can gather before you. We praise you that Christ's blood covers all the sins of all your people, and that it has, by your plan, turned away your wrath against us.

Please forgive us that we forget what our sins cost Christ. We yearn that our thoughts, words, and actions would be shaped more and more by the good news of your grace; that we would extend to others the grace we need for ourselves.

May, then, the beauty of Christ rest upon us. In his name and for the display of your glory we seek grace-shaped lives. Amen.

September 11, 2022

Our God, we rejoice that your grace has reached for us! We are yours. You are indeed the Lord and salvation of all calling on your name.

Forgive, we confess, our proneness to forget the cost of our salvation. We flirt with sins for which Christ died, but also, seeking holiness, we mistake our worship and service as our salvation.

Set our eyes on Christ afresh, we pray. We need him and his atonement every hour. How thankful we are that he died for every last sin of all your people. Remind us that we need not, cannot, and must not try to top up his work. "It is finished!" Christ declared from the cross.

In this we rest, asking that you would keep Christ before our eyes this week. May we live in and by his resurrection power, receiving grace upon grace to glorify your name. In the precious name of Christ we plead. Amen.

June 12, 2022

Our Father, we bring to you our praise for your rich grace in Christ. How we need it!

Lord Jesus, we too often treat lightly your shed blood, sometimes blind to our remaining sin, sometimes clinging to it even though it cost you your life.

Holy Spirit, we confess we have not always heeded your promptings to turn to Christ for fresh power over sin. We grieve you and quench your power in our lives. Then we wonder why we do not seem so free in Christ.

O Triune God, cleanse us anew we pray. Grant us a greater hatred of sin, cherishing your grace increasingly, and longing for that day when we shall, says the Psalmist, awake with your likeness. Grant us, unto that day, grace upon grace. This we humbly ask, dear Father, through the merits of your beloved Son, our dear Saviour, and by the leading of your Spirit. Amen.

The greatness of God

March 19, 2023

Our Mighty God, we praise you for choosing us, calling us, and saving us. Yet you are also our fortress and strong deliverer. Through Christ you have defeated your ancient foe, and have preserved your people amid his dying rage.

Forgive us, when our faith has been weak in the victory Christ has gained for us at the cross; when we are ignorant of Satan's devices and serve his purposes rather than your own; when we have been filled with fear rather than your Spirit.

Renew our thinking, our feelings, and our decision-making according to your Word. Cause your truth to triumph through us and your Son to win our last remaining battles. In his mighty name we pray. Amen.

July 17, 2022

Our LORD and our God, we pause this day to meditate afresh on your greatness. While you are beyond all praising, you fill our days with your praise from the rising to the setting of the sun.

We confess, though, how often we quench the spirit of praise, quickly buried by material and temporal concerns. Forgive us when praise gives way to anxiety, when busyness squeezes out meditation, and when victories are processed without gratitude. We take our eyes off you, we stop trusting you, we imply your promises are not sure, and we become cynical about your ruling and overruling in holiness and in love.

Father, cleanse us through Jesus' blood, we pray! May your Spirit conform our thinking, our feeling, and our wills to your revealed Word. For the display of your grace and glory, we beseech you. Amen.

The love of God

May 7, 2023

Our Lord and our God, we praise you that you are love, and thank you heartily that you have graciously shown us your steadfast love small and unworthy though we be!

We confess our thoughts need your cleansing and softening, our words the shaping of your Word and the restraint of your Spirit, and our actions the readiness of our Saviour to wash the feet of one another.

We humbly request not only your forgiveness but your transforming grace, that we may display your glory more and more, remembering our Lord Jesus who did so perfectly in grace and truth. In his precious name we pray. Amen.

September 18, 2022

Our Father, we praise you for your great love in choosing us and in sending us your Son to save us.

Lord Jesus, we praise you for loving us even unto your death on the cross.

Holy Spirit, we praise you for bringing us to life, and for assuring us of God's everlasting love for us.

We confess how often we deny your great love, by lovelessness remaining in our hearts, on our lips, and in our actions. Forgive us, and transform us, we pray.

Melt us by your love, we beseech you, humbling us by how you have stooped to raise us up. Revive love within us, that we may worship you aright, may care for each other tenderly, and may weep for the lost.

This we ask, through Christ Jesus, our Saviour and Lord. Amen.

The majesty of God

October 23, 2022

Almighty God, you are LORD over all creation, and LORD over our individual hearts. We bow before you, declaring that your majesty, seen in creation, is displayed supremely in and through Christ Jesus.

Please forgive us that our lives do not always match these words. Our poor attitudes cloud the brightness of your glory; things we say conflict with your love and grace received in Christ; actions we take confuse those seeking evidence of your glory and greatness.

Cleanse us afresh and transform us by your Spirit, we plead. We long for a greater sense of your majesty, showing more of it to those around us. This we ask for the glory of your name and through our meek and majestic Saviour. Amen.

The will of God

September 4, 2022

Dear God, you are indeed Lord of heaven and earth! You are greater than we can ever imagine or declare. You rule supreme in majesty and holiness!

Forgive us for all the times we have rebelled against your revealed will—
when we have known what your Word teaches but gone our own way;
and when we think or act like we are Lord, in our lives or in your church.

Help us to bow before you, for you “oppose the proud, but give grace to the humble.” We submit to you, praying in the name of the Lord Jesus, that we would remember that, for our sakes, you made yourself of no reputation, and took the form of a servant. Amen.

July 10, 2022

Our great God and King, we bow before you, conscious that all authority is yours in heaven and on earth, because you fill heaven and earth.

We confess that we do not always acknowledge you and your presence throughout our lives. Nor do we consistently submit our wills to yours. We do not consistently run to worship you in private nor always embrace fully that the LORD’s Day is for you, LORD. Sometimes we draw near to you with our lips, but our hearts are far from you. Yet, you have put eternity in them, which is why we find ultimate satisfaction in you alone.

Forgive us, we pray, for seeking satisfaction in lesser things. So work in us by your Spirit that we treasure as never before the access we have to you through the shed blood of Christ. In his name, we pray. Amen.

July 3, 2022

Our God and Father, we rejoice that you have included us among your people. We praise you, our Saviour and Lord, for cleansing us by your shed blood. Thank you, Holy Spirit, for opening our eyes to ourselves, showing us Christ, and revealing through him the access we have into your thrice-holy presence.

We confess as we come to you, we do not always seek first your kingdom. Sometimes we marginalize the gospel in our lives. Our thinking, feeling, and our willing become less than grace-filled. We resist your Word, falling back into the self-centredness of our old natures. We become hardened once more, shunning the generosity that ought to mark out those whose lives have received so much grace.

Forgive and restore us this day, we humbly pray. Renew our first love for you, that we may once more press hard after you, and as one body of Christ ~ diverse but united in him ~ placard in gratitude your grace for all to see. In the name that is above every other name on earth, the name of Jesus, we ask all this. Amen.

Unity

June 18, 2023

We are here, dear LORD, to glorify your name. What a miracle of your grace and power this is! You have made us one in Christ Jesus, whether we be male or female, rich or poor, Malaysian or international.

Yet we confess how much we need your Spirit to work within us. Our personal sins grieve you, they disrupt Christian fellowship, and mar our witness.

May we know not only your forgiveness but your transforming grace. Humble our hearts, heal our relationships, purify your church, and brighten our witness, we pray.

We seek all this for your glory and our joy, and through Christ Jesus our Saviour. Amen.

Worldliness

October 3, 2021

Our Lord and our God, we humble ourselves before you. You know our downsitting and our uprising; our actions, our speech, and even our thoughts.

We confess, we do not always entrust our lives to you, nor those of our children. We have not modeled as we ought to have, faith in your Son and our Savior, nor communicated the gospel to our loved ones either sufficiently nor consistently. We lament the times we have chosen the fleeting pleasures of sin over the cost of discipleship. We are prone to obscure your glory, to think lightly of the reward for endurance, and to lose our courage before the world.

Forgive us, we beseech you, that we become desensitized to the riches of your grace toward us, becoming hardened toward those seeking healing in Christ amid the community of the forgiven. Open our hearts to the lost once more, for our Savior taught us that those forgiven much, love much. All this we ask through his merit alone. Amen.

September 19, 2021

Our eternal and immortal God, we bow before you, a week closer to meeting you. We praise you that, although conceived in sin and born without faith, we shall, by your grace, die in faith. Thank you for this privilege; above all, for Christ, through whom alone we shall enter your nearer presence.

Forgive us, we humbly pray, for becoming so at home in this world, forgetting that we are strangers and exiles here. Cleanse us from worldly attitudes and priorities which dim our sight of the coming Savior and disable our hearts from greeting him from afar.

Turn us back to you, we ask. Stir us to seek more and more the homeland you are preparing for us. Fill us with the conviction that the heavenly country is a better country, and that, when we put off our tents, we

shall enter the city in which you dwell and wherein we shall dwell securely. Thus, pressing on, we implore you that you would not be ashamed of us.

In Christ, our Savior and Lord, we pray. Amen.

September 12, 2021

Our gracious God, we are humbled by your grace, and how we have found favor in your sight. Father, you chose us and have called us. Lord Jesus, you lived and died for us. Holy Spirit, you opened our hearts to receive your great salvation.

Forgive us, that we are too often dull to your presence, immersed in the world, and at home away from heaven. For our comfort, we play it safe, withholding a full measure of obedience and service, and fall short of how we may glorify your name in this life. Too many of your mighty promises go unused, leaving your character and power slighted. Others we spend on ourselves, missing the opportunity to strengthen the church and to seek the ingathering of your people.

Renew a right spirit within us, that we might live for you without restraint, confident that heaven is our home and our reward. In Jesus' name and for your honor we pray. Amen.

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