



The Log College & Seminary

Directory for Secret Worship

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Approved for the use of students by the Oversight Board of the Seminary

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All Scripture is taken from the *New King James Version*

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“So He Himself *often* withdrew into the wilderness and prayed.”

Luke 5:16

CONTENTS

Preface.....	4
Prayer for the Seminary.....	6
Daily Entries.....	7
Prayers for Ecclesiastical Seasons and Occasions.....	605
Prayers for Annual Occasions.....	639
Prayers for Various Times and Occasions.....	649
Appendix 1 – Biblical Themes.....	663
Appendix 2 – Helps for Devotional Exercises.....	665

PREFACE

The vital importance of daily personal/private/secret worship in the life of a believer cannot be overstated. Man was created to worship – indeed, our chief and highest end is to “glorify God and to enjoy Him forever.” Hence, nothing is more important in this life than growing in our relationship with God. The means of grace incorporate both social and private elements to this end. Public worship and its ordinances, church fellowship, and family worship provide the social context, but there is also a private or personal context to the means of grace. Personal study of God’s word, contemplative meditation, and private prayer form the individual exercises in which every believer must heartily engage. And for this, no greater example can be found to illustrate than the practice of our own Savior, who “...often withdrew into the wilderness and prayed” (Luke 5:16, cf. Matthew 14:23; Mark 1:35, 6:46; Luke 6:12).

If the practice of daily personal worship has such a fundamental and vital priority in the life of every believer, we would think that nothing could prevent the believer from a regular and joyful exercise of this privilege and blessing. Yet, distractions abound. The world, the flesh, and the Devil all labor to divert the child of God away from these life-giving spiritual disciplines. Hence, this *Directory for Secret Worship* is intended to help LCS students, and every believer so inclined to make use of it, establish and consistently maintain a time of daily communion with God.

While there have been several works in the past written to assist believers in daily personal worship such as Lewis Bayly’s *The Practice of Piety*, Henry Scudder’s *The Christian’s Daily Walk*, Johannes Zollikofer’s *A Newly Opened Treasury of Heavenly Incense*, and to a limited extent the Church of Scotland’s *Directory for Family Worship* by Alexander Ker (adopted by the General Assembly just days before it adopted the Westminster Confession of Faith and often included with the Standards), the *Directory for Secret Worship* is uniquely formatted and structured to provide a detailed order of personal worship for each day of the year.

The *Directory* is written from a Reformed perspective. Hence, great emphasis is placed upon the authority, priority, and power of God’s Word in the life of the believer. Each day begins with a personal (and Scriptural) call to worship, followed by a Psalm. Next is the Scripture Reading for the day. By following this “built-in” reading plan (and including the daily Psalm), one will read the entire Bible over the course of the year (the Psalms will be read twice). The Hebrew canonical order (HCO) is also provided for the Old Testament. After the Scripture reading, a Confession of Faith is included. This section will take one through the *Apostle’s Creed*, *Nicene Creed*, *Chalcedonian Creed*, *Athanasian Creed*, the *Westminster Confession of Faith*, and the *Westminster Larger and Shorter Catechisms* over the course of the year.

After the confession of faith, a daily prayer is provided. These prayers are taken from James Wallace Weir’s *The Closet Companion; or, Manual of Prayer* unless otherwise noted.¹ The daily prayers included in the directory are *not* intended to replace one’s prayer life but rather to inform and instruct it as a helpful aid. Presbyterians have always cherished and preferred extempore or free prayer, and for good reason. However, this does not prohibit useful disciplinary aids to help develop and form a healthy prayer life. As Luther would say, “To pray well is the better half of study.” Modes of expression, appropriate elements and themes, and fitting addresses to God, are important components to a vibrant and balanced prayer life,

¹ James Wallace Weir, *The Closet Companion; or, Manual of Prayer: Consisting of Topics and Brief Forms of Prayer, Designed to Assist Christians in their Devotions*, 4th ed. (New York: M.W. Dodd, 1854). James Weir was a pious ruling elder in the Presbyterian Church at Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, during the mid-1800’s.

especially for those who must regularly lead God's people in this essential means of grace. It will be observed that the prayers do not end with the customary "Amen" to insinuate that the time of prayer should continue with free prayer. Prayers that relate to particular seasons and situations in life have also been included and may be referenced as needed.

The last section for each day features a passage of Scripture containing a precious promise of God to the believer. God's promises not only comfort and sustain His people in difficult times, but also give guidance and direction to believers as they navigate the various scenarios and situations of daily life. The Biblical/Nouthetic counselor is well aware of how essential these promises are for believers as they seek to walk faithfully in a fallen and spiritually hostile world. Indeed, the promises of God are an integral part of successful spiritual warfare.

The exercises for each day average about fifteen minutes in duration and may be completed at any time during the day. It is recommended that the presented order for each entry is observed and followed, but the exercises can be divided and conducted at different times within the day if one's schedule should require such accommodation. While structured for individual use, the *Directory* entries can be adapted for use in family worship.

The *Directory* is not intended to bind the conscience, as if it must be observed or followed, but is simply a guide that can help promote a more discipline approach to personal devotions. Likewise, as the Reformed faith has traditionally acknowledged that the only ecclesiastically mandated holy day is that of the Holy Christian Sabbath, the *Directory* has not adopted the Christian Calendar. However, as any part of Scripture or any Biblical theme may be lawfully contemplated on any particular day, the *Directory* has, in Christian liberty, been arranged to coincide with certain holidays traditionally observed by generations of Christians.

While personal/private worship is paramount in the life of every believer, it should never be forgotten that all of life is worship for the child of God. Devotional exercises are only part of the believer's walk with God. One's relationship with God cannot be compartmentalized but encompasses every aspect of life. Work, recreation, relationships - everything in which the believer engages is to be done for the glory of God and becomes an *ipso facto* act of worship.

Given its unique format, the *Directory* may be used profitably year after year. Look upon it as a well-worn path leading to the "wilderness," "garden," and "mountain" where sweet communion with God may be found.

Dr. John McDonald
President
The Log College & Seminary

A Prayer for the Seminary

Most gracious and heavenly Father, You are indeed a covenant-keeping God, steadfast in Your love and unceasing in Your faithfulness. We come to You remembering the great works You have done of old, marveling at the wondrous work of the Cross at Calvary, and rejoicing in the present work of Christ to build His Church.

O Lord, we seek Your honor, Your glory, and the advancement of Your kingdom. And to this end, we pray that Your good hand might be upon The Log College & Seminary to guide, provide, and protect it, and that You might use this institution as an instrument in Your hand to equip your people for effective and faithful service.

We ask Your blessing upon its leadership, mentors, students, and alumni. We ask that it might always be zealous for Your truth, passionate for Your glory, and bold in the proclamation of the glorious gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

We ask, O Lord, that You might once again raise up Log College men in our midst, and that through them You might be pleased, by the power of Your Spirit, to send reformation and revival to Your people, and produce a great harvest of souls, to the praise of Your marvelous grace.

This we ask in the name of our precious Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, Amen.

January 1

Call to Worship: Psalm 96:1-6

“Oh, sing to the LORD a new song! Sing to the LORD, all the earth. Sing to the LORD, bless His name; proclaim the good news of His salvation from day to day. Declare His glory among the nations, His wonders among all peoples. For the LORD *is* great and greatly to be praised; He *is* to be feared above all gods. For all the gods of the peoples *are* idols, but the LORD made the heavens. Honor and majesty *are* before Him; strength and beauty *are* in His sanctuary.”

Psalm 1

Scripture Reading:

Genesis 1-3

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 1. *What is the chief and highest end of man?*

A. Man's chief and highest end is to glorify God, and fully to enjoy Him forever.

Prayer:

O thou God of the rolling seasons, I thank thee for thy mercies to me during the last year. There has not been an hour nor a moment of it, which has not brought me tokens of thy care and kindness. Assist me now to bring its transactions, in which I have been engaged, in solemn review before my conscience. Though the record of them is fast wasting away from the treacherous tablet of my memory, yet they are written, as with a pen of iron, on the books of thy remembrance; where they will remain until that fearful hour of trial, when the books shall be opened, and all men shall be judged out of the things that are written therein, whether they be good or evil.

Lord, I desire to acknowledge before thee, with godly sorrow, that I have neglected many duties, and abused many privileges, during the past year. My heart, and my lips, and my hands, have often been the agents of transgression. Many of thy mercies have been ungratefully perverted or forgotten; and thy chastenings have often been despised or unheeded. O, my tongue would grow weary, and my heart would sicken, if I should undertake to recite all my iniquities before thee. Help me, I pray thee, for the sake of our Great Advocate, to repent over them, to loathe and forsake them, and to look to thee for strength, that the time past of my life may suffice to have wrought the deeds of the flesh, and that henceforth I may live to the will of God.

O Lord, I desire to enter the coming year, feeling the solemn responsibilities of human life. I know not what a day may bring forth, nor what the approaching months may reveal respecting me: except that they will bring me so much nearer eternity, and be full of records of my growth in grace, or of my backslidings from thy holy law. Yet I thank thee that my span of life is still lengthened out, and that I am still permitted to enjoy the precious opportunities that have been vouchsafed to me in days past. O God, assist me, I beseech thee, to discharge aright all the duties that lie before me. Make me understand the uncertainty of time, the worth of my soul, the multiplied interests of my fellow travellers to eternity, and the righteous claims of thy service. Make me watchful against the many dangers to which I am exposed. Strengthen my love to thee; deepen my convictions of sin; animate my desires after holiness; increase my spirit of prayer; enlarge my benevolence; and lead me in thine own way, for thy name's sake. Protect me by thy

care; supply me by thy bounty; and grant me an increasing meetness for that state, where these changing seasons will give place to an endless life.

Lord, make this opening year, a year of the right hand of the Most High. Pour the healing balm of peace on all the bleeding wounds of thy church. Spread over her the spotless mantle of purity. Invigorate her by the reviving power of truth. Awaken her to renewed efforts in doing good. O may these months stand forth in the history of redemption, as precious seasons of refreshing from thy holy and life-giving presence.

The Promise of God:

“Blessed *is* the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful; but his delight *is* in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night. He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither; and whatever he does shall prosper.”

Psalm 1:1-3

January 2

Call to Worship: Psalm 9:1-2

“I will praise *You*, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will tell of all Your marvelous works. I will be glad and rejoice in You; I will sing praise to Your name, O Most High.”

Psalm 2

Scripture Reading:

Genesis 4-6

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 2. *How doth it appear that there is a God?*

A. The very light of nature in man, and the works of God, declare plainly that there is a God; but His Word and Spirit only do sufficiently and effectually reveal Him unto men for their salvation.

Prayer:

Great God, rejoice my heart with frequent and thankful contemplations of that millennial glory, when thy name shall be great among the heathen, and when thou wilt give them to thy Son, for his inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth, for his possession. Then thou wilt pour out thy Holy Spirit without measure, and darkness and transgression will be supplanted by light and obedience. Love to God and love to man, will fill the hearts of all the dwellers on earth: they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning hooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. Then there will be no clashing of sects; for there will be one Lord, one faith, one baptism. The heavens shall give their dew; the earth shall give her increase; the parched ground shall become a pool; and the desert shall blossom as the rose. They shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, "Know the Lord;" for they shall know thee, from the least of them unto the greatest of them. The mountain of the house of the Lord shall be established in the top of the mountains, and be exalted above the hills. O then there will be great voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdoms of the world are become the kingdoms of the Lord, and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever!"

Lord, teach all thy people the duties that belong to them, in reference to the coming of that glorious season. May they trim their lamps, and keep their lights burning, and be ready at the advent of their Master. But do thou show them that his glorious appearing will be by the instrumentality of the sanctified and intelligent efforts of his church. O induce them to desire it ardently, to pray for it fervently, to hope for it believingly, and to labour for it diligently, in all those measures which thou hast been pleased to institute, as the means of accomplishing it. Bless all their works of faith, and labours of love. O hasten thy glorious dominion. Spread it from pole to pole, from sea to sea, and from the river unto the ends of the earth; and fill the wide world with thy knowledge, even as the waters cover the sea.

The Promise of God:

“Then the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people, the saints of the Most High. His kingdom *is* an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey Him.”

Daniel 7:27

January 3

Call to Worship: Psalm 13:6

“I will sing to the LORD, because He has dealt bountifully with me.”

Psalm 3

Scripture Reading:

Genesis 7-9

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 3. *What is the Word of God?*

A. The holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the Word of God, the only rule of faith and obedience.

Prayer:

God of Truth, I praise thy mercy, in Jesus Christ, that thou hast not left the human race to the blind gropings of unaided reason, in seeking a knowledge of thy will; but that thou hast given us the Scriptures of truth, which holy men of old spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost. I would thank thee for their precepts, which are incentives to good — for their examples, which are monitors of duty — for their threatenings, which are merciful warnings against evil — and for their promises, which are the beacons of hope. Thy testimonies are sure, making wise the simple; and thy law is perfect, converting the soul.

Lord, grant me an affecting sense of thy condescending goodness in the gift of the volume of revelation. Give me the teachings of thy Spirit, that I may understand and love the things of thy word. Incline me, I pray thee, to keep thy statutes; since he only that doth thy will, shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God: while he is cursed, who continueth not in all things written in the book of the law, to do them. O make the Scriptures profitable to me for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, and for instruction in righteousness; that I may be thoroughly furnished unto every good work. Incline me to search them for the truth as it is in Jesus; and may I find there that pearl of great price, which is the only passport to heaven. When my soul cleaveth to the dust, quicken thou me according to thy word; and cause it to dwell in me richly, in all wisdom. Enable me to draw lessons of wisdom and holiness from its blessed pages, wherewith to guide my judgment, and direct my steps, in all the ways of life. Sanctify me by thy truth; thy word is truth.

Giver of Mercies, I thank thee for that bright cluster of evidences of the truth of the Bible, which the researches of the wise and good have gathered over its sacred leaves. O that every skeptic, and every infidel, would learn from them the folly and wickedness of their unbelief, and come with broken hearts and submissive minds, to the throne of thy mercy, crying, "Lord, we would believe; help thou our unbelief."

Lord, bring thy truth with convincing, and persuading, and controlling power, to the hearts and consciences of the ungodly. O make it an effectual means of converting sinners, and of building them up, in holiness and comfort, through faith, unto salvation.—May thy saints attend thereunto, with diligence, preparation, and prayer; receiving it with faith and love, laying it up in their hearts, and practicing it in their lives.

Bestow, I pray thee, thy rich favour on Bible classes. Thou hast been pleased to make them, in many instances, the instruments of turning the hearts of the disobedient. Establish them in

every community. Let them be conducted in wisdom and grace, and result in multiplying greatly the trophies of redeeming love.

God of Truth, prosper with thy blessing, the efforts which have been made, and are now making, to give the word of life to those who, in our own, and in other countries, are perishing for lack of knowledge. I would extol thy mercy, that the sacred volume has been transmitted through so many generations, without corruption; and that it has been translated, and published, and multiplied, in so many tongues and nations of the earth. O reanimate, and strengthen, and extend these labours, until thy word shall have free course in every family throughout the world, and be glorified in bringing multitudes of souls into the kingdom of God. And to thee, O Lord, shall be ascribed the power, and dominion, and glory, forever.

The Promise of God:

“Blessed *are* the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the LORD! Blessed *are* those who keep His testimonies, who seek Him with the whole heart! Forever, O LORD, Your word is settled in heaven. The entrance of Your words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple. The entirety of Your Word *is* truth, and every one of Your righteous judgments *endures* forever.

Psalm 119:1-2, 89, 130, 160

January 4

Call to Worship: Psalm 18:1-3a

“I will love You, O LORD, my strength. The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. I will call upon the LORD, *who is worthy* to be praised....”

Psalm 4

Scripture Reading:

Genesis 10-12

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 4. *How doth it appear that the Scriptures are the Word of God?*

A. The Scriptures manifest themselves to be the Word of God, by their majesty and purity; by the consent of all the parts, and the scope of the whole, which is to give all glory to God; by their light and power to convince and convert sinners, to comfort and build up believers unto salvation: but the Spirit of God bearing witness by and with the Scriptures in the heart of man, is alone able fully to persuade it that they are the very Word of God.

Prayer:

O Lord, Jehovah, thou art the strength of all that put their trust in thee. Thou art boundless in wisdom, omnipotent in power, and infinite in goodness. Thou dost not withhold any good thing from him that walketh uprightly. Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on thee, because he trusteth in thee. He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water; that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither. Whatsoever he doth shall prosper; and the end of that man is peace.

Lord, if thou art my light and salvation, whom shall I fear? If thou art my strength, of whom shall I be afraid? Enable me, I pray thee, to trust in thee with all my heart; and keep me from leaning on my own understanding. May I cast all my cares upon thee, in perils, in wants, in losses, in griefs, in sickness, and in death. Cause me to hear thy voice, in every variety of tribulation, saying unto me, "What I do thou knowest not now, but thou shalt know hereafter." I would remember that oft when I said, "My foot slippeth," thy mercy, O Lord, held me up. In the day when I cried, thou didst answer and strengthen me. May the memory of thy past goodness, the possession of present joys, and the testimonies of thy promises persuade me, that though the mountains depart, and the hills be removed, thy kindness doth not depart from thee; neither is the covenant of thy peace removed.

Heavenly Father, give me confidence towards thee in the duty of prayer. May I come to thee as to a forgiving, a bountiful, a compassionate, a wise, and a powerful God—for thou only hast an eye of pardon, a hand of plenty, a heart of pity, a judgment of knowledge, and an arm of might. Assure me that whosoever cometh unto thee, thou wilt in no wise cast out. Help me to ask in faith, nothing wavering.

God of Israel, inspire thy people with unlimited and unwavering reliance on thy character, dealings, and purposes. May they learn that the word of the Lord endureth for ever. Let them not cast away their confidence, which hath great recompense of reward. As thou didst not withhold thine own Son, but didst deliver him up for them, O cause them to hope that, with him, thou wilt

freely give them all things. Lord, let them never forget that thou makest all things work together for good to them that love thee. Although the fig-tree may not blossom, neither fruit be in the vines; the labour of the olive fail, and the fields yield no meat; the flock be cut off from the fold, and there be no herd in the stalls—yet may they rejoice in the Lord, and joy in the God of their salvation. Thou canst make even the bed of death a couch of down; and the gloomy grave the cradle of immortality.

The Promise of God:

“I will both lie down in peace, and sleep; for You alone, O LORD, make me dwell in safety.”

Psalm 4:8

January 5

Call to Worship: Psalm 5:1-2

“Give ear to my words, O LORD, consider my meditation. Give heed to the voice of my cry, my King and my God, for to You I will pray.”

Psalm 5

Scripture Reading:

Genesis 13-15

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 5. *What do the Scriptures principally teach?*

A. The Scriptures principally teach, what man is to believe concerning God, and what duty God requires of man.

Prayer:

Lord of Blessedness, grant me that joy of faith, that rejoicing of hope, which is a fruit of thy Spirit. Give me a full and rich experience of the sources of this bliss—which indeed are not broken cisterns, that can hold no water, but fountains full to overflowing, with the healing stream of life.—Lord, reveal thyself unto me, as thou dost not unto the world, and fill my heart with pleasure in learning thy character, and in communing with thy love.—Enable me to rejoice in Christ, and in the forgiveness of sin through him, with a joy that is unspeakable and full of glory.—Give me that blessed Spirit of adoption, by which I may cry “Abba, Father.”—May the Holy Ghost give life to my hope, and strength to my rejoicing.—Cause me to rejoice in thy word, as one that findeth great spoil.—May I love the habitation of thy house, and find more comfort in thy tabernacles than in the tents of wickedness.—Let all the means of grace be to my spirit as rain upon the new-mown grass, and as showers that water the earth.—Make it my privilege to verify thy word, that it is more blessed to give than to receive; for the Lord loveth a cheerful giver, and he that soweth bountifully shall also reap bountifully.—Grant me the peace of a conscience that is void of offence towards God and man.—Make the communion of saints an abundant source of refreshment and strength to my Christian graces.—May the triumphs of thy gospel give me more pleasure than the wicked have when their carnal luxuries do most abound. O Lord, comfort and bless my soul by the contemplation of that exceeding and eternal weight of glory, that remains for the people of God, in heaven.

Lord, grant that my spiritual enjoyments may excite me to gratitude, and lead me to open my lips, that my mouth may show forth thy praise. May others be led by my cheerful happiness, to taste and see that the Lord is good. When thou enlargest my heart, teach me to run in the way of thy commandments. Enable me to say in the hour of trial and suffering— “None of these things move me; neither count I my life dear, so that I may finish my course with joy.” And, O when heart and flesh shall faint and fail, in the struggle of death, may thy rod and staff comfort me: and be thou the strength of my heart, and my portion forever.

The Promise of God:

“For You, O LORD, will bless the righteous; with favor You will surround him as *with* a shield.”

Psalm 5:12

January 6

Call to Worship: Psalm 19:14

“Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my strength and my Redeemer.”

Psalm 6

Scripture Reading:

Genesis 16-18

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 6. *What do the Scriptures make known of God?*

A. The Scriptures make known what God is, the persons in the Godhead, his decrees, and the execution of his decrees.

Prayer:

Adorable Jehovah, I would praise thee that, in thy sovereign mercy, thou didst from eternity enter into a covenant of grace, to deliver men out of their estate of sin and misery, and to bring them into an estate of salvation by a Redeemer. Lord, make with me this everlasting covenant, even the sure mercies of David. Call me with a holy calling, not according to works, but according to thy purpose, which was given in Christ Jesus before the world began; but has now been made manifest by his appearing, who hath brought life and immortality to light through thy gospel: and in whom we have redemption, through his blood. O bind me to thee in the adoption of thy children, wherein thou makest them accepted in the Beloved.

Lord, assist me to remember and keep all my engagements to thee. In the silence of retirement and communion with thee—in the acts of social and public prayer—in the hearing of thy word and the singing of thy praise—and in the solemn sacrament, where thy saints subscribe with the hand unto the Lord—I have again and again pledged myself unto thee. My vows are written in my conscience, and in the book of thy remembrance. Help me, I beseech thee, to shun all that I promised to forsake: help me, I pray thee, to perform all that I promised to do. Put thy law into my mind, and write it in my heart; and be my God, that I may be of thy people, chosen according to thy covenant of grace. Make my heart and life abundant in the fruits of that holy relation. Let me not forsake thy love, nor turn from thy ways, but press on towards the mark for the prize of that high calling which is in Christ Jesus. Merciful God, regard with compassion those who are aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise. Make them feel the deep and radical depravity of their hearts. Convince them of sin, as committed against a holy God. Show them the danger to which they are exposed while they refuse to forsake their transgressions. Exhibit to them Christ crucified, as him by whom alone they can escape from the dominion, the guilt, and the retribution of their sins. O may thy Spirit give them grace to receive and rest upon him for pardon and acceptance. And grant that they may enjoy a union with him as close and fruitful as the branch which abideth in the vine.

The Promise of God:

“He remembers His covenant forever, the word *which* He commanded, for a thousand generations, *the covenant* which He made with Abraham, and His oath to Isaac, and confirmed it to Jacob for a statute, to Israel *as* an everlasting covenant....”

Psalm 105:8-10

January 7

Call to Worship: Psalm 7:17

“I will praise the LORD according to His righteousness, and will sing praise to the name of the LORD Most High.”

Psalm 7

Scripture Reading:

Genesis 19-21

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 7. *What is God?*

A. God is a spirit, in and of himself infinite in being, glory, blessedness, and perfection; all-sufficient, eternal, unchangeable, incomprehensible, everywhere present, almighty, knowing all things, most wise, most holy, most just, most merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth.

Prayer:

Lord God Almighty, thou art glorious in the infinite excellencies of thy character. Thou art everlasting in being, almighty in power, infinite in wisdom, inflexible in justice, eternal in truth, spotless in holiness, and boundless in mercy. Great and marvellous are thy works, just and true are thy ways, thou King of Saints. Who will not fear and glorify thy name? The heavens declare thy glory, and the firmament exhibiteth thy handiwork: day unto day uttereth speech concerning thee, and night unto night showeth knowledge of thee. All thy works praise thee. But it is in the person and work of our blessed Saviour, that thou hast chiefly shown the perfection of thy character, for the adoration and homage of thine intelligent creation. There thou didst make thy richest display of might and knowledge, righteousness and goodness. O, thou art worthy to be held in everlasting honour, that he who was the brightness of the Father's glory, and the express image of his person, was made flesh, and dwelt with us, being in all points tempted as we are; and when he had filled up the measure of his reproach and persecution, gave himself up to an ignominious death, that we might have redemption through his blood, even the remission of sins!

Father in Heaven, hallowed be thy name. O help me to honour thee whenever I contemplate thy works, or thy word, or thy providence. Make me willing to spend my substance, my reputation, my time, and my life itself, to promote the honour of thy name. May I praise thee in my thoughts, and with my lips, and by my life: and whether I eat or drink, or whatsoever I do, may I do all to the glory of God. And do thou shine into my heart to give me the knowledge of thy glory, in the face of Jesus Christ.

Lord, let all thy saints bless thee. Instruct them that their chief end is to glorify thee. Dispose them to show forth the praises of him who hath called them out of darkness into his marvellous light. May they meditate on thy greatness, and talk of thy wondrous works, and honour thy will by acts of holy obedience. Be thou admired in all that believe on thee. Make them the blessed instruments of leading multitudes, who now cast dishonour on thy mercy, to witness and magnify the riches of thy grace.

Father, glorify thy name in turning the wicked from the error of their ways unto the wisdom of the just. O fulfil in all their power and efficacy the messages of the gospel, which are glory to

God in the highest; peace on earth, and good-will to men.

The Promise of God:

“My defense *is* of God, Who saves the upright in heart.”
Psalm 7:10

January 8

Call to Worship: Psalm 25:1, 4-5b

“To You, O LORD, I lift up my soul....Show me Your ways, O LORD; teach me Your paths. Lead me in Your truth and teach me, for You *are* the God of my salvation....”

Psalm 8

Scripture Reading:

Genesis 22-24

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 8. *Are there more Gods than one?*

A. There is but one only, the living and true God.

Prayer:

Lord, what is man, that thou art mindful of him; or the son of man, that thou visitest him? Thou art infinite in all thy perfections, and needest not our praises nor services to increase thy happiness and glory. If our guilty race had continued even as thou didst create it (but a little lower than the angels), we must have praised thee for thy condescension in nourishing and governing us; but now that we have lifted the arm of rebellion against thee, and have steeped our souls in transgression, how greatly is thy condescension magnified, in pursuing us with thy mercies, in providing for our wants, in protecting and delivering us from evil; and above all, in offering to redeem us from our lost estate by the sacrifice of thy Son. He, who knew no sin, was made sin for us, that we might be made the righteousness of God in him. He, who was rich, yet for our sakes became poor, that we through his poverty might be made rich. He, who from eternity knew no pain, sweat great drops of blood, and suffered unspeakable agony, that we might escape the wrath to come—the worm that never dieth, and the fire that is never quenched. O help me, God of Grace, to acknowledge thine undeserved and astonishing mercy. May it draw me closer to thee in the bonds of love and confidence, and seal me for thy service, in a covenant never to be forsaken.

The Promise of God:

“The name of the LORD *is* a strong tower; the righteous run to it and are safe.”

Proverbs 18:10

January 9

Call to Worship: Psalm 9:1-2

“I will praise *You*, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will tell of all Your marvelous works. I will be glad and rejoice in You; I will sing praise to Your name, O Most High.”

Psalm 9

Scripture Reading:

Genesis 25-27

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 9. *How many persons are there in the Godhead?*

A. There be three persons in the Godhead, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost; and these three are one true, eternal God, the same in substance, equal in power and glory; although distinguished by their personal properties.

Prayer:

Great God, cause my understanding to acknowledge, and my heart to adore, the mystery of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, who are the same in substance, equal in power and glory, and who constitute the infinite, eternal, and unchangeable Godhead. Lord, let not my feeble and erring judgment stagger at nor exalt itself against the testimony of thy word: but what thou hast revealed, that may I receive with a willing mind. O do thou enable me to receive the Father, in all the fulness of his love—the Son, in all the riches of his atonement—and the Spirit, in all the sanctifying power of his grace.

God of Truth, banish that heresy, which, in the pride of human reason, would vainly seek to pervert the doctrine of the Unity of the Godhead, so as to destroy the belief of the glorious Trinity. May all men learn that there are three that bear record in heaven, and that these three are one. May they honour the Son, even as they honour the Father; and worship that Spirit, whose ministrations are life because of righteousness!

The Promise of God:

“But the LORD shall endure forever; He has prepared His throne for judgment. He shall judge the world in righteousness, and He shall administer judgment for the peoples in uprightness. The LORD also will be a refuge for the oppressed, a refuge in times of trouble. And those who know Your name will put their trust in You; for You, LORD, have not forsaken those who seek You.”

Proverbs 9:7-10

January 10

Call to Worship: Psalm 29:2

“Give unto the LORD the glory due to His name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.”

Psalm 10

Scripture Reading:

Genesis 28-30

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 10. *What are the personal properties of the three persons in the Godhead?*

A. It is proper to the Father to beget the Son, and to the Son to be begotten of the Father, and to the Holy Ghost to proceed from the Father and the Son from all eternity.

Prayer:

From everlasting to everlasting, thou art God. The number of thy years cannot be searched out; for thou hast no beginning of days, nor end of years. Thou art Alpha and Omega; the beginning and ending; which is, and which was, and which is to come; with whom the past, the present, and the future are one eternal now. Thou hast life in thyself; and all thy creatures have their being in thee. Heaven and earth shall perish, but thou shalt endure: they shall wax old like a garment; as a vesture shalt thou change them, and they shall be changed; but thou art the same, and thy years shall have no end.

Lord, may the solemn truth that thou art eternal suitably affect my heart and control my conduct. Thou hast undying power, to make me happy or wretched forever. Throughout the ceaseless ages of eternity, thy hand will be on me for weal or wo. O do thou enable me to shun the wrath to come, and to lay hold on eternal life. Make with me now thine everlasting covenant; and be the strength of my heart, and my portion forever.

The Promise of God:

“Cast your burden on the LORD, and He shall sustain you; He shall never permit the righteous to be moved.”

Psalm 55:22

January 11

Call to Worship: Psalm 34:1

“I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise *shall* continually *be* in my mouth.”

Psalm 11

Scripture Reading:

Genesis 31-33

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 11. *How doth it appear that the Son and the Holy Ghost are God equal with the Father?*

A. The Scriptures manifest that the Son and the Holy Ghost are God equal with the Father, ascribing unto them such names, attributes, works, and worship, as are proper to God only.

Prayer:

My soul, wait thou only upon God; for my expectation is from him. Teach me, Giver of Mercies, my absolute and continual dependence on thee for life, and breath, and all things. Thou didst make me by the word of thy power, and I live every moment at the expense of thy bounty. I am full of wants, without any ability in myself to supply them. I am a creature of yesterday; my breath is in my nostrils; and I am crushed before the moth. I know not what a day may bring forth: I cannot add one cubit to my stature; nor make one hair of my head white or black. Grant me, I pray thee, such an abiding conviction of my subjection to thee as shall keep me from resting on an arm of flesh, and lead me to trust in the living God. In the hour of prosperity, let me not forget that thou art the giver of every good and perfect gift: and in the season of affliction, show me that thou canst comfort me on every side—canst make my wilderness as Eden, and my desert as the garden of the Lord. Make me realize that in all my efforts to do good, either to myself or others, I must depend on thee. Thou only givest the increase. But blessed be thy name, thy Spirit helpeth my infirmities; and thy strength is made perfect in my weakness.

Assist me by thy grace, in all the vicissitudes of life, to feel that thou art a present help in every hour of need. When toil and care, fears and trials encompass me, lead me to thee, with whom alone dwelleth that peace which passeth understanding: and do thou guide me into green pastures and beside still waters; and let thy banner over me be love. And grant, O Lord, through the merits of Jesus Christ, that when I am called to struggle with the king of terrors, thy grace may be sufficient for me, and that I may be made glad in the hope of eternal life.

The Promise of God:

“For the LORD *is* righteous, He loves righteousness; His countenance beholds the upright.”

Psalm 11:7

January 12

Call to Worship: Psalm 48:1a; 54:6b

“Great *is* the LORD, and greatly to be praised....I will praise Your name, O LORD, for *it is* good.”

Psalm 12

Scripture Reading:

Genesis 34-36

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 12. *What are the decrees of God?*

A. God’s decrees are the wise, free, and holy acts of the counsel of his will, whereby, from all eternity, he hath, for his own glory, unchangeably foreordained whatsoever comes to pass in time, especially concerning angels and men.

Prayer:

Lord, thou dost according to thy will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of earth; and none can stay thy hand, or say unto thee, “What dost thou?” Thou workest all things after the counsel of thine own will. A man's heart deviseth his way, but thou directest his steps. Thou hast chosen our inheritance, and determined our changes, and fixed the number of our days. We are in thy hands, as clay in the hands of the potter. — Lord, I would adore the mystery of thy sovereignty in the works of grace. Thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and revealed them unto babes. Thou hast mercy on whom thou wilt have mercy; and whom thou wilt thou hardenest. Even so, Father; for so it seemed good in thy sight.

Great God, I rejoice that thy dominion is built on power and wisdom, righteousness and mercy. Thou alone mayest exercise it; for thou art the Maker, Governor, Benefactor, and Judge of all things. — O do thou work in me, to will and to do, of thy good pleasure. Let me not be the slave of sin, but the servant of Jesus; for his yoke is easy, and his burden is light, to all who put their trust in thee. Thy statutes are right, and thy law is perfect. Because the Lord reigneth, let the earth rejoice; let the multitude of isles be glad thereof. Though clouds and darkness are round about thee, justice and judgment are the habitation of thy throne.

Lord, do good in thy good pleasure unto Zion. Build thou the walls of Jerusalem. Be thou her king, to govern, to defend, and to lead her forward, conquering and to conquer. May that stone which was cut out without hands, become a great mountain, and fill the whole earth.

Sovereign of the Universe, teach all men that it is lawful for thee to do what thou wilt with thine own. Wo unto him that striveth with his Maker. Let the potsherds of the earth strive with the potsherds of the earth; but let not the thing formed say to him that formed it, “Why hast thou made me thus?”—Lord, bring the hearts of the ungodly to bow in quiet and confiding submission to thy will. Make them willing in the day of thy power. May they know that thy dominion will be an everlasting dominion, even though they may never become the subjects of thy heavenly kingdom. Thou makest the wrath of men to praise thee: and when the smoke of their torment ascendeth up forever and ever, then shall be heard the voice of a great multitude, as the voice of many waters, and of mighty thunderings, saying, “Alleluia; for the Lord God, Omnipotent, reigneth.”

The Promise of God:

“The steps of a *good* man are ordered by the LORD, and He delights in his way. Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down; for the LORD upholds *him with* His hand.

Psalm 37:23-24

January 13

Call to Worship: Psalm 13:6

“I will sing to the LORD, because He has dealt bountifully with me.”

Psalm 13

Scripture Reading:

Genesis 37-39

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 13. What hath God especially decreed concerning angels and men?

A. God, by an eternal and immutable decree, out of his mere love, for the praise of his glorious grace, to be manifested in due time, hath elected some angels to glory; and in Christ hath chosen some men to eternal life, and the means thereof: and also, according to his sovereign power, and the unsearchable counsel of his own will (whereby he extendeth or withholdeth favor as he pleaseth), hath passed by and foreordained the rest to dishonor and wrath, to be for their sin inflicted, to the praise of the glory of his justice.

Prayer:

O thou Most High, I would praise thee for thine excellent greatness. The heaven of heavens cannot contain thee. From everlasting to everlasting thou art God. With thee there is no variableness, neither shadow of turning. Thou art infinitely more exalted above us, than we are above the smallest insect of creation. Lord, thou knowest all things: thou art the only wise God, wonderful in counsel, and infinite in knowledge. Thou art able to do, exceeding abundantly, above all that we can think. Thou art of purer eyes than to behold evil. Justice and judgment are the habitation of thy throne. The works of nature, the movements of providence, and the plan of redemption are full of thy goodness. Thy counsels of old are faithfulness and truth. Lo, all thy ways are perfect!

Lord, grant me such adoring views of thy character, as shall be delightful foretastes of that praise which is the incense of thy worship in heaven. May I rejoice that the government of the world, and of the universe, is in the hands of a perfect being, who will do all things well. Make me esteem thy favour as the highest honour, and the most glorious privilege, which men or angels can enjoy. O may I often set my feeble and corrupt powers in contrast with thine infinite and spotless perfections, that I may thus at once take my place in the dust before thee, and magnify thy great and glorious name.

The Promise of God:

“The LORD *is* righteous in all His ways, gracious in all His works. The LORD *is* near to all who call upon Him, to all who call upon Him in truth. He will fulfill the desire of those who fear Him; He also will hear their cry and save them. The LORD preserves all who love Him, but all the wicked He will destroy.”

Psalm 145:17-20

January 14

Call to Worship: Psalm 57:11

“Be exalted, O God, above the heavens; *let Your glory be above all the earth.*”

Psalm 14

Scripture Reading:

Genesis 40-42

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 14. *How doth God execute his decrees?*

A. God executeth his decrees in the works of creation and providence, according to his infallible foreknowledge, and the free and immutable counsel of his own will.

Prayer:

Great God, regard with pity the fool, who hath said in his heart, "There is no God!" Although thou hast written thy name in language of fire, on the canopy of heaven; and revealed thy being in the countless creations of air, earth, and sea—yet there are some of thy creatures, who profess to believe that thou art not! Though thou mayest be known by the judgments thou executest; and though human consciousness, in its universal consent, has been a memorial of thee, through all generations—they would vainly persuade themselves that thou art but the empty dream of religious fancy! O Lord, let this outrage upon knowledge, and holiness, and hope, make me cling, with a closer grasp, to the instructive, and purifying, and hopeful truth, that thy kingdom ruleth over all. Gracious Parent, how cheerless would this earthly probation be to my spirit, if I did not know that thou art Alpha and Omega. Lord, let the fact that any could be so lost to reason and piety, as to deny thy being, be strong testimony before the world of the depravity of the carnal mind; which, in all its various degrees of sentiment, is still enmity against God! O, if it be consistent with thy justice, recover these children of disobedience to the wisdom of the just; and lead them to adore and trust in thee, as the living God.

Lord, commiserate those who, while they acknowledge thee in their judgments, deny thee in their lives: and who, in the midst of thy presence, are without God in the world! They will not retain thee in their knowledge, nor follow thy ways, nor seek thy favour. Give them not over to a reprobate mind, to be filled with all unrighteousness; but do thou bring them, in the living way of thy Son, to know, and love, and glorify thee as God.

O Most High, does not practical atheism leaven my own heart, and the hearts of many that call on thy name? For when we do what we know to be wrong in thy sight, and leave undone what we know thou hast commanded us to do, we virtually say, “Who is the Lord, that we should obey him?” I pray thee, rebuke this unrighteousness; and banish every vestige of it from us; until our hearts shall know, and our works shall proclaim, in all things, the power of thy life!

The Promise of God:

“Blessed *is* every one who fears the LORD, who walks in His ways.”

Psalm 128:1

January 15

Call to Worship: Psalm 59:16-17

“But I will sing of Your power; Yes, I will sing aloud of Your mercy in the morning; for You have been my defense and refuge in the day of my trouble. To You, O my Strength, I will sing praises; for God is my defense, my God of mercy.”

Psalm 15

Scripture Reading:

Genesis 43-45

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 15. *What is the work of creation?*

A. The work of creation is that wherein God did in the beginning, by the word of his power, make of nothing the world, and all things therein, for himself, within the space of six days, and all very good.

Prayer:

Great Builder of the Universe, in the beginning thou didst make the heaven and the earth; and by thee were all things created, that are in heaven and earth, whether they be thrones or dominions, or principalities, or powers. Thou didst speak, and it was done: thou didst command, and it stood fast.—Lord, thou didst make man in thine own image, in knowledge, righteousness and holiness, with dominion over the creatures. But man being in honour abode not. He fell from that holy and happy estate, in which he was created, by sinning against God; and now all that dwell upon the face of the earth are by nature the children of wrath: yea, the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain, because of transgression. O God, redeem the works of thy power from their degeneracy. May this earth be renewed with the beauty of Eden. Breathe thou into man the breath of life, and make him a new creature in Christ Jesus.

Lord, assist me to acknowledge thy power, wisdom, and goodness, as they are shown in the works of thy hands. The heavens declare thy glory, and the firmament showeth thy handy-work. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night showeth knowledge. There is no speech nor language where their voice is not heard. Their line is gone out through all the earth; and their words to the end of the world! All thy works praise thee. O let my tongue and my soul join the chorus of creation; and praise thee in songs of rejoicing, and in newness of life.

Great God, make me thoughtful of the truth, that the heavens and earth, which are now, are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment, and perdition of ungodly men. Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of person ought I to be, in all holy conversation and godliness — looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God; wherein the heavens, being on fire, shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?—Nevertheless, may I, according to thy promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

The Promise of God:

“Those who trust in the LORD *are* like Mount Zion, *which* cannot be moved, *but* abides forever. As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the LORD surrounds His people from this time forth and forever.”

Psalm 125:1-2

January 16

Call to Worship: Psalm 16:5-6

“O LORD, *You* are the portion of my inheritance and my cup; You maintain my lot. The lines have fallen to me in pleasant *places*; Yes, I have a good inheritance.”

Psalm 16

Scripture Reading:

Genesis 46-48

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 16. *How did God create angels?*

A. God created all the angels spirits, immortal, holy, excelling in knowledge, mighty in power, to execute his commandments, and to praise his name, yet subject to change.

Prayer:

Lord of Blessedness, grant me that joy of faith, that rejoicing of hope, which is a fruit of thy Spirit. Give me a full and rich experience of the sources of this bliss—which indeed are not broken cisterns, that can hold no water, but fountains full to overflowing, with the healing stream of life.—Lord, reveal thyself unto me, as thou dost not unto the world, and fill my heart with pleasure in learning thy character, and in communing with thy love.—Enable me to rejoice in Christ, and in the forgiveness of sin through him, with a joy that is unspeakable and full of glory.—Give me that blessed Spirit of adoption, by which I may cry “Abba, Father.”—May the Holy Ghost give life to my hope, and strength to my rejoicing.—Cause me to rejoice in thy word, as one that findeth great spoil.—May I love the habitation of thy house, and find more comfort in thy tabernacles than in the tents of wickedness.—Let all the means of grace be to my spirit as rain upon the new-mown grass, and as showers that water the earth.—Make it my privilege to verify thy word, that it is more blessed to give than to receive; for the Lord loveth a cheerful giver, and he that soweth bountifully shall also reap bountifully.—Grant me the peace of a conscience that is void of offence towards God and man.—Make the communion of saints an abundant source of refreshment and strength to my Christian graces.—May the triumphs of thy gospel give me more pleasure than the wicked have when their carnal luxuries do most abound.—O Lord, comfort and bless my soul by the contemplation of that exceeding and eternal weight of glory, that remains for the people of God, in heaven.

Lord, grant that my spiritual enjoyments may excite me to gratitude, and lead me to open my lips, that my mouth may show forth thy praise. May others be led by my cheerful happiness, to taste and see that the Lord is good. When thou enlargest my heart, teach me to run in the way of thy commandments. Enable me to say in the hour of trial and suffering—“None of these things move me; neither count I my life dear, so that I may finish my course with joy.” And, O when heart and flesh shall faint and fail, in the struggle of death, may thy rod and staff comfort me: and be thou the strength of my heart, and my portion forever.

The Promise of God:

“You will show me the path of life; in your presence *is* fullness of joy; at Your right hand *are* pleasures forevermore.”

Psalm 16:11

January 17

Call to Worship: Psalm 68:4

“Sing to God, sing praises to His name; extol Him who rides on the clouds, by His name YAH, and rejoice before Him.”

Psalm 17

Scripture Reading:

Genesis 49-50
Exodus 1

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 17. How did God create man?

A. After God had made all other creatures, he created man male and female; formed the body of the man of the dust of the ground, and the woman of the rib of the man, endued them with living, reasonable, and immortal souls; made them after his own image, in knowledge, righteousness, and holiness; having the law of God written in their hearts, and power to fulfil it, and dominion over the creatures; yet subject to fall.

Prayer:

Lord, enable me to add to faith, Christian fortitude. May I endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. Give me grace to encounter and subdue the corruptions of my own heart; and in that conflict between the flesh and the spirit, may I come off more than conqueror through him that hath loved me.—Strengthen me that I may resist the allurements of a world lying in iniquity, and that I may strive against the fear of man; remembering that whosoever will deny Jesus before men, shall be denied by him before the Father in heaven. May I always be ready to answer every man that asketh me, a reason of the hope that is in me. Make me strong in the power of thy might; for I am not called to wrestle against flesh and blood, merely; but against principalities and powers, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Great Captain of Salvation, give me the girdle of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit; and having thus the whole armour of God, may I be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Grant that when the time of my departure is at hand, I may have the consoling confidence, that I have fought a good fight, and that death shall be swallowed up in victory!

The Promise of God:

“I will lift up my eyes to the hills – from whence comes my help? My help *comes* from the LORD, Who made heaven and earth. He will not allow your foot to be moved; He who keeps you will not slumber. Behold, He who keeps Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep.”

Psalm 121:1-4

January 18

Call to Worship: Psalm 18:1-3a

“I will love You, O LORD, my strength. The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. I will call upon the LORD, *who is worthy* to be praised....”

Psalm 18

Scripture Reading:

Exodus 2-4

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 18. *What are God's works of providence?*

A. God's works of providence are his most holy, wise, and powerful preserving and governing all his creatures; ordering them, and all their actions, to his own glory.

Prayer:

Great Sovereign, thou hast prepared thy throne in the heavens, and thy kingdom ruleth over all. Thou dost thy will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of earth; and none can stay thy hand, nor say unto thee, "What dost thou?" Thou callest the stars by name, and numberest the hairs of our heads: thou upholdest the sparrow, and givest strength to the seraph. Lord, I would praise thee for thy most holy, wise, and powerful preserving and governing all thy creatures. If thou shouldst withdraw the energies of thy power from the works of thy hands, they would all fall back at once into non-existence. But blessed be thy name, thy dominion is an everlasting dominion, and thy kingdom is from generation to generation.

Great God, enable me to see and acknowledge thy hand in all the movements of thy providence. Make me realize my immediate and absolute dependence on thee, and my obligations to thy preserving and governing wisdom. Suffer me not to impeach any of thy ways: for though thy dealings may often seem to the eye of feeble sense to be confused or mysterious, yet in thy sight they stand in perfect order, and are clothed with unshadowed light. Make me submissive to every token of thy will. May I praise thee in joy and in grief: because it is the Lord that giveth, and that taketh away. Thou art indeed wonderful in counsel, and excellent in working. Thou givest the mercies of every day's life to the evil, as well as to the good. But it is only for them that love thee, that thou makest thy providence and grace work together for good. —Exalted Jehovah, may the solemn truth that thy kingdom ruleth over all, lead me to seek thy favour, as the chief blessing of life; and to do thy pleasure, as it is done in heaven.

The Promise of God:

“For You will light my lamp; the LORD my God will enlighten my darkness. For by You I can run against a troop, by my God I can leap over a wall. *As for* God, His way *is* perfect; the word of the LORD is proven; He *is* a shield to all who trust in Him.”

Psalm 18:28-30

January 19

Call to Worship: Psalm 19:14

“Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my strength and my Redeemer.”

Psalm 19

Scripture Reading:

Exodus 5-7

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 19. *What is God's providence towards the angels?*

A. God by His providence permitted some of the angels, willfully and irrecoverably, to fall into sin and damnation, limiting and ordering that, and all their sins, to his own glory; and established the rest in holiness and happiness; employing them all, at his pleasure, in the administrations of his power, mercy, and justice.

Prayer:

Bless the Lord, ye his angels, that excel in strength, that do his commandments; hearkening unto the voice of his word! Great God, do thou exalt my intellect and purify my heart by meditations on the nature, character, and employments of the angels in heaven. Lo! they are an innumerable company of pure spirits; to whom thou hast given an endless life; endowing them richly with knowledge, power, holiness, and love. They dwell forever in thy presence; where their eyes are never dim with tears, nor their minds clouded by ignorance; where their affections are never wounded by grief, nor their hopes broken by disappointment, nor their hearts stained with guilt. And there they do thy holy pleasure with all the heart, and without delay, and continually.

I thank thee that thou hast revealed to us that these exalted beings sympathize deeply in the welfare of the children of men. The incarnate Son of God was proclaimed to the shepherds of Bethlehem by the angel of the Lord, with the message of glad tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people: and a multitude of the heavenly host, that sang together over man's creation, and mourned over his fall, praised God in an anthem of good-will to man. And now, though it is their privilege to scan widely the wonders of creation, and search deeply into the mysteries of providence; though they find ample employment and delight in the reciprocal joys of their own blessed fraternity of wisdom, holiness, and love—though they dwell in the absorbing and vivifying transports of the open vision of the Most High—yet there is joy in their presence over one sinner that repenteth!

Lord, teach me the value of that scheme of redemption which the angels desire to look into. There they learn the dignity of thy law, the rigour of thy justice, the immutability of thy truth, the depravity of man, the peril of his guilt, and the glory of thy mercy. O God, suffuse my heart with shame, that the plan of repentance and salvation, in which thou hast condensed the perfections of thy character, for the adoring wonder and excited love of perfect spirits, should be so often to my soul only as a dream when one awaketh!

Gracious Lord, I praise thy mercy which sends forth these messengers of thy power and grace, to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation. Grant, I beseech thee, in the name of Jesus, that I may belong to those children of adoption, whose beds they watch, whose hearts they comfort, and whose ways they protect.

Heavenly Father, prepare me for fellowship with that blessed throng, when the season of my earthly probation shall close. Enable me now, according to the feebleness of human nature, to do thy will as it is done in heaven. And when, at the end of the world, the reapers shall come forth to gather the tares in bundles, to burn them, but the wheat into the barn, grant that I may be garnered with thy saints; and that I may have my spirit made perfect in the everlasting communion of the sons of God!

God of Justice, admonish my fear of the guilt and punishment of sin by the awful example of those rebel angels, who kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, and are reserved in everlasting chains, under darkness, until the judgment of the great day. Preserve me, I pray thee, from the power of that spirit that now worketh in the hearts of the children of disobedience. Help me to wrestle against the rulers of the darkness of this world, and to bruise Satan under my feet, in the strength of the God of peace.

The Promise of God:

“The law of the LORD *is* perfect, converting the soul; the testimony of the LORD *is* sure, making wise the simple; the statutes of the LORD *are* right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD *is* pure, enlightening the eyes; the fear of the LORD *is* clean, enduring forever; the judgments of the LORD *are* true *and* righteous altogether. More to be desired *are they* than gold, yea, than much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. Moreover by them Your servant is warned, *and* in keeping them *there* is great reward.”

Psalm 19:7-11

January 20

Call to Worship: Psalm 68:34

“Ascribe strength to God; His excellence *is* over Israel, and His strength *is* in the clouds.”

Psalm 20

Scripture Reading:

Exodus 8-10

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 20. *What was the providence of God toward man in the estate in which he was created?*

A. The providence of God toward man in the estate in which he was created, was the placing him in paradise, appointing him to dress it, giving him liberty to eat of the fruit of the earth; putting the creatures under his dominion, and ordaining marriage for his help; affording him communion with himself; instituting the sabbath; entering into a covenant of life with him, upon condition of personal, perfect, and perpetual obedience, of which the tree of life was a pledge; and forbidding to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, upon the pain of death.

Prayer:

Exalted Jehovah, thou art worthy, both by thy nature and dealings, of the strongest love of all thy rational creatures. Thou art perfect in all the attributes of thy character. No ignorance impairs thy wisdom; no error perverts thy justice; no falsehood clouds thy truth; no spot stains thy holiness. Thou art, moreover, merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abundant in goodness. O that the language of my heart might always be—“Whom have I in heaven but thee; and there is none on earth I desire besides thee.” Be thou my Alpha and Omega; my morning praise; my noonday thought; my evening prayer; and my waking meditation.

Blessed Jesus, help me that I may love thee with all my heart, and soul, and strength, and mind. I desire to cherish the memory of thine example and instructions, thy benevolence and promises, as the dearest objects of thought. O may my affection for thee urge me to advance thy glory, to desire to be conformed to thine image, to seek communion with thee, and to love thy house, thine ordinances, thy word, and thy people. But let me not think that any strength of attachment can merit thy love to me; for O thine acceptance of my love is one of the crowning gifts of undeserved mercy.

Glorious God, may thy saints bring thee the full tribute of their hearts. Let the constant bearing of their thoughts be unto thee, and the remembrance of thy name. Fill their hearts with gratitude to thee, and lead them to seek thee, with delight, in all the exercises of religion. May they rejoice in thy word, as the index of thy will; and take pleasure in thy people, as the excellent of the earth; and seek the glory of Christ more than the favour of man, or the love of the world.

Lord, bring those who are now at enmity with thee, to esteem and desire thee, as their chief good. Cast out their selfishness and aversion, and take the dominion of their hearts, that they may be able to say, the Lord is their portion, and his love the fulness of their joy.

The Promise of God:

“The LORD preserves all who love Him, but all the wicked He will destroy.”
Psalm 145:20

January 21

Call to Worship: Psalm 69:16, 30

“Here me, O LORD, for Your lovingkindness *is* good; turn to me according to the multitude of Your tender mercies....I will praise the name of God with a song, and will magnify Him with thanksgiving.”

Psalm 21

Scripture Reading:

Exodus 11-13

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 21. *Did man continue in that estate wherein God at first created him?*

A. Our first parents being left to the freedom of their own will, through the temptation of Satan, transgressed the commandment of God in eating the forbidden fruit; and thereby fell from the estate of innocency wherein they were created.

Prayer:

Merciful Father, protect me from the open and secret influences of Satan, who is the great adversary of souls. O let me not be heedless of the truth, that he exerts his power even on the hearts of thy saints. If the innocence of Paradise, and the spotless purity of Jesus himself, were not exempt from his devices, I surely should not hope to escape his assaults. But I implore the aid of thy grace, that I may resist them, and triumph over them. Bestow on me the shield of faith, wherewith I may be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. Give me wisdom to detect, and virtue to repel, all his countless temptations. Arm me, I pray thee, with the sword of thy truth, that I may resist the devil, so that he shall flee from me.

Lord, overthrow the power of Satan in the hearts of the children of disobedience. Let not this world be given up to his cruel dominion. Redeem those that are under his influence, and make them the servants of the living God. Lord of Hosts, cast out the prince of this world. Fulfil, speedily, thy promises, that thou wilt bruise the serpent's head; and that thou wilt bind the dragon, and cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he shall deceive the nations no more, until the thousand years are fulfilled, in which Christ shall reign from sea to sea, and from the river to the ends of the earth.

The Promise of God:

“And you know that He was manifested to take away our sins, and in Him there is no sin....He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.”

1 John 3:5, 8

January 22

Call to Worship: Exodus 15:2

“The LORD *is* my strength and song, and He has become my salvation; He *is* my God, and I will praise Him; my father’s God, and I will exalt Him.”

Psalm 22

Scripture Reading:

Exodus 14-16

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 22. *Did all mankind fall in that first transgression?*

A. The covenant being made with Adam as a public person, not for himself only, but for his posterity, all mankind descending from him by ordinary generation, sinned in him, and fell with him in that first transgression.

Prayer:

Great God, rejoice my heart with frequent and thankful contemplations of that millennial glory, when thy name shall be great among the heathen, and when thou wilt give them to thy Son, for his inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth, for his possession. Then thou wilt pour out thy Holy Spirit without measure, and darkness and transgression will be supplanted by light and obedience. Love to God and love to man, will fill the hearts of all the dwellers on earth: they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning hooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. Then there will be no clashing of sects; for there will be one Lord, one faith, one baptism. The heavens shall give their dew; the earth shall give her increase; the parched ground shall become a pool; and the desert shall blossom as the rose. They shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, "Know the Lord;" for they shall know thee, from the least of them unto the greatest of them. The mountain of the house of the Lord shall be established in the top of the mountains, and be exalted above the hills. O then there will be great voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdoms of the world are become the kingdoms of the Lord, and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever!"

Lord, teach all thy people the duties that belong to them, in reference to the coming of that glorious season. May they trim their lamps, and keep their lights burning, and be ready at the advent of their Master. But do thou show them that his glorious appearing will be by the instrumentality of the sanctified and intelligent efforts of his church. O induce them to desire it ardently, to pray for it fervently, to hope for it believingly, and to labour for it diligently, in all those measures which thou hast been pleased to institute, as the means of accomplishing it. Bless all their works of faith, and labours of love. O hasten thy glorious dominion. Spread it from pole to pole, from sea to sea, and from the river unto the ends of the earth; and fill the wide world with thy knowledge, even as the waters cover the sea.

The Promise of God:

“All the ends of the world shall remember and turn to the LORD, and all the families of the nations shall worship before You. For the kingdom *is* the LORD’s, and He rules over the nations.”

Psalm 22:27-28

January 23

Call to Worship: Psalm 72:18-19b

“Blessed *be* the LORD God, the God of Israel, Who only does wondrous things! And blessed *be* His glorious name forever! And let the whole earth be filled *with* His glory....”

Psalm 23

Scripture Reading:

Exodus 17-19

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 23. *Into what estate did the fall bring mankind?*

A. The fall brought mankind into an estate of sin and misery.

Prayer:

Great God, I desire to feel that without thy blessing, which maketh rich, and addeth no sorrow with it, all that I now possess, and all I hope to enjoy, will be barren and worthless. Thou only canst make my possessions and pursuits answer the purposes of wisdom and goodness. Lord, bless thou my waking and sleeping hours; my seasons of retirement and intercourse; my daily food and daily duties; my joys and sorrows; my prosperity and adversity; my rest and labour; my praises and prayers; my thoughts, words, and actions; my hopes; my all. Whatsoever thou mayest deny me, grant me thy favour which is life, and thy lovingkindness which is better than life. Let me not undertake nor prosecute any thing on which I cannot ask thee to set the seal of thine approbation. May I turn away from every thing which I may judge to be repugnant to thy will. Especially may I feel, in my religious duties, that neither is he that planteth any thing, nor he that watereth, but God that giveth the increase. If thou vouchsafe not thy favour, the heaven that is over my head shall be as brass, and the earth that is under my feet shall be as iron. Without thee I can do nothing; for in myself my strength is weakness, my wisdom is folly, and my goodness is as the morning cloud and the early dew. But I praise thee that my sufficiency is of God, and that I can do all things through Christ strengthening me. Endue me, I beseech thee, with power from on high; and make thy strength perfect in my weakness.

O Lord, bestow thine abiding sanction and thy richest blessing upon the various efforts of thy church. Give them abundant success. Make them all works of faith and labours of love. Let “Glory to God in the highest, on earth, peace and good-will to men,” be inscribed on every motive and every exertion of Christian zeal. Cast down every obstacle, and subdue every enemy. O, do thou remove all the woes and vices that afflict humanity and in their stead, bring thou the peace and purity of the precious gospel, which are the sure and satisfying tokens of that holy blessedness which fills the courts of thine upper sanctuary. Lord, give these petitions gracious audience through Christ the Saviour; and dispose me to ascribe unto the King, immortal, eternal, and invisible, all the praise and dominion, now, henceforth, and forever.

The Promise of God:

“Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.”

Psalm 23:6

January 24

Call to Worship: Psalm 73:25, 26, 28

“Whom have I in heaven *but You?* And *there is* none upon earth *that* I desire besides You. My flesh and my heart fail; *but God is* the strength of my heart and my portion forever. But *it is* good for me to draw near to God; I have put my trust in the LORD GOD, that I may declare all Your works.”

Psalm 24

Scripture Reading:

Exodus 20-22

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 24. *What is sin?*

A. Sin is any want of conformity unto, or transgression of, any law of God, given as a rule to the reasonable creature.

Prayer:

Holy One of Israel, teach me the evil nature and fearful consequences of iniquity. It is the transgression of thy law, in doing what thou hast forbidden, and failing to do what thou hast commanded. Lord, every sin deserves thy wrath and curse, both in this life, and in that which is to come.

Assist me, I beseech thee, to feel that it is, an evil and bitter thing to sin against the Lord. Thy law, which I and all mankind break, is holy, just, and good. Thy goodness against which we have transgressed, has been over us every hour of our lives. Thou hast nourished and brought us up as children; but we have rebelled against thee. Every sin which we commit, includes as many acts of ingratitude as the whole number of thy past mercies to us. Our iniquity has blinded our minds towards truth, and has made us the prey of error. It has been the snare that has corrupted and debased our souls, and left them increasingly open to temptation and guilt. O make us feel that all the sickness, misery, remorse, and death, in the world, are the fruits of transgression; and that if sin had not entered into the world, this earth would have been, in all its generations, a paradise of happy and holy obedience. Lord, increase our sense of the exceeding sinfulness of sin, by heartfelt views of the humiliation, agony, and death of thy Son; and by the revelation thou hast given of that blackness of darkness, and anguish of despair, which it has brought on the finally impenitent, the smoke of whose torment ascendeth forever and ever.

Great God, it becomes me to take shame and confusion of face upon myself; to cry, "Guilty, and unclean"; and to implore thee to be merciful to me, a sinner. Thou art spotless holiness; and thou canst not look upon sin but with abhorrence. If thou shouldst lay judgment to the line, and righteousness to the plummet; or if even thou shouldst deal with me for one of a thousand of my transgressions, I would be driven from thy presence, in utter despair. But, thanks be to thy name, the blood of Christ cleanseth from all sin. Though I should be condemned without hope, if I dared to stand before thee in my own strength, yet in the righteousness of my Surety, I may approach thee, and receive remission of sins. Lord, preserve me from the dominion of unholiness, whether it spring from the world, the flesh, or the devil. May the grace that bringeth

salvation, so teach me to deny ungodliness, and to fear and loathe iniquity, that I shall constantly die unto sin and live unto righteousness.

The Promise of God:

“For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself *His* own special people, zealous for good works.”

Titus 2:11-14

January 25

Call to Worship: Psalm 25:1, 4-5

“To You, O LORD, I lift up my soul. Show me Your ways, O LORD; teach me Your paths. Lead me in Your truth and teach me, for You *are* the God of my salvation; on You I wait all the day.”

Psalm 25

Scripture Reading:

Exodus 23-25

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 25. *Wherein consisteth the sinfulness of that estate whereinto man fell?*

A. The sinfulness of that estate whereinto man fell, consisteth in the guilt of Adam’s first sin, the want of that righteousness wherein he was created, and the corruption of his nature, whereby he is utterly indisposed, disabled, and made opposite unto all that is spiritually good, and wholly inclined to all evil, and that continually; which is commonly called *original sin*, and from which do proceed all actual transgressions.

Prayer:

Lord, thou didst create man, after thine own image, in knowledge and holiness; but he fell from the estate wherein he was created, by sinning against God; and now, by his fall, all mankind have lost communion with God, are under thy wrath and curse, and are made liable to all the miseries of this life, to death itself, and to the pains of hell forever. Thou didst indeed make man upright; but he has sought out many inventions. His gold has become dim, and his most fine gold is changed. And now the heart of the sons of men is full of evil: the carnal mind is enmity against God: they are all gone out of the way: there is none righteous; no, not one. O Lord, everywhere I behold the records of human depravity. The pages of history, the experience of my own heart, the witness of my eyes, and the news brought on every breeze, tell me that man is a sinner. And yet for every spark of sin in the outward life of every man, there has been a raging flame of transgression in his hidden nature. O let not my mind be swayed from this truth, because there are some, who in their natural and unredeemed state, seem to be not far from the kingdom of God: for if thou hadst not controlled their characters, and shaped their destinies, they also had been the vilest of the vile. Suffer me not, in my intercourse with children, to suppose, from their comparative innocence and docility, that they are not depraved: for O, thy testimony against them is, that they go astray from the womb; and that folly is bound up in their hearts.

Lord, give me an ever-present conviction of this solemn doctrine, that I may watch and pray against the evil tendencies of my own heart, and also look with earnest anxiety on the condition of those, who have not been brought to know and forsake their iniquities. Enable me to realize its nature and extent — to understand that the most unsanctified selfishness has usurped the sceptre which God should sway in the heart; and that all men are, in their natural character, utterly destitute of holiness, and entirely sinful. Lord, permit not my thoughts to impeach thy wisdom, or justice, or holiness, when I meditate on this truth; for thou hast laid no stern necessity on us that we should sin: and we, we only, are guilty before thee in our transgressions. O God, take away

this stony heart out of my flesh, and give me a heart of flesh. Subdue the corruption of my nature, and make me a new creature in Christ Jesus.

Blessed Lord, convince the wicked of their deep-rooted depravity; and that unless they are born again, they must be shut out of the kingdom of God. Show them that they have destroyed themselves; while in thee only is their help. Teach them that thou hast sought their repentance by the every-day mercies of life, by the offers of pardon, and by the threats of vengeance: and yet they have abused thy gifts, and turned a deaf ear to thine entreaties and warnings. Show them that the way of the wicked is darkness, and the end thereof eternal death: while the path of the just is as the shining light, and his reward a blissful eternity. Whilst thou art revealing to them the enormity of their guilt, show them the surpassing extent of the redemption thou hast provided for it. O may thy Spirit transform their corrupt wills, and renew their depraved affections. Save them by the washing of regeneration, and the renewing of the Holy Ghost; that being sanctified by grace, they shall be made partakers of thy holiness, and heirs of eternal life.

The Promise of God:

“Good and upright *is* the LORD; therefore He teaches sinners in the way. The humble He guides in justice, and the humble He teaches His way. All the paths of the LORD *are* mercy and truth, to such as keep His covenant and His testimonies. The secret of the LORD *is* with those who fear Him, and He will show them His covenant.”

Psalm 25:8-10, 14

January 26

Call to Worship: Psalm 71:8, 15, 23

“Let my mouth be filled *with* Your praise *and with* Your glory all the day...My mouth shall tell of Your righteousness *and* Your salvation all the day....My lips shall greatly rejoice when I sing to You, and my soul, which You have redeemed.”

Psalm 26

Scripture Reading:

Exodus 26-28

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 26. *How is original sin conveyed from our first parents unto their posterity?*

A. Original sin is conveyed from our first parents unto their posterity by natural generation, so as all that proceed from them in that way are conceived and born in sin.

Prayer:

Great God, affect my heart powerfully, by right views of the condition of sinners. O let not my soul be at ease in her possessions, while the earth is full of the workers of iniquity. Let not selfishness, nor unbelief, nor despondency, stupify my compassions for those who everywhere crowd the ways of destruction. May I look on them as rebels against thy law, over whom hang thy judgments, which may soon overwhelm them in remediless ruin. Give me deep yearnings over their awful guilt and danger. Dispose me to pray, in earnestness and faith, for their deliverance from sin; and lead me to strive to pluck them as brands from the burning. Lord, direct me in the choice and use of such measures as will promote the salvation of souls. O wilt thou give me the blessed privilege of turning some that were ready to perish, into the covert of redemption?

Compassionate Jehovah, kindle the love of souls in the breasts of all thy people. May deep concern for the spiritual wants of men, pervade their thoughts, direct their desires, and govern their conduct. O that all who call upon thy name for their own salvation, would earnestly ask what thou wilt have them to do, in saving the ungodly. Arm them, I pray thee, with those weapons of love which are mighty, through God, to the pulling down of strongholds. May they use the power of holy example, the wisdom of right knowledge, and the fervour of persevering zeal, to convince, and persuade, and win the unrighteous from their transgressions. Cause the remembrance of their own former impenitency and exposure to wrath, together with their gratitude for thy distinguishing grace, to excite their strong cryings to God, and their deep compassions and earnest efforts, for those who are living without hope and God in the world. Lord, set before the minds of believers, the weight of guilt and retribution which hangs over the impenitent; and cause them to feel and act upon the strong conviction, that in fulfilling their duty to such, they will enjoy peace of conscience, the joyful reward of faithful servants, and be the happy instruments of saving souls.

Lord, I would implore thy mercy on sinners themselves. Convince them of their deep-rooted depravity, and of the wrath they are treasuring up against the day of wrath. Let none deceive themselves with a vain admiration of their natural virtues; for these, instead of abating the

enormity of their guilt, only stamp upon it the additional reproach, that they have ungratefully refused to consecrate these virtues to the Lord that bestowed them. O that thy love to them, in the mercies of thy providence, in the pleadings of thy word, in the gift of thy Son, and in the strivings of thy grace, might fill them with that repentance which is unto life. Persuade them that thou hast no pleasure in their death; but that thou art waiting to be gracious. Though they have destroyed themselves, in thee is their help: whosoever will, may take of the waters of life freely. Let them not neglect so great salvation, lest they sin away the day of their merciful visitation; and then a great ransom will not deliver them. Lead them, I pray thee, to the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world. May they look to him and be saved. And thy name, Father, Son, and Spirit, shall have the glory of their redemption, through time and eternity.

The Promise of God:

“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.”

Romans 5:8-10

January 27

Call to Worship: Psalm 27:4

“One *thing* I have desired of the LORD, that will I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in His temple.”

Psalm 27

Scripture Reading:

Exodus 29-31

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 27. *What misery did the fall bring upon mankind?*

A. The fall brought upon mankind the loss of communion with God, his displeasure and curse; so as we are by nature children of wrath, bond slaves to Satan, and justly liable to all punishments in this world, and that which is to come.

Prayer:

O Most High, a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom. Justice and judgment are the habitation of thy throne: just and true are all thy ways, thou King of Saints. Of a truth thou art no respecter of persons: thy law is holy, and thy government upright. The righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him. — I would adore and praise thee, O Lord, that thou didst maintain and magnify the excellency of thy justice, in giving thy Son, to repair by his own blood, the violated law; and thus to make it more honourable in the redemption of the transgressor, than in his hopeless condemnation.

O Lord, show me, in the light of this attribute, the glory of thy dispensation of the gospel, in which thou canst be just, and the justifier of even the worst of sinners, who believe in Jesus. But, may I learn from it also, that thou wilt be to the finally impenitent, a consuming fire. May the knowledge of it prevent me from neglecting or violating the rights of my fellow-creatures, and lead me to render that which is just and equal, to all men. Let the threatened retributions of thy judgment warn me against transgression, and dispose me to seek conformity to thy will.

Lord, cause a sense of thy justice to alarm the fears of the ungodly. Make them know that they are treasuring up wrath against the day of wrath, and righteous revelation of the judgment of God. Lead them now to bow to thy sceptre, which is still the symbol of mercy; but which ere long may become the instrument of destruction. I pray thee, redeem them from the curse of the law, and give them the adoption of sons, through the righteousness of Christ.

The Promise of God:

“The LORD *is* gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and great in mercy. The LORD *is* good to all, and His tender mercies *are* over all His works.”

Psalm 145:8-9

January 28

Call to Worship: Psalm 28:6-7

“Blessed *be* the LORD, because He has heard the voice of my supplications! The LORD *is* my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in Him, and I am helped; therefore my heart greatly rejoices, and with my song I will praise Him.”

Psalm 28

Scripture Reading:

Exodus 32-34

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 28. *What are the punishments of sin in this world?*

A. The punishments of sin in this world are either inward, as blindness of mind, a reprobate sense, strong delusions, hardness of heart, horror of conscience, and vile affections; or outward, as the curse of God upon the creatures for our sakes, and all other evils that befall us in our bodies, names, estates, relations, and employments; together with death itself.

Prayer:

Compassionate Jehovah, thou knowest all the sources of my griefs—the afflictions of my body—the weakness and ignorance of my mind—the loss of cherished objects—and the miseries of my sinfulness. When I look back upon my past life, how do slighted mercy, neglected grace, and sinful rebellion rise up to confound me with sorrow. When I look within me, and examine my present state, I find that when I would delight in the law of the Lord, after the inward man, there is a law in my members warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin; so that I am constrained to say, "O wretched man that I am; who shall deliver me from the body of this death?"—When my thoughts go forth into the unknown future, I have reason to pass the time of my sojourning here in fear, lest, being led away by the corruption of my heart, the error of the wicked, and the deceit of Satan, I may fall from my steadfastness.—When I look around me, I find sources of grief everywhere; for the ways of Zion mourn, and my heart is faint within me: I behold the transgressors, and am grieved: rivers of waters should run down mine eyes, because men keep not thy law.—O God, it behooves me also to mourn when thou dost, for any reason, hide thy face from me when the heavens above me are as brass, and my trembling heart would surmise that even God had forgotten to be gracious.

But, O Lord, thou knowest all my griefs; and thou canst sanctify them to me. I pray thee, soothe and bless my sorrows. Recompense me in all of them, by the light of thy countenance. Give me the blessedness of them that mourn with a godly sorrow; for they shall be comforted. Restore unto me the joys of thy salvation, and uphold me by thy free Spirit. Let not my soul be cast down, nor grow weary of life, nor rebel against thy will. Make me to hear joy and gladness, that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice. When thou hast wrought the purposes of thy sovereignty, O give me beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, and the garments of praise for the spirit of heaviness.

The Promise of God:

“The blessing of the LORD makes *one* rich, and He adds no sorrow with it.”
Proverbs 10:22

January 29

Call to Worship: Psalm 29:2

“Give unto the LORD the glory due to His name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.”

Psalm 29

Scripture Reading:

Exodus 35-37

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 29. *What are the punishments of sin in the world to come?*

A. The punishments of sin in the world to come, are everlasting separation from the comfortable presence of God, and most grievous torments in soul and body, without intermission, in hell-fire forever.

Prayer:

O Lord, give me a deep conviction of the awful truth, that thou hast ordained and fixed a place of torment for all the finally impenitent—a bottomless pit, where there is the blackness of darkness—a prison, where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth — a lake of fire, where the smoke of their torment ascendeth forever. There they will remember their ungodly deeds; their multiplied mercies; the riches of thy long-suffering which they despised; the instruction they hated; and their hardness and impenitence of heart, whereby they treasured unto themselves wrath against the day of wrath. There they shall have cruel fellowship with the devil and his angels: hatred and malice, and every evil passion, shall vex their souls; while around, and above, and beneath them, will be indignation and wrath, tribulation and anguish!

Lord, let not my heart ever rebel against the wisdom and righteousness of thy punitive justice. Just and true are all thy ways, thou King of Saints. Teach me, O God, by the deep damnation of the wicked, that thou hatest sin and lovest holiness; and that thou art thus promoting the obedience and welfare of the universe, and sustaining thy character as the moral Governor of creation.

Assist me, God of Grace, to flee from the wrath to come, and to lay hold of eternal life, through the Saviour. But O, let me not be satisfied with my own safety. May I seek the salvation of those that are in the broad way of ruin. Impel me by keen sympathy for their danger, and love for their happiness, to put forth such efforts of prayer and labour, as shall be the means of saving some that are ready to perish.

O do thou arouse the church to a conviction of her duty to a perishing world. Let none of thy people dishonour their calling, by carelessness about the eternal welfare of the impenitent. May each one feel the powers of the world to come; and by earnest supplication, and by fervent action, strive for the blessedness of converting sinners from their dangerous ways, and of saving souls from the second death.

Lord, I beseech thee, give the wicked such views of the everlasting destruction awaiting the unrepenting sinner, as shall lead them to consider the mercy that has provided a way of escape from perdition. Persuade them, by thy terrors, to be reconciled to thee by the blood of the everlasting covenant. O make many, who now seem to be vessels of wrath, fitting for

destruction, to be vessels of mercy, preparing for glory; who shall be kept by thy power, through faith, unto final salvation: where the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, which are begun on earth, shall be perfected forever.

The Promise of God:

“The LORD will give strength to His people; the LORD will bless His people with peace.”

Psalm 29:11

January 30

Call to Worship: Psalm 77:11-12, 14a

“I will remember the works of the LORD; surely I will remember Your wonders of old. I will also meditate on all your work, and talk of Your deeds....You *are* the God who does wonders....”

Psalm 30

Scripture Reading:

Exodus 38-40

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 30. *Doth God leave all mankind to perish in the estate of sin and misery?*

A. God doth not leave all men to perish in the estate of sin and misery, into which they fell by the breach of the first covenant, commonly called the *covenant of works*; but of his mere love and mercy delivereth his elect out of it, and bringeth them into an estate of salvation by the second covenant, commonly called the *covenant of grace*.

Prayer:

Lord, enable me, through the adorable Redeemer, to know, and value, and possess the exceeding riches of thy grace. It is rich in its source; for it is the fulness of him that filleth all in all. It is rich in its abundance; since it is given to us for help in every time of need. And, O, it is rich in its unspeakable blessings; for it brings the forgiveness of sins—gives us the washing of regeneration—unites us to Christ by a living faith—justifies us by his merits—bestows on us the witness of the Spirit—gives us the victory over the world and the grave—makes us heirs of God, and joint heirs with Christ, in the enjoyments of heaven forever. Show me, O Lord, that Jesus is the mediator of this blessing: it is he that maketh peace through the blood of his cross: he giveth repentance and remission of sins: and he seals the redeemed soul, by the Spirit, through sanctification, unto eternal life.—Lord, thou couldst have glorified thyself in the destruction of thy rebel creatures; but thou hast chosen, in thy mercy, to win them back to thee by love, that thou mightest glorify thyself in their newness of life on earth, and their eternal bliss in heaven.

Merciful God, enable me, by thy blessing, to grow in grace. May I hunger and thirst after righteousness, and desire the sincere milk of the word, that I may grow thereby. May I seek to give strength to every godly principle within me, by habitual industry in thy service; by exercising myself unto godliness, and always abounding in the work of the Lord. Be pleased to order thy dispensations, whether of prosperity or adversity, so that they may promote my spiritual good. Build me on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ being the chief corner-stone. May I in all things by prayer and supplication, make known my requests unto thee. And, O, grant me thy Holy Spirit, to sanctify my affections, and to assist me in giving all diligence to make my calling and election sure.

Heavenly Father, transform me by the renewing of my mind, that I may know what is thy good, and perfect, and acceptable will. Animate my heart with supreme love to God, and impartial love to man. Give me an increasing purity of motive, strength of principle, abasement of self, and loathing of sin. Turn me from every wrong pursuit, and lead me into every right way.

Let me not love the world, nor the things that are in the world. May I cherish the fellowship of thy saints; and seek the welfare of thy kingdom, by gifts, by labour, and by supplication. Blessed Lord, make me holy, harmless, undefiled, and separate from sinners. Enable me to go from strength to strength; and do thou change me from glory to glory.

Shepherd of Israel, cause thy grace to dwell richly in the hearts of all thy people. May they watch unto prayer against anger, pride, and covetousness; against ambition, censoriousness, and impurity. May they look diligently, lest any fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up, trouble them, and thereby many be defiled. Make their Christian character as the light of heaven, which shineth more and more, unto the perfect day.

Lord, exert the power of thy grace on the hearts of the impenitent. Convince them of their guilt and danger; persuade them to accept of thy mercy in Jesus; renew their wills and sanctify their feelings; lead them to pant after thee, as the hart panteth after the water-brooks, and to run willingly in all the ways of thy commandments. O grant that where sin hath abounded, grace may much more abound. And to God, only wise, be glory, through Jesus Christ, forever.

The Promise of God:

“In Him also we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace....”

Ephesians 1:7

January 31

Call to Worship: Psalm 84:1-2

“How lovely *is* Your tabernacle, O LORD of hosts! My soul longs, yes, even faints for the courts of the LORD; my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God.”

Psalm 31

Scripture Reading:

Leviticus 1-3

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 31. *With whom was the covenant of grace made?*

A. The covenant of grace was made with Christ as the second Adam, and in him with all the elect as his seed.

Prayer:

In the time of trouble, hide me in thy pavilion, O Lord! Prepare me for meeting and bearing all the adversities of life. Support or deliver me in poverty, in sickness, in pain, in bereavement, in persecution, in sorrow, in reproach. Let the trial of my faith in all these work patience and holiness. May I endure as seeing him who is invisible; and so repose on thy wisdom and goodness, that I may say—"Thy will be done—do with me as seemeth good in thy sight—thou givest and takest away; blessed be the name of the Lord." Though thy judgments are unsearchable, and thy ways past finding out, I know that thou art too wise to err; for thine understanding is infinite. Thou art too good to be unkind; for thou dost not afflict willingly, nor grieve the children of men; yea, whom thou lovest thou chastenest, and scourgest every child whom thou receivest. Lord, cause my judgment, and heart, and will to approve of every measure of thy correcting and reclaiming love.

O Shepherd of Israel, cause my every adversity to be sanctified to me. Lead me to see thy hand in it; to feel that my sins have far more than deserved it; and to be willing that thy justice may be exalted at my expense, and that I may be brought to acknowledge, "I know, O Lord, that thy judgments are right, and that in faithfulness thou hast afflicted me." Show me that my cup has been mingled with mercies; for the days of my comforts have far outnumbered the hours of my sorrows—that my griefs are not peculiar to me; for they are the lot of humanity—that they are not the accidents of life; for thou dost all things—and that I am not called to suffer them alone; for thou hast said, "I will never leave nor forsake thee": and thy rod and staff they shall comfort and support me, even in the valley and shadow of death.

Lord, grant that thy grace may be peculiarly dear to me in the hour of trial; and bring me out from it as gold that is tried in a furnace. Assure me, that every branch that beareth fruit, thou purgest, that it may bring forth more fruit! Enable me to say with thy servant, "Before I was afflicted, I went astray; but now I have kept thy word." May that grace strengthen me, that I may glory in tribulation, knowing that tribulation worketh patience, and patience a hope that maketh not ashamed. Lead me closer to thy throne, as the only place where I may find abiding help in every hour of need. Grant, merciful Father, that my troubles may lead me to sympathise with all who suffer in mind, body, or estate; remembering them that are in bonds, as being bound with

them; and them that suffer adversity, as being myself also in the body. Lord, cause my sorrows, which indeed are but for a moment, to wean me from the vanities and wickedness of earth, to prepare me for eternity, and to work out for me an eternal weight of glory: and vouchsafe to me, in all of them, the consoling thought, that though the earthly house of this tabernacle be dissolved, I have a building of God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

Grant, O Lord, that the impenitent, when they suffer affliction, may be so influenced by it as afterwards to reap the peaceable fruits of righteousness. Let them not despise thy chastenings, nor faint when they are rebuked of thee. Show them that unless they repent, these are but the beginnings of sorrows, that shall know no relief and no end. Convince them of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment. Lead them to repent and forsake the error of their ways, and to turn unto him who maketh all things work together for good to them that love him. These prayers I offer through the prevailing name of Jesus; to whom, with the Father and Spirit, be all honour and rule forever.

The Promise of God:

“And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to *His* purpose.”

Romans 8:28

February 1

Call to Worship: Psalm 85:8a,b

“I will hear what God the LORD will speak, for He will speak peace to His people and to His saints....”

Psalm 32

Scripture Reading:

Leviticus 4-6

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 32. *How is the grace of God manifested in the second covenant?*

A. The grace of God is manifested in the second covenant, in that he freely provideth and offereth to sinners a Mediator, and life and salvation by him; and requiring faith as the condition to interest them in him, promiseth and giveth his Holy Spirit to all his elect, to work in them that faith, with all other saving graces; and to enable them unto all holy obedience, as the evidence of the truth of their faith and thankfulness to God, and as the way which he hath appointed them to salvation.

Prayer:

Holy One of Israel, help me, I beseech thee, to confess before thee my unworthiness and ill-desert. To whom but to thee should I go with the recital of my transgressions; for it is against thee, thee only, I have sinned. Thou hast said that he who covereth his sins shall not prosper; while he who confesseth and forsaketh them shall find mercy. If I say, “I have no sin,” I deceive myself, and the truth is not in me; but if I confess my sins, thou art faithful and just to forgive them, and to cleanse me from all unrighteousness.

O Lord, I have sinned against thee in doing what thou hast forbidden, and in leaving undone what thou hast commanded. I have transgressed thy law and gospel, in thought, word, and deed. I have sinned in childhood, in youth, and in riper years. I would acknowledge with shame and sorrow, my vanity and selfishness, my pride and hypocrisy, my impatience and unbelief, my self-indulgence and self-righteousness, my neglect of thy service and glory, and my living to myself, and not unto thee. How often has my heart rebelled against thy wholesome discipline in affliction, or impiously forgotten thy dispensing hand in the enjoyment of mercies. O, I have in countless instances, backslidden from thy love, broken my covenants with thee, and brought dishonour on thy name. I have rolled that as a sweet morsel under my tongue, which has filled heaven with solicitude, earth with desolation, and hell with anguish. And yet such has been the hardness of my heart, that I have mourned but little over such transgressions.

O Lord, these my sins have been protracted through long years which thou hast crowned with forbearance and mercy. They are heavy and black with enormous guilt, because they were committed in the midst of light and knowledge. My transgressions are more numerous than the hairs of my head; and if thou wert strict to mark one in a thousand of them, I could not stand before thee. My iniquities are increased over my head, and my trespasses are grown up to the heavens. Thou mightest justly cause that dark cloud to shut out the light of thy countenance; and gather there the thunders of thy wrath, and break them on my guilty head, with an overwhelming

vengeance. Lord, I am vile; what shall I answer thee? I will lay my hand upon my mouth, and put my mouth in the dust, if so be there may be hope. God be merciful to me a sinner.

The Promise of God:

“Many sorrows *shall be* to the wicked; but he who trusts in the LORD, mercy shall surround him.”

Psalm 32:10

February 2

Call to Worship: Psalm 86:11-12

“Teach me Your way, O LORD; I will walk in Your truth; unite my heart to fear Your name. I will praise You, O LORD my God, with all my heart, and I will glorify Your name forevermore.”

Psalm 33

Scripture Reading:

Leviticus 7-9

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 33. *Was the covenant of grace always administered after one and the same manner?*

A. The covenant of grace was not always administered after the same manner, but the administrations of it under the Old Testament were different from those under the New.

Prayer:

God of Wisdom, how infinite is the contrast between thine omniscience and our imperfect knowledge. We know not what a day may bring forth: but thou knowest the end from the beginning. There is none that has been thy counsellor: thine eye alone searches the secrets of futurity. A thousand years are with thee as but one day; and among the infinite series of events that lie throughout the eternity to come, there is not one, of which thou dost not know the time and the manner of its coming.

Lord, I would praise thee for those fruits of thy foreknowledge, which thou hast given us in thy prophecies and promises. I thank thee that thou hast granted us these testimonials of thy wisdom and love to confirm our faith in thy word, and to strengthen our hope in thy mercy. O grant that the foretellings of thy knowledge, which are registered in thy word, may convince the infidel, that the Bible is everlasting truth. And may all that love thee, thank God, and take courage from these seals of thy testimonies.

The Promise of God:

“The counsel of the LORD stands forever, the plans of His heart to all generations. Blessed is the nation whose God *is* the LORD, the people He has chosen as His own inheritance.”

Psalm 33:11-12

February 3

Call to Worship: Psalm 34:1

“I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise *shall* continually *be* in my mouth.”

Psalm 34

Scripture Reading:

Leviticus 10-12

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 34. *How was the covenant of grace administered under the Old Testament?*

A. The covenant of grace was administered under the Old Testament, by promises, prophecies, sacrifices, circumcision, the passover, and other types and ordinances, which did all fore-signify Christ then to come, and were for that time sufficient to build up the elect in faith in the promised Messiah, by whom they then had full remission of sin, and eternal salvation.

Prayer:

O Lord, Jehovah, thou art the strength of all that put their trust in thee. Thou art boundless in wisdom, omnipotent in power, and infinite in goodness. Thou dost not withhold any good thing from him that walketh uprightly. Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on thee, because he trusteth in thee. He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water; that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither. Whatsoever he doth shall prosper; and the end of that man is peace.

Lord, if thou art my light and salvation, whom shall I fear? If thou art my strength, of whom shall I be afraid? Enable me, I pray thee, to trust in thee with all my heart; and keep me from leaning on my own understanding. May I cast all my cares upon thee, in perils, in wants, in losses, in griefs, in sickness, and in death. Cause me to hear thy voice, in every variety of tribulation, saying unto me, "What I do thou knowest not now, but thou shalt know hereafter." I would remember that oft when I said, "My foot slippeth," thy mercy, O Lord, held me up. In the day when I cried, thou didst answer and strengthen me. May the memory of thy past goodness, the possession of present joys, and the testimonies of thy promises persuade me, that though the mountains depart, and the hills be removed, thy kindness doth not depart from thee; neither is the covenant of thy peace removed.

Heavenly Father, give me confidence towards thee in the duty of prayer. May I come to thee as to a forgiving, a bountiful, a compassionate, a wise, and a powerful God—for thou only hast an eye of pardon, a hand of plenty, a heart of pity, a judgment of knowledge, and an arm of might. Assure me that whosoever cometh unto thee, thou wilt in no wise cast out. Help me to ask in faith, nothing wavering.

God of Israel, inspire thy people with unlimited and unwavering reliance on thy character, dealings, and purposes. May they learn that the word of the Lord endureth for ever. Let them not cast away their confidence, which hath great recompense of reward. As thou didst not withhold thine own Son, but didst deliver him up for them, O cause them to hope that, with him, thou wilt freely give them all things. Lord, let them never forget that thou makest all things work together for good to them that love thee. Although the fig-tree may not blossom, neither fruit be in the

vines; the labour of the olive fail, and the fields yield no meat; the flock be cut off from the fold, and there be no herd in the stalls—yet may they rejoice in the Lord, and joy in the God of their salvation. Thou canst make even the bed of death a couch of down; and the gloomy grave the cradle of immortality.

The Promise of God:

“The angel of the LORD encamps all around those who fear Him, and delivers them. The LORD *is* near to those who have a broken heart, and saves such as have a contrite spirit. Many *are* the afflictions of the righteous, but the LORD delivers him out of them all.”

Psalm 34:7, 18-19

February 4

Call to Worship: Psalm 35:9, 28

“And my soul shall be joyful in the LORD; it shall rejoice in His salvation....And my tongue shall speak of Your righteousness *and* of Your praise all the day long.”

Psalm 35

Scripture Reading:

Leviticus 13-15

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 35. *How is the covenant of grace administered under the New Testament?*

A. Under the New Testament, when Christ the substance was exhibited, the same covenant of grace was and still is to be administered in the preaching of the Word, and the administration of the sacraments of Baptism and the Lord’s Supper; in which grace and salvation are held forth in more fulness, evidence, and efficacy, to all nations.

Prayer:

Gracious Jehovah, assist me to understand, and love, and obey the gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. I would magnify the riches of thy mercy, which devised these glad tidings of great joy for all people. I would praise thee that thou didst send it in due time, in all its fulness of grace and truth, life and immortality. It was not because we deserved thy favour, or sought thy mercy; but because thou didst pity our lost condition, and didst enter into a covenant of grace, to bring us out of an estate of sin and misery, into an estate of salvation, by a Redeemer. Lord, I would praise thee that this word is offered without money and without price; and that whosoever will, may take of the waters of life freely. Thou hast made the plan of redemption commensurate with the wants and sins of our ruined race, and with the claims of thy holy and inflexible justice. I bless thy name that it has brought light for the benighted; joy for the mourner; liberty for the captive; rest for the heavy-laden; plenty for the destitute: pardon for the condemned; purity for the unholy; life for the dead; and the hope of salvation for the heirs of perdition!

Lord, help me to lay hold upon the hope set before me in the gospel. May I receive it as the only savour of life unto life. Let me not be ashamed of the gospel of Jesus Christ; but may I glory in it, as the power of God, unto salvation, to every one that believeth. May it teach me to deny ungodliness, and to live righteously in thy sight. Make it the instrument of building me up in saving knowledge, holy love, and willing obedience, to the praise of Jesus Christ.

O God, make the impenitent feel that they cannot escape thy wrath, if they neglect this great salvation. May it bring them, from being strangers and foreigners, to be fellow-citizens of the household of faith. May it turn their carnal minds from their enmity unto peace with God, and release them, being justified by faith, from that wrath of God which now abideth on them. Blessed Saviour, call them from darkness into marvellous light: free them from the bondage of sin, and cause them to stand fast in the liberty wherewith thou makest thy servants free. Lord, may the kingdom of thy gospel come, and thy will be done on earth as in heaven. Multiply the number of those who shall run to and fro, increasing knowledge. Make the reading, but especially the preaching of thy word, an effectual means of convincing and converting sinners.—

Strengthen the minds, and sanctify the wills, and increase the zeal of thy people. Send the rod of thy strength out of Zion, and make thy people willing in the day of thy power: and may converts be multiplied to them as drops of dew in the morning. O God, redeem thy promise, that at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow, and every tongue confess that he is Lord, to the praise of God, the Father.

The Promise of God:

“And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.”

Matthew 24:14

February 5

Call to Worship: Psalm 89:1

“I will sing of the mercies of the LORD forever; with my mouth will I make known Your faithfulness to all generations.”

Psalm 36

Scripture Reading:

Leviticus 16-18

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 36. *Who is the Mediator of the covenant of grace?*

A. The only Mediator of the covenant of grace is the Lord Jesus Christ, who, being the eternal Son of God, of one substance and equal with the Father, in the fulness of time became man, and so was and continues to be God and man, in two entire distinct natures, and one person, forever.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, I would praise and magnify thy name, that thou hast laid help upon One, who is mighty to save, unto the uttermost, all who come unto thee by him. Though the human race was at enmity with thee, and lay exposed to thy curse, thou didst, in infinite mercy, appoint an Interposer between thee and us, that we, who were alienated and enemies by wicked works, might be reconciled in the body of his flesh, through death. We thank thee that we are not called to that mountain which burned with fire, and was clouded with darkness and tempest; but to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to that blood of sprinkling, which speaketh better things than that of Abel. O, it was needful that he should be the Son of God; for no other sacrifice could satisfy the demands of infinite justice—and he must needs be the Son of man; since without the shedding of blood, there is no remission of sins. He who is our eternal Daysman, has infinite fitness for his high and holy office: for in him dwells the fulness of power, wisdom, and mercy!

Blessed Jesus, be thou the propitiation for my sins; and not for mine only, but also for the whole world. O thou who didst become the High-Priest of thine own sacrifice, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people, do thou blot out the handwriting of ordinances that was recorded against me, for my transgressions—procure for me, by thine intercession, the loving kindness of Jehovah—and bind all my affections to the throne of grace, by that new, and better, and everlasting covenant, which is the fruit of thy wisdom and mercy, and the work of thy power and grace, unto salvation.—Heavenly Father, make the words of my mouth, and the meditations of my heart, and the service of my life, acceptable to thee, through him who is my Strength and my Redeemer.

The Promise of God:

“For with You is the fountain of life; in Your light we see light.”

Psalm 36:9

February 6

Call to Worship: Psalm 91:2

“I will say of the LORD, ‘*He is my refuge and my fortress; my God, in Him I will trust.*’”

Psalm 37

Scripture Reading:

Leviticus 19-21

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 37. *How did Christ, being the Son of God, become man?*

A. Christ the Son of God became man, by taking to himself a true body, and a reasonable soul, being conceived by the power of the Holy Ghost in the womb of the virgin Mary, of her substance, and born of her, yet without sin.

Prayer:

Great Fountain of Blessing, I thank thee that thou hast strengthened the faith, and established the hopes, of thy chosen people, throughout all generations, by many precious promises. Even in that day when our first parents forfeited, by iniquity, their birthright to Paradise, thou didst give the pledge of thy truth, that the seed of the woman should bruise the serpent's head, and thus recover our race from the ruins of the apostasy. And ever since, in all thy revelations to men, thou hast been pleased to declare, abundantly, thy rich purposes of mercy. They are scattered over every page of thy word; they are suited to every variety of Christian experience and trial; and they are so plain, that he who runs may read. The history of thy heritage, in all ages, has borne witness that they are steadfast and true; for they are established on the faithfulness of the God of Truth. Lord, I desire to magnify and extol thee for those assurances of comfort in this life, and of bliss in that to come, which gather in countless profusion around the cross of Christ. Blessed be thy name, thy promises are Yea and Amen in him, unto the glory of God.

O that they might be embalmed in my memory, and be cherished in my confidence; for they are more precious than rubies, and more enduring than the foundations of the earth. Make them, I beseech thee, the means of dispelling my sorrows, of scattering my doubts, and of exciting my zeal. May I regard them with overflowing gratitude to thee, as the pledges of thine eternal truth and goodness; as the beacons which thou hast set to light up the gloomy pathways of life, and to throw over the pillow of death, the dawning beams of an unclouded immortality.

O God, fulfil speedily thy promises to the Daughter of Zion. Let not her ways mourn, nor her gates be desolate, nor her priests sigh, nor her people be in bitterness. Put off her sackcloth, and gird her with gladness. Give her the garments of praise for the spirit of heaviness. Cause her righteousness to go forth as brightness, and her salvation as a lamp that burneth. O create her a rejoicing, and thy people a joy, throughout the whole earth.

The Promise of God:

“Trust in the LORD and do good; dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness. Delight yourself also in the LORD, and He shall give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the LORD, trust also in Him, and He shall bring it to pass. The LORD knows the days of the upright, and their inheritance shall be forever.”

Psalm 37:3-5, 18

February 7

Call to Worship: Psalm 92:1-2

“It is good to give thanks to the LORD, and to sing praises to Your name, O Most High; to declare Your lovingkindness in the morning, and Your faithfulness every night....”

Psalm 38

Scripture Reading:

Leviticus 22-24

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 38. *Why was it requisite that the Mediator should be God?*

A. It was requisite that the Mediator should be God, that he might sustain and keep the human nature from sinking under the infinite wrath of God, and the power of death; give worth and efficacy to his sufferings, obedience, and intercession; and to satisfy God’s justice, procure his favor, purchase a peculiar people, give his Spirit to them, conquer all their enemies, and bring them to everlasting salvation.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, grant me repentance unto life, through the merits of the Saviour. Give me, I beseech thee, a true sense of my sin. It is against thee, O Lord, I have sinned. I have broken thy holy, wise, and benevolent law, ways and times beyond number. I have sinned against the teachings of thy word, against the testimonies of conscience, against the drawings of thy love, and against the strivings of thy Spirit. My transgressions may have led others into the paths of evil, and thus have been instrumental in loading their souls with guilt. Mine iniquities have cast reproach on thy cause in the world; and they have shut out the precious light of thy countenance from my soul. O God, make me feel how hateful my sin is in thy sight, and that the perfections of thy nature are pledged for its punishment. O thou hast spread wide and deep, the lake of unquenchable fire—thou hast built, with everlasting strength, the prison-walls of hell—where the unrepenting sinner will dwell in torment forever.

Lord, I implore thee to give me deep convictions of the atrocious guilt and soul-destroying danger of sin. Grant me feelings of strong abhorrence towards it. Incline me to mourn, with bitterness of heart, over my transgressions. Imbue me with courage, to resolve to forsake them, and with strength, to turn from them unto thee, with earnest endeavours after new obedience. Teach me, that he who turns not away from every sin, turns not aright from any sin. O let not mine be the sorrow of the world, that worketh death; but a godly sorrow, that worketh repentance to salvation, not to be repented of. Bring me to thee, crying, "Lord, save me, or I perish." And say to me in thy mercy, "Son, be of good cheer; thy sins be forgiven thee."

O God, kindle a fire in the consciences of the impenitent, that shall cleanse them from the love of sin, and purify them unto thee, in holiness of heart and life. Convince them of the evil nature, and fearful consequences of their iniquity. Show them that thou art waiting to be gracious, and that thou hast no pleasure in the death of them that die, but that they turn and live. Turn them from the error of their ways, and lead them into the path of the just. Induce them to forsake their sins, and to bring forth fruits meet for repentance. Incline them to obey thy will from the heart,

not that they may seek, by the deeds of the law, to be justified in thy sight; but that he who was delivered for their offences, may be made their justification and complete salvation.

The Promise of God:

“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

1 John 1:9

February 8

Call to Worship: Psalm 93:1ab, 2, 5b

“The LORD reigns, He is clothed with majesty; the LORD is clothed, He has girded Himself with strength....Your throne *is* established from of old; You *are* from everlasting,...holiness adorns Your house, O LORD, forever.”

Psalm 39

Scripture Reading:

Leviticus 25-27

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 39. *Why was it requisite that the Mediator should be man?*

A. It was requisite that the Mediator should be man, that he might advance our nature, perform obedience to the law, suffer and make intercession for us in our nature, have a fellow-feeling of our infirmities; that we might receive the adoption of sons, and have comfort and access with boldness unto the throne of grace.

Prayer:

O thou that hearest and answerest prayer, grant me, for Christ's sake, that contrite heart, which in thy sight is of great price. Show me my guilt, as committed against thee, my Maker, Governor, and Benefactor. Lead me to abhor myself, and to repent in dust and ashes. May I look on him whom I have pierced, and mourn, and be in bitterness. Give me a deep consciousness that I deserve the curse of that law which I have violated. Lord, I would acknowledge my transgressions: O may my sins be ever before me.

I thank thee for thy promise, that thou wilt dwell with him that is of an humble and contrite heart. Thou desirest not sacrifice; else would I give it. Thou delightest not in burnt offerings. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise. Prepare my heart for thine abode. According unto the multitude of thy tender mercies, blot out all my transgressions. Create within me a clean heart, and renew a right spirit within me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation, and uphold me by thy free Spirit; then will I teach transgressors thy ways, and sinners shall be converted unto thee.

The Promise of God:

“Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse *your* hands, *you* sinners; and purify *your* hearts, *you* double-minded. Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and *your* joy to gloom. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.”

James 4:8-10

February 9

Call to Worship: Psalm 96:4a, 6

“For the LORD *is* great and greatly to be praised....Honor and majesty *are* before Him; strength and beauty *are* in His sanctuary.”

Psalm 40

Scripture Reading:

Numbers 1-3

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 40. *Why was it requisite that the Mediator should be God and man in one person?*

A. It was requisite that the Mediator, who was to reconcile God and man, should himself be both God and man, and this in one person, that the proper works of each nature might be accepted of God for us, and relied on by us, as the works of the whole person.

Prayer:

Lord, thou art good, and thou lovest to do good. The eyes of all are unto thee, and thou givest them their meat in due season: thou openest thy hand, and satisfiest the desires of every living thing. Thy tender mercies are over all thy works, and thy goodness is seen in all thy ways. But thou hast most commended thy love to us, in that while we were sinners, Christ died for us. Here it is beyond parallel; it transcends the strongest effort of thought; and it is above blessing and praise. This is the bright and glorious centre of thy good-will to man, around which every other token of thy mercy gathers.

I would praise thee, Lord, for the common and special benefits of thy providence, and for that wise arrangement of the laws of nature, which promotes the happiness and well-being of thy creatures: yet I would offer thee louder strains of praise, and stronger feelings of gratitude, for thy compassion to our souls, in revealing thy will, in teaching us the issues of eternity, in giving thy Son to bear our iniquities, and in bestowing thy Spirit, to convince us of sin, to enlighten our minds in the knowledge of truth, and to persuade us to accept the plan of salvation.—Forbid it, O God, that I should ever forget or undervalue thy favours which are past; or that I should doubt thy suretyship of compassion for the future. Continue to manifest thyself unto me, as thou dost not unto the world. Enrich thou my soul with the fulness of thy love now, henceforth, and forever.

O Lord, why should there be any so carnally minded, as to be enmity against thee, the God of love? Show them thy rich goodness, and their own dark ingratitude. Make them feel that this world has no charms, when compared with that full tide of affection, which flows from the heart of God towards them that put their trust in him. O make many such the partners of thy loving-kindness in Jesus, which is unto eternal life.

The Promise of God:

“The steps of a *good* man are ordered by the LORD, and He delights in his way. Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down; for the LORD upholds *him with His hand.*”

Psalm 37:23-24

February 10

Call to Worship: Psalm 98:1-2

“Oh, sing to the LORD a new song! For He has done marvelous things; His right hand and His holy arm have gained Him the victory. The LORD has made known His salvation; His righteousness He has revealed in the sight of the nations.”

Psalm 41

Scripture Reading:

Numbers 4-6

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 41. *Why was our Mediator called Jesus?*

A. Our Mediator was called Jesus, because he saveth his people from their sins.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, grant me just and full views of the plan of salvation by a Redeemer. Give me, I pray thee, an understanding to know, and a heart to feel, what thou hast done for the redemption of sinners.—In the counsels of eternity, thou didst foresee that estate of sin and misery into which mankind should be brought by the fall; and thou didst not leave them to perish in it; for in thy wisdom and mercy, thou didst devise a scheme, by which they might be delivered from it, and be brought into an estate of salvation, through the atoning blood of thy Son. Thou didst send him, in the fulness of time, to save that which was lost—to ransom those who were under the curse of the law—to redeem them who were subject to the world, the flesh, and the devil; and over whom were hanging the terrors of the second death. And, O, that redemption which he brought, not only saves from these fearful evils, but exalts those who were by nature and practice the heirs of wo, to be the objects of God's favour in this life, and the joint heirs of Christ's inheritance in the world to come!

O Lord, give me an ever-present conviction that this salvation is not by human wisdom or power; for it was thy mercy that procured it, and it is thy Spirit that induces and enables me to accept it. Direct all my hopes to the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world; and assist me to realize that there is no other name given under heaven, among men, whereby sinners can be saved. Enable me, I beseech thee, to believe in him with my heart unto righteousness, and to make confession of him with my mouth unto salvation. Teach me that it is by grace we are saved: for thou wouldst not defile the excellency and glory of thy plan, by making our deliverance the fruit of our works of righteousness, which are indeed, of themselves, as filthy rags. Thou wilt suffer none to glory in redemption, but through the cross of Jesus Christ. Lead me, I pray thee, in that highway of holiness, thy sacred word; which thou hast given us, that the man of God may be perfect, and thoroughly furnished unto all good works. Seal me by thy Spirit of promise; and if thou hast begun a good work in me, perform it unto the day of Christ.

O Most High, if the righteous be scarcely saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear? For thy great name's sake, show the power and fitness of thy salvation on the wicked. Arouse them from their false and guilty peace, by some bereavement of their comforts, or some disaster of life; by the startling terrors of thy law, or by the clear shining of thy love. Make them

feel that the redemption of the soul is precious, and that it ceaseth forever. Persuade them to flee for refuge to a crucified Saviour. Take them from the horrible pit and the miry clay; and set their feet upon the Rock of safety and blessedness; and put a new song into their mouths, even of praise to him, who so loved the world, as to give himself for it, that he might redeem unto himself a peculiar people, who should serve him in newness of life, and enjoy with him the blessings of an everlasting salvation.

The Promise of God:

“And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins.”

Matthew 1:21

February 11

Call to Worship: Psalm 42:1-2a

“As the deer pants for the water brooks, so pants my soul for You, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God....”

Psalm 42

Scripture Reading:

Numbers 7-9

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 42. *Why was our Mediator called Christ?*

A. Our Mediator was called Christ, because he was anointed with the Holy Ghost above measure; and so set apart, and fully furnished with all authority and ability, to execute the offices of prophet, priest, and king of his church, in the estate both of his humiliation and exaltation.

Prayer:

O thou that hearest prayer, grant that I may hold communion of spirit with thee, the Father of Spirits. As the hart panteth after the water-brooks, so may my soul pant after thee: and as the parched land drinketh in the rain of heaven, so let my soul receive the gifts of thy presence. Dispose me to be faithful and to delight in the observance of stated seasons of private devotion, and in the frequent exercises of occasional prayer. May I love to seek thee in the tabernacles of the righteous. Let my thoughts and desires hold intercourse with thee in thy word, and in thy works, and in thy ways. Let my walk be close with thee; and do thou fix my affections on thee, as the highest and noblest object of love. Teach me thy will, that I may acquaint myself with thee, and be at peace.

Lord, lift up the light of thy countenance upon me. Draw near to me in all my attempts to approach thee; and manifest thyself unto me as thou dost not unto the world. Sprinkle reconciling blood on the altar where I meet thee. Kindle with heavenly fire the incense I bring thee, and let it rise up as a sweet-smelling savour before thee. Make thine abode with me; and let my heart be a temple of the Holy Ghost. Give me that Spirit of adoption by which I may cry, "Abba, Father." May I be persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate me from thy love, which is in Christ Jesus. Give me such a sense of pardoned sin, as shall fill me with holy joys, and strong purposes of new obedience to thy will. Grant me, in these seasons of sweet converse with thee, those blessings which are spiritual in their nature, satisfying in their possession, and eternal in their continuance. Cause me, in the enjoyment of them, to commiserate the destitution of those who are without God in the world, and the woe of them who are shut out from thy presence forever. O let me cling closer to this precious privilege, and be pervaded with deeper pity, and animated with stronger zeal, for those who know not the delights of thy communion.

Lord, vouchsafe that my fellowship with thee may be sought only through him who is the way, the truth, and the life; for no man cometh unto the Father but by him. Let the communion of thy Holy Spirit rest upon me, and abide within me, now, henceforth and forever.

The Promise of God:

“Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father’s house are many mansions; if *it were* not *so*, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, *there* you may be also.”

John 14:1-3

February 12

Call to Worship: Psalm 43:3-4

“Oh, send out Your light and Your truth! Let them lead me; let them bring me to Your holy hill and to Your tabernacle. Then I will go to the altar of God, to God my exceeding joy; and on the harp I will praise You, O God, my God.”

Psalm 43

Scripture Reading:

Numbers 10-12

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 43. *How doth Christ execute the office of a prophet?*

A. Christ executeth the office of a prophet, in his revealing to the church, in all ages, by His Spirit and Word, in divers ways of administration, the whole will of God, in all things concerning their edification and salvation.

Prayer:

Lord, assist me to receive Christ as my Teacher. May he reveal to me, by his word and Spirit, the will of God for my salvation. May I learn of him, who spake as never man spake, and who taught as one having authority. Let me remember that if I hearken not to his words, thou wilt require it of me: for if they escaped not, who refused him that spake on earth, much more shall not I escape, if I turn from him that speaketh from heaven. O put his law into my mind, and write it in my heart. Let its entrance give light and love, zeal and purity to my soul. Lord, let it not be a savour of death unto death, but of life unto life.

The Promise of God:

“It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.”

John 6:63

February 13

Call to Worship: Psalm 103:1

“Bless the LORD, O my soul; and all that is within me, *bless* His holy name!”

Psalm 44

Scripture Reading:

Numbers 13-15

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 44. *How doth Christ execute the office of a priest?*

A. Christ executeth the office of a priest, in his once offering himself a sacrifice without spot to God, to be a reconciliation for the sins of his people; and in making continual intercession for them.

Prayer:

Help me, I pray thee, to receive Jesus as the High-Priest of my profession. May I look on him as offering up himself a sacrifice, to satisfy divine justice, and reconcile us to God; and as ever living to make intercession for his chosen people. He who was the brightness of the Father's glory, and who thought it not robbery to be equal with God, took upon himself the form of a servant, that he might put away sin, by the sacrifice of himself, in his own body, on the tree. Yea, it pleased thee to bruise him, to put him to grief, to make his soul an offering for sin, that he might justify many, and that the pleasure of the Lord might prosper in his hand. In due time, when we were without strength, Christ died for the ungodly; taking away the handwriting of ordinances that was against us; suffering the just for the unjust; that he might bring us to God.—Lord, I would praise thee that by him we have received the atonement. Thou hast set him forth to be a propitiation, through faith in his blood, for the remission of sins. He has given his life a ransom for many. He who knew no sin, was made sin for us, that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

O Lord, convince me that forgiveness is granted only for his sake: there being no other name given among men whereby they can be saved. Teach me that his costly sacrifice was not needed to make thee willing to be reconciled to us; for it was the fruit of thy love: but because thou wouldst maintain thy justice, and still be the justifier of him that believeth in Jesus, and his deliverer from the wrath to come. Heavenly Father, show me by this office of Christ's mission, the lost condition of human nature, and the wonders of thy justice and love. May it be the most cherished object of my contemplation, and fill my spirit with adoration and thanksgiving, love and obedience. May I thus judge, that if Christ has died for me, I should henceforth live, not unto myself, but unto him; and that both living and dying I should be the Lord's.

The Promise of God:

“But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God, from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool. For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.”

Hebrews 10:12-14

February 14

Call to Worship: Psalm 9:1-2

“I will praise *You*, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will tell of all Your marvelous works. I will be glad and rejoice in You; I will sing praise to Your name, O Most High.”

Psalm 23

Scripture Reading:

Numbers 16-18

Confession of Faith: The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty. From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayer:

Lord, I pray thee, for Christ's sake, to make my heart a wellspring of affection for all mankind. Let no jealousy, nor selfishness, nor anger, nor malice, lead me to forget that every man is my brother. Thou makest thy sun to rise on the evil, and on the good; and sendest rain on the just, and on the unjust. Why then should I shut up my compassions from any that are my fellow-creatures? O help me to feel for every want, and to sympathize with every wo, that afflicts humanity. And, I pray thee, dispose me, in benevolence of heart, to do what I can, to dry up the fountains of human misery, and to multiply the sources of man's real happiness.

Lord, incline me to love the souls of men. May I have strong pity for those who are thoughtlessly or wilfully destroying their eternal peace; and may I seek to bring them under the influences of the blessed gospel. Grant me that spirit which seeketh not her own, and is not easily provoked, and that rejoiceth in the truth. Cause me to abound in good-will to the brotherhood of faith, and to be kindly affectioned towards them in brotherly love. May I seek their company, and be glad in their prosperity, and make common cause with them in all their interests. Lord, give me, I pray thee, the love of benevolence towards every thing that is capable of happiness or misery, and the affection of complacency towards every creature possessed of holiness.

The Promise of God:

“For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels, nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Romans 8:38-39

February 15

Call to Worship: Psalm 104:1,33-34

“Bless the LORD, O my soul! O LORD my God, You are very great; You are clothed with honor and majesty....I will sing to the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have my being. May my meditation be sweet to Him; I will be glad in the LORD.”

Psalm 45

Scripture Reading:

Numbers 19-21

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 45. *How doth Christ execute the office of a king?*

A. Christ executeth the office of a king, in calling out of the world a people to himself, and giving them officers, laws, and censures, by which he visibly governs them; in bestowing saving grace upon his elect, rewarding their obedience, and correcting them for their sins, preserving and supporting them under all their temptations and sufferings, restraining and overcoming all their enemies, and powerfully ordering all things for his own glory, and their good; and also in taking vengeance on the rest, who know not God, and obey not the gospel.

Prayer:

Great God, I pray thee, make me willing to receive Christ not only as my Saviour, but as my Sovereign, to subdue me to himself, to rule and defend me, and to restrain and conquer all his and my enemies. O may I regard his service greater riches than the treasures of Egypt. Thou hast set him at thy right hand, that at his name every knee should bow, and every tongue confess; and hast given unto him the keys of death and hell, with all power in heaven and earth. His throne is forever and ever. Thou wilt break them with a rod of iron, who will not have thy Son to reign over them, and wilt dash them in pieces, as a potter's vessel. Thou wilt make him Governor among the nations, and give him the heathen for his inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for a possession. O hasten that day.—Lord, lead my thoughts often to that consummation of Christ's sovereignty, when he shall come in his glory, to judge the quick and the dead. O may he then be my Saviour King, and I be a redeemed vassal of his everlasting kingdom.

The Promise of God:

“Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

Philippians 2:9-11

February 16

Call to Worship: Psalm 105:1-5

“Oh, give thanks to the LORD! Call upon His name; make known His deeds among the peoples! Sing to Him, sing psalms to Him; talk of all His wondrous works! Glory in His holy name; let the hearts of those rejoice who seek the LORD! Seek the LORD and His strength; seek His face evermore! Remember His marvelous works which He has done, His wonders, and the judgments of His mouth....”

Psalm 46

Scripture Reading:

Numbers 22-24

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 46. *What was the estate of Christ's humiliation?*

A. The estate of Christ's humiliation was that low condition, wherein he for our sakes, emptying himself of his glory, took upon him the form of a servant, in his conception and birth, life, death, and after his death, until his resurrection.

Prayer:

Sovereign of the Universe, the heaven of heavens cannot contain thy fulness. Thou art the infinite source of blessedness. Giving doth not impoverish thee, neither doth withholding make thee rich. It is in thee that my weakness is made strength, and the iniquities of my heart removed. O Lord, let a full persuasion of thy boundless sufficiency fill my heart, that I may forsake the broken cisterns of human happiness, and go to the fountain of living waters. All that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine. Be thou more precious to me than music to the ear, or light to the eye, or fragrance to the smell, or sweetness to the taste, or friendship to the heart. Make thy love my continual feast. May I commit all my wants and trials to thee; may I be encouraged in the midst of danger and distress; be persuaded that infinite wisdom and goodness govern all thy dealings; and be led to persevere in faith and prayer, until the vision of hope be exchanged for thine open presence, where there is fulness of joy and pleasures for evermore!

The Promise of God:

“God *is* our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.”

Psalm 46:1

February 17

Call to Worship: Psalm 106:1

“Praise the LORD! Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for *He is good!* For His mercy *endures forever!*”

Psalm 47

Scripture Reading:

Numbers 25-27

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 47. *How did Christ humble himself in his conception and birth?*

A. Christ humbled himself in his conception and birth, in that, being from all eternity the Son of God, in the bosom of the Father, he was pleased in the fulness of time to become the son of man, made of a woman of low estate, and to be born of her; with divers circumstances of more than ordinary abasement.

Prayer:

Blessed God, I thank thee for the rich and various blessings of thy gospel which I am permitted to enjoy. Give me, I pray thee, for the merits of Jesus Christ, such a sense of these mercies, that my gratitude to thee shall constantly urge me to strive to extend them to the benighted nations of the earth. Make my heart a fountain of compassion for the wants and woes of the heathen; and lead my feelings into such actions as shall make me an instrument of giving them the blessings of salvation. Show me that where there is no vision the people perish, and that they only who call on the name of the Lord shall be saved. But how shall they call on him in whom they have not believed; and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher; and how shall any preach except they be sent? Make my conscience and heart feel the command thou hast given thy people, to preach the gospel to every creature. O Lord, lead me to obey it according to the dictates of thy Spirit, and the openings of thy providence. Grant that I may regard it as an incumbent duty and a blessed privilege, to contribute of my substance, my labours, and my prayers, for the conversion of the world.

Lord, I would praise thee for what thou hast inclined thy chosen generation to do, in these days, for the heathen world. O strengthen and bless all their efforts which are founded on obedience and love; and do thou lead them to plan and execute every measure which will secure thy favour. Impart to all thy churches a holy and fervent missionary spirit; and cheer them by frequent tidings, that thou art granting to the Gentiles, repentance unto life. Grant that every attempt which is made to spread thy gospel abroad, may result in the revival of pure religion at home.—Be pleased, O Jehovah, to raise up and qualify many, who shall go forth to the benighted, to preach the everlasting gospel. Make them men of clean hands, holy hearts, and self-denying labour.—Lord, dispense thy choicest and fullest mercies on those who are now labouring among the heathen. Animate them with zeal, courage, prayer, and hope. Be thou a glory in the midst of them, and a defence around about them. Give efficacy to their plans of education, especially among the rising generation. Grant them access to the affections,

judgments, and consciences of those whom they instruct in temporal and spiritual knowledge; and give them the pleasure of seeing thy work prospering in their hands.

I bless thee for the success which has already crowned the work of thy servants. O let this wave-offering be the pledge of the future harvest. Though it be but as a handful of corn in the earth, upon the top of the mountains; do thou cause the fruit thereof to shake like Lebanon! Bless, I pray thee, those nations who have recently received the gospel. Be not as a stranger in their land, and as a wayfaring man, that turneth aside to tarry only for a night. Bear rule over them: call them by thy name; and let not thy cause suffer reproach among the heathen.

Lord, look in mercy on all who are the objects of the missionary enterprise. Stay their hands from cruelty to those who are sent to them with the gospel message. Break down every barrier of law, of prejudice, and of enmity; and cause the heathen to receive the missionary with kindness and gladness of heart. Incline their ears and open their hearts to receive that truth which is able to make them wise unto salvation: and grant that Christ may speedily have the heathen for his inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for his possession.

The Promise of God:

“After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, saying, ‘Salvation *belongs* to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!’”

Revelation 7:9-10

February 18

Call to Worship: Psalm 107:1

“Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for *He is* good! For His mercy *endures* forever.”

Psalm 48

Scripture Reading:

Numbers 28-30

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 48. *How did Christ humble himself in his life?*

A. Christ humbled himself in his life, by subjecting himself to the law, which he perfectly fulfilled; and by conflicting with the indignities of the world, temptations of Satan, and infirmities in his flesh, whether common to the nature of man, or particularly accompanying that his low condition.

Prayer:

Jehovah God, incline me to make Jesus my example in all the duties of life. May the same mind that was in him, be also in me. Lead me to walk even as he walked; for he that followeth not after him is not worthy of him. May I look unto him as my pattern of patience and humility, prayer and faith, long-suffering and benevolence. May I strive to purify myself even as Christ is pure; and beholding, as in a glass, his glory, be changed into the same image, from glory to glory, as by the Spirit of the Lord.

The Promise of God:

“Therefore, in all things He had to be made like *His* brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things *pertaining* to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.”

Hebrews 2:17-18

February 19

Call to Worship: Psalm 108:1-5

“O God, my heart is steadfast; I will sing and give praise, even with my lute and harp! I will awaken the dawn. I will praise You, O LORD, among the peoples, and I will sing praises to You among the nations. For Your mercy *is* great above the heavens, and Your truth *reaches* to the clouds. Be exalted, O God, above the heavens, and Your glory above all the earth....”

Psalm 49

Scripture Reading:

Numbers 31-33

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 49. *How did Christ humble himself in his death?*

A. Christ humbled himself in his death, in that having been betrayed by Judas, forsaken by his disciples, scorned and rejected by the world, condemned by Pilate, and tormented by his persecutors; having also conflicted with the terrors of death, and the powers of darkness, felt and borne the weight of God’s wrath, he laid down his life an offering for sin, enduring the painful, shameful, and cursed death of the cross.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, give me such views of thine infinite excellence, and of my unworthiness, as shall humble me in the dust before thee. Thou art the infinite, eternal, and unchangeable Jehovah; and all thine attributes and works are excellent and glorious. But as for us, we dwell on the footstool of thy dominion, and live every moment at the expense of thy goodness. We are ignorant; not knowing what a day may bring forth. We are helpless; not being able to make one hair white or black. We are by nature the children of wrath; and even in our best estate, when thy Spirit has wrought upon our hearts, it becomes us to say, "God be merciful to us, sinners." Lord, what is man, that thou art mindful of him; or the son of man, that thou visitest him?

Lord, I would remember that he who was the brightness of his Father's glory, abased himself, and led a life of trial and reproach, and suffered a death of cruelty and shame. O God, make me a follower of him who was thus meek and lowly. Lo, the angels of heaven veil their faces before thee, in expressive token of inferiority and unworthiness. How much more should I humble myself in thy holy presence. Thanks be to thy name, this which is my duty, is also my privilege. Thou hast given thy promise to humility; saying, that he who humbleth himself shall be exalted. Thou hast been pleased to put matchless and unspeakable honour on it, by making the contrite heart thy dwelling place. O may this grace control my life. May it dwell in my heart, teaching me my proper character. May it pervade my walk, leading me to meekness of speech and action, and controlling my spirit, both in prosperity and in adversity. May it fit me for doing thy holy will in all things.

Lord, clothe all thy followers with humility. Make them feel their infinite disparity with thee. May they, in lowliness of mind, esteem others better than themselves. Let them not be high-minded, but fear: and while they think they stand, may they take heed lest they fall. May they

look back to the hole of the pit whence they were digged. Teach them that thou hatest the pride of man; and that thou wilt give the kingdom of heaven to those only who are poor in spirit.

The Promise of God:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

Matthew 5:3

February 20

Call to Worship: Psalm 111:3-5

“The works of the LORD *are* great, studied by all who have pleasure in them. His work *is* honorable and glorious, and His righteousness endures forever. He has made His wonderful works to be remembered; the LORD *is* gracious and full of compassion, He has given food to those who fear Him; He will ever be mindful of His covenant.”

Psalm 50

Scripture Reading:

Numbers 34-36

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 50. *Wherein consisted Christ's humiliation after his death?*

A. Christ's humiliation after his death consisted in his being buried, and continuing in the state of the dead, and under the power of death till the third day; which hath been otherwise expressed in these words, *He descended into hell.*

Prayer:

Great God, teach me that I am dust, and must return to dust. May I often and habitually look forward to the grave, that narrow house appointed for all the living. Lead me to regard it as the monument of human guilt; for if there had been no sin, there had been no grave; the wages of sin is death. O may every mound that marks the last dwelling place of a human being, be a witness that sin has entered into the world, and death by sin. May I learn from it, the vanity of earthly good—we bring nothing into the world, and we can carry nothing out—we must say to corruption, "Thou art my father;" and to the worm, "Thou art my mother and my sister." Lord, this wide world is one vast burial-place; and we plant our feet daily on some spot that has been the charnel-house of mortality. Alas, death dwells everywhere, but in the giddy thoughts of men!

But I thank thee, O Lord, that amid all its gloom, the grave has its consolations. Jesus, our Saviour, has been there, and has sanctified the tomb as the resting place of his people's dust. There the weary are at rest. Though the body shall turn to dust, the spirit will return to God who gave it: and while thy saints are absent from the body, they are present with the Lord. Nor shall our sleep be eternal: the earth shall cast out her dead—this mortal shall put on immortality, and that which was sown in dishonour, shall be raised in glory.—Lord, grant that when the dead shall come forth at thy voice, mine may be the resurrection of life; that so I may be openly acknowledged and acquitted in the day of judgment, and be made perfectly blessed in the full enjoyment of God to all eternity.

Heavenly Father, grant, for Christ's sake, that every tomb may be a convincing and persuading preacher to the impenitent. May they learn and act upon the truth, that it is appointed unto all men once to die. Behold thou hast made their days as a hand-breadth, and their age is as nothing before thee. Show them that after death cometh the judgment, when they who have done evil, shall come forth to the resurrection of damnation. O may many now lay to heart the things that belong to their eternal peace: and then, when Christ shall appear, they also shall appear with him, who is the resurrection and the life, blessed forever.

The Promise of God:

“And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, ‘Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last. I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death.’”

Revelation 1:17-18

February 21

Call to Worship: Psalm 113:2-3

“Blessed be the name of the LORD from this time forth and forevermore! From the rising of the sun to its going down the LORD’s name *is* to be praised.”

Psalm 51

Scripture Reading:

Deuteronomy 1-3

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 51. *What was the estate of Christ’s exaltation?*

A. The estate of Christ’s exaltation comprehendeth his resurrection, ascension, sitting at the right hand of the Father, and his coming again to judge the world.

Prayer:

Great God, I have sinned against thee, times and ways beyond number. If thou shouldst lay righteousness to the line, and judgment to the plummet, I should be driven from thy presence. Yea, if thou shouldst deal with me for one of a thousand of my transgressions, I could not appear before thee. Yet I praise thee that there is forgiveness with thee, and that thou blottest out the transgressions of thy people. O give me the blessedness of him to whom thou imputest no iniquity; whose sins, though they be as scarlet, shall be as white as snow; and though they be red like crimson, shall be as wool.

Lord, teach me the nature and condition of that pardon which thou art willing and ready to bestow on thy sinful creatures. O, it is sufficient to stay the wrath of thy condemnation, and to take away forever, the sentence which was written against us. Yet it is not procured by our own works of righteousness; but we have this redemption through the blood of Christ, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace. Grant me, I beseech thee, such a conviction of sin, and such a reliance on the atonement of Jesus, as will make it consistent with thy love of justice, and with the security of thy moral government, to remember my transgressions no more against me. Keep me from every effort to bring thee a price in my hand, for this precious boon. O may I seek it as the gift of thy mercy, purchased by the death of thy Son, and made effectual by the application of the Holy Ghost.

Merciful God, grant me the fruits of thy forgiving love, in peace of conscience, a sense of thy favour, a tender penitence for sin, a feeling of deep and lasting gratitude, and a holy, humble, and confiding access to thy throne of grace.

Lord, lead multitudes of the impenitent to seek thy forgiving mercy. May they learn the infinite value of that sacrifice by which it was procured, and the tender solicitude and strivings of thy Spirit, that they should embrace it. Show them from what guilt and punishment it redeems, and to what purity and happiness it leads. Enter not now into judgment with them, for in thy sight shall no man living be justified. O do thou excite many to call on thee whilst thou art waiting to be gracious; and do thou make peace with them through the blood of the cross, and present them

holy and unblameable in thy sight. Blot out their iniquities from the book of thy remembrance, and write their names in the Lamb's book of life.

The Promise of God:

“The sacrifices of God *are* a broken spirit, a broken and a contrite heart – these, O God, You will not despise.”

Psalm 51:17

February 22

Call to Worship: Psalm 118:1,14, 28

“Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for *He is* good! For His mercy endures forever....The LORD *is* my strength and song, and He has become my salvation....You *are* my God, and I will praise You; *You are* my God, I will exalt You.”

Psalm 52

Scripture Reading:

Deuteronomy 4-6

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 52. *How was Christ exalted in His resurrection?*

A. Christ was exalted in his resurrection, in that, not having seen corruption in death (of which it was not possible for him to be held), and having the very same body in which he suffered, with the essential properties thereof (but without mortality, and other common infirmities belonging to this life), really united to his soul, he rose again from the dead the third day by his own power; whereby he declared himself to be the Son of God, to have satisfied divine justice, to have vanquished death, and him that had the power of it, and to be Lord of quick and dead: all which he did as a public person, the head of his church, for their justification, quickening in grace, support against enemies, and to assure them of their resurrection from the dead at the last day.

Prayer:

God of the living, thou hast revealed the doctrine that thou wilt raise these mortal frames, at the day of judgment, from their long decay of death, and make them joint-heirs with our spirits in the retributions of eternity. All that are in the graves shall hear thy voice, and shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.

Lord, I thank thee that our Blessed Saviour became the first-fruits of them that slept; thus setting the seal of heaven to the truth of his gospel, and to the hope of our resurrection. If Christ be not risen, then is our faith vain. But, thanks be to thy name, he has the keys of death, and could not be holden of it: and as we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus, will God bring with him. O may I rejoice in the hope, that though after my skin, worms destroy my body, yet in my flesh, I shall see God, and be forever with the Lord. O grant that when the earth shall cast forth her dead, this corruptible may put on incorruption, and this mortality put on immortality, and be fashioned like unto Christ's glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able to subdue all things to himself.

The Promise of God:

“This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day. And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day.”

John 6:39-40

February 23

Call to Worship: Psalm 136:1-4, 26

“Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for *He* is good! For His mercy *endures* forever. Oh, give thanks to the God of gods! For His mercy *endures* forever. Oh, give thanks to the Lord of lords! For His mercy *endures* forever: to Him who alone does great wonders, for His mercy *endures* forever....Oh, give thanks to the God of heaven! For His mercy *endures* forever.”

Psalm 53

Scripture Reading:

Deuteronomy 7-9

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 53. *How was Christ exalted in his ascension?*

A. Christ was exalted in his ascension, in that having after his resurrection often appeared unto and conversed with his apostles, speaking to them of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God, and giving them commission to preach the gospel to all nations, forty days after his resurrection, he, in our nature, and as our head, triumphing over enemies, visibly went up into the highest heavens, there to receive gifts for men, to raise up our affections thither, and to prepare a place for us, where himself is, and shall continue till his second coming at the end of the world.

Prayer:

God of Light, destroy those various forms of infidelity which exalt themselves against God and truth; and which are gathering snares and destruction upon multitudes of immortal souls. Teach all men that these delusions are the offspring of human depravity and ignorance, and the fruitful sources of misery, vice, and ruin. They who cherish them love darkness rather than light, because their deeds are evil; and they choose the fruits of death, rather than come to thee, and obtain life. They walk in the vanity of their minds, having their understandings darkened, being alienated from the life of God, through the ignorance that is in them; because of the blindness of their hearts. Religion would not suffer their enmity, if it were not the foe of sin: nor would the world hate thee, if thou didst not testify of it, that the works thereof are evil.

Yet, O Lord, have not the dissensions and sins of those who profess thy name, greatly contributed to increase the scepticism of the unbelieving heart? O how has the cause of Christ been wounded in the house of his friends! Take away, I beseech thee, every root of bitterness from thy church; and cause thy people so to live, that even the infidel shall be led to glorify our Father in heaven.

Blessed God, I thank thee that thy word has been made stronger by every effort to undermine it; and brighter by every endeavour to tarnish it. Scatter, I pray thee, every mist of error and sin, by the light of truth; and bring all mankind to submit their judgments, and bow their wills, to the teachings of thy written word. Give it victory over all that pollutes, and degrades, and ruins man—in behalf of all that purifies, exalts, and saves him. May it subdue his understanding to truth, his habits to righteousness, and his heart to a peace, which the world can neither give nor take away.

The Promise of God:

“But without faith *it is* impossible to please *Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and *that* He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.”

Hebrews 11:6

February 24

Call to Worship: Psalm 138:1a, 2c

“I will praise You with my whole heart...for Your lovingkindness and Your truth...”

Psalm 54

Scripture Reading:

Deuteronomy 10-12

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 54. *How is Christ exalted in his sitting at the right of God?*

A. Christ is exalted in his sitting at the right hand of God, in that as God-man he is advanced to the highest favor with God the Father, with all fullness of joy, glory, and power over all things in heaven and earth; and doth gather and defend his church, and subdue their enemies; furnisheth his ministers and people with gifts and graces, and maketh intercession for them.

Prayer:

O Lord, vouchsafe to me, through the merit and intercession of Jesus, that godliness which is profitable unto all things, having the promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come. Lead me to reverence thy name; for thou art God, and beside thee there is none other. Incline me to love thy character, which is the perfection of excellency. Learn me thy testimonies, which are sure, making wise the simple. Lead me to submit willingly to all thy dispensations; for they are of the Lord; let him do what seemeth good in his sight. May I depend on thee with a confiding heart, for every blessing; for thou hast said that as my day is, so shall my strength be. Teach me to supplicate thee for thy mercies; and let not my prayer be as a lamp that has neither oil nor light. Excite me, O Lord, to praise thy goodness; for thou art merciful and gracious, long-suffering and abundant in goodness. Build thou my hopes of thy favour on the precious merits of Jesus, besides whose name there is no other given by which I may be saved. And, Lord, assist me by thy grace to obey all thy law; for not every one that saith, “Lord, Lord,” shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he that doeth the will of our Father in heaven.

Shepherd of Israel, bless the fold of Christ. Let none who have the form of godliness deny the power thereof. Give thy people wisdom, love, zeal, and influence. Grant them that piety which is wrought in the heart by the Holy Ghost, and nurtured by communion with thee; which is fed daily by thy precious word, and made healthy and vigorous by active obedience to thy commandments.

May their lives be hid with Christ in God, so that when Christ, who is their life, shall appear, they also shall appear with him in glory.—And grant, most merciful God, that all men may learn that mystery of godliness; God manifest in the flesh, justified in the spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory!

The Promise of God:

“Who *is* he who condemns? *It is* Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.”

Romans 8:34

February 25

Call to Worship: Psalm 144:1a, 2abc

“Blessed *be* the LORD my Rock...my lovingkindness and my fortress, my high tower and my deliverer, my shield and *the One* in whom I take refuge....”

Psalm 55

Scripture Reading:

Deuteronomy 13-15

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 55. *How doth Christ make intercession?*

A. Christ maketh intercession, by his appearing in our nature continually before the Father in heaven, in the merit of his obedience and sacrifice on earth, declaring his will to have it applied to all believers; answering all accusations against them, and procuring for them quiet of conscience, notwithstanding daily failings, access with boldness to the throne of grace, and acceptance of their persons and services.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, I thank thee that we have an advocate at the right hand of the Majesty on high, even Jesus Christ, the righteous. He hath not entered into the holy place made with hands; but into heaven itself, to appear in the presence of God for us; where he ever liveth to make intercession for his chosen generation. Blessed Jesus, I rejoice that thou wilt not break the bruised reed, nor quench the smoking flax; that though Satan hath desired to have thy people, that he might sift them as wheat, yet thou prayest for them, that their faith fail not: and that thou art their Mediator, to present their believing prayers, and secure their acceptance, at the throne of the heavenly mercy.

Lord, lead me, in the faith of that intercession, to the sceptre of thy grace, persuaded that thou art able by thy power, and willing in thy mercy, to supply me with all that I need. Assist me to draw nigh, with a true heart, in the full assurance of faith: for we have not an high-priest who cannot be touched with a feeling of our infirmities; but one who was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin; and who is able to save, unto the uttermost, all who come unto thee by him. O Jesus, Blessed Mediator, take my cause into thine own hands. Plead my interests for me, by thy spotless life, thy bleeding wounds, thy cruel death, and thy purchased glory; and enable me to rejoice in thy success, and to bless thy holy name forever.

Lord, grant me, for Christ's sake, a strong and an abiding spirit of intercessory prayer. Dispose me to make supplication for all men. Make it my privilege to commend to thee all that are near and dear to me; that thou wouldst guide them by thy counsel, protect them by thy power, and save them by thy grace. Lead me to pray for my enemies, for the needy, the afflicted, the sick, and the dying. Incline me to lift up earnest supplication on behalf of thy church. Especially, O Lord, may the yearnings of my heart go forth for the impenitent. Make me feel that the triumphs of thy church will depend on the importunity of thy people for mercy on the ungodly. O may I understand their awful condition, and be induced to plead with thee, in the name of Christ, and through the intercessions of thy Spirit, that they may be saved. Give me that

degree of confidence in thee, and regard for thy glory, and such earnest longings after their conversion, as thou wilt own and bless, by the redemption of souls.

The Promise of God:

“Cast your burden on the LORD, and He shall sustain you; He shall never permit the righteous to be moved.”
Psalm 55:22

February 26

Call to Worship: Psalm 56:12b, 13a

“...I will render praises to You, for You have delivered my soul from death....”

Psalm 56

Scripture Reading:

Deuteronomy 16-18

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 56. *How is Christ to be exalted in his coming again to judge the world?*

A. Christ is to be exalted in his coming again to judge the world, in that he, who was unjustly judged and condemned by wicked men, shall come again at the last day in great power, and in the full manifestation of his own glory, and of his Father's, with all his holy angels, with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God, to judge the world in righteousness.

Prayer:

Great God, thou hast appointed unto men once to die, and after this the judgment, when every one of us shall give account of himself to God; and when thou wilt display to an assembled universe, the righteousness of thy justice, and the glory of thy holiness. Of that day and that hour knoweth no man; but it shall be the end of the world, when all the works therein shall be burnt up, the heavens pass away with a great noise, and the elements melt with fervent heat. Lord, make me mindful of that awful day, and of the solemn truths thou hast revealed concerning it. Then the Lord Jesus will come with his holy angels, and sit on his great white throne, and open the books of remembrance—the testimonies of creation, of providence, of scripture, and of conscience. The quick and dead shall stand before him, to be judged out of those things that are written in the books, according to their works, with every secret thing, whether it be good or evil; and also for every thing which thou didst command to be done, but which they left undone. Lord, make me realize that men will then be judged also for the privileges they have enjoyed; for of them unto whom much has been given, much will be required. O, even the best of thy saints will then need the atonement of Christ: they could not stand before thee, if thou shouldst mark their iniquities. But, blessed be thy name, there will be no condemnation to them that are in Christ Jesus: they shall receive the promise of a new heaven and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness. But then the judge will say to them on his left hand—“Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:” and the wicked shall be turned into hell, with all the nations that forget God. O God of infinite compassion, grant that in that fearful day of trial, my name may be found written in the Lamb's book of life, and that my unworthy, hell-deserving spirit may be received, through the merits of Christ, into the habitations of eternal life.

The Promise of God:

“For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.”

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17

February 27

Call to Worship: Psalm 57:11

“Be exalted, O God, above the heavens; *let Your glory be above all the earth.*”

Psalm 57

Scripture Reading:

Deuteronomy 19-21

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 57. *What benefits hath Christ procured by his mediation?*

A. Christ, by his mediation, hath procured redemption, with all other benefits of the covenant of grace.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, grant me just and full views of the plan of salvation by a Redeemer. Give me, I pray thee, an understanding to know, and a heart to feel, what thou hast done for the redemption of sinners.—In the counsels of eternity, thou didst foresee that estate of sin and misery into which mankind should be brought by the fall; and thou didst not leave them to perish in it; for in thy wisdom and mercy, thou didst devise a scheme, by which they might be delivered from it, and be brought into an estate of salvation, through the atoning blood of thy Son. Thou didst send him, in the fulness of time, to save that which was lost—to ransom those who were under the curse of the law—to redeem them who were subject to the world, the flesh, and the devil; and over whom were hanging the terrors of the second death. And, O, that redemption which he brought, not only saves from these fearful evils, but exalts those who were by nature and practice the heirs of wo, to be the objects of God's favour in this life, and the joint heirs of Christ's inheritance in the world to come!

O Lord, give me an ever-present conviction that this salvation is not by human wisdom or power; for it was thy mercy that procured it, and it is thy Spirit that induces and enables me to accept it. Direct all my hopes to the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world; and assist me to realize that there is no other name given under heaven, among men, whereby sinners can be saved. Enable me, I beseech thee, to believe in him with my heart unto righteousness, and to make confession of him with my mouth unto salvation. Teach me that it is by grace we are saved: for thou wouldst not defile the excellency and glory of thy plan, by making our deliverance the fruit of our works of righteousness, which are indeed, of themselves, as filthy rags. Thou wilt suffer none to glory in redemption, but through the cross of Jesus Christ. Lead me, I pray thee, in that highway of holiness, thy sacred word; which thou hast given us, that the man of God may be perfect, and thoroughly furnished unto all good works. Seal me by thy Spirit of promise; and if thou hast begun a good work in me, perform it unto the day of Christ.

O Most High, if the righteous be scarcely saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear? For thy great name's sake, show the power and fitness of thy salvation on the wicked. Arouse them from their false and guilty peace, by some bereavement of their comforts, or some disaster of life; by the startling terrors of thy law, or by the clear shining of thy love. Make them feel that the redemption of the soul is precious, and that it ceaseth forever. Persuade them to flee

for refuge to a crucified Saviour. Take them from the horrible pit and the miry clay; and set their feet upon the Rock of safety and blessedness; and put a new song into their mouths, even of praise to him, who so loved the world, as to give himself for it, that he might redeem unto himself a peculiar people, who should serve him in newness of life, and enjoy with him the blessings of an everlasting salvation.

The Promise of God:

“But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.”

Galatians 4:4-5

February 28

Call to Worship: Psalm 145:1-3

“I will extol You, my God, O King; and I will bless Your name forever and ever. Every day I will bless You, and I will praise Your name forever and ever. Great *is* the LORD, and greatly to be praised; and His greatness *is* unsearchable.”

Psalm 58

Scripture Reading:

Deuteronomy 22-24

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 58. *How do we come to be made partakers of the benefits which Christ hath procured?*

A. We are made partakers of the benefits which Christ hath procured, by the application of them unto us, which is the work especially of God the Holy Ghost.

Prayer:

Blessed and Triune God, enable me to understand the character and offices of the Holy Ghost. Thou hast revealed him to us as a partner of the Deity, who exercises the attributes of the Most High, and does the works of the Almighty. O may my thoughts of him be such as become me when I meditate on the name of God. I thank thee that thou hast sent that Spirit to convince the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment. Grant, O Lord, that I may share in all his blessed influences, and that they may be in me as a well of water, springing up into everlasting life. May they be as showers that water the earth, imparting to my soul growth, beauty, and fruitfulness, and giving me favour in the sight of God and man.

Blessed Spirit, show me my sinfulness, apply to me the redemption purchased by Christ, mortify the deeds of the body, and renew me day by day in thy holy image. O do thou lead me into the knowledge of truth, make intercession within me in prayer, bear witness with my spirit that I am a child of God, and seal me with that promise, which is an earnest until the redemption of the purchased possession. Be thou my comforter in sorrow, my strength in weakness, my shield in temptation, my teacher in ignorance, my security in joy, my leader in the labyrinths of life, and my consolation in the hour of death.

Lord, pour out thy Spirit on all thy servants. May they enjoy, in the fullest measure, those fruits which are love, joy, peace, long-suffering, goodness, meekness, gentleness, temperance, and faith. Persuade them to set a high value on these things, and to seek them by fervent and believing prayer. Cause them to live in continual dependence on divine influence, and to walk worthy of the character of that Holy Agent. Make them his living temples, where there shall be the incense of prayer, praise, and holy obedience. May he sanctify their hearts, bind them closer by faith to Christ, make them wise unto salvation, and prepare them for their eternal weight of glory.

Lord, I would praise thy name for the power which the Holy Ghost has exerted over the consciences and wills of sinners, in leading them to feel their guilt and danger, and in persuading and enabling them to accept the plan of salvation. O continue and increase these manifestations of thy mercy. Let not the ungodly grieve thy Spirit, and be left to ripen for perdition. Let none

wrest to their own destruction the truth, that they must be born again by the Holy Ghost: but may they make it the anchor of their hope, and receive with gladness those ministrations which are life, because of righteousness. O do thou convince, convert, and sanctify multitudes who now live after the flesh; and do thou lead them, in the exercises of a spiritual life, to glorify thy grace on earth, and enjoy the fellowship of the Father, Son, and Spirit, in heaven.

The Promise of God:

“And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.”

1 Corinthians 6:11

February 29 – Leap Day

Call to Worship: Psalm 34:1

“I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise *shall* continually *be* in my mouth.”

Psalm 23

Scripture Reading:

Psalm 34

Confession of Faith: The Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty. From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayer:

O thou Most High, I would praise thee for thine excellent greatness. The heaven of heavens cannot contain thee. From everlasting to everlasting thou art God. With thee there is no variableness, neither shadow of turning. Thou art infinitely more exalted above us, than we are above the smallest insect of creation. Lord, thou knowest all things: thou art the only wise God, wonderful in counsel, and infinite in knowledge. Thou art able to do, exceeding abundantly, above all that we can think. Thou art of purer eyes, than to behold evil. Justice and judgment are the habitation of thy throne. The works of nature, the movements of providence, and the plan of redemption are full of thy goodness. Thy counsels of old are faithfulness and truth. Lo, all thy ways are perfect!

Lord, grant me such adoring views of thy character, as shall be delightful foretastes of that praise which is the incense of thy worship in heaven. May I rejoice that the government of the world, and of the universe, is in the hands of a perfect being, who will do all things well. Make me esteem thy favour as the highest honour, and the most glorious privilege, which men or angels can enjoy. O may I often set my feeble and corrupt powers in contrast with thine infinite and spotless perfections, that I may thus at once take my place in the dust before thee, and magnify thy great and glorious name.

The Promise of God:

“The eyes of the LORD *are* on the righteous, and His ears *are open* to their cry....*The righteous* cry out, and the LORD hears, and delivers them out of all their troubles.”

Psalm 34:15,17

March 1

Call to Worship: Psalm 59:16-17

“But I will sing of Your power; Yes, I will sing aloud of Your mercy in the morning; for You have been my defense and refuge in the day of my trouble. To You, O my Strength, I will sing praises; for God is my defense, my God of mercy.”

Psalm 59

Scripture Reading:

Deuteronomy 25-27

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 59. *Who are made partakers of redemption through Christ?*

A. Redemption is certainly applied, and effectually communicated, to all those for whom Christ hath purchased it; who are in time by the Holy Ghost enabled to believe in Christ according to the gospel.

Prayer:

Lord, I would come to thee, in the name of Christ, that I may learn the necessity, the nature, and the fruits of regeneration. O do thou fasten on my mind, abiding convictions that the carnal mind is enmity against thee, and that all mankind are by nature the children of wrath, and receive not the things of the Spirit, for they are foolishness to them; neither can they learn them, for they are spiritually discerned. Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

Show me, O Lord, that if any man be in Christ Jesus, he is a new creature; old things are passed away; all things are become new. He has put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge, after the image of him who created him, in righteousness and true holiness. It is thou, God of Mercy, who workest in such to will and to do of thine own good pleasure; not by works which they have done; but according to thy mercy; by the washing of regeneration, and the renewing of the Holy Ghost. They are born not of blood, nor of the will of man, but of God, who only giveth repentance unto life, and the earnest of that Spirit whereby they are sealed until the day of redemption.

Teach me, O Lord, that they who have been born from above bring forth fruits, meet for repentance; that they add to faith virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness, and charity; and that these, abounding in them, cause them that they be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of the Saviour. They are made free from sin, and have become servants unto God; having their fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.

Blessed Saviour, give me evidence in my heart and conduct, that I have passed from death unto life; that having been convinced of my sin and misery, I have had my mind enlightened in the knowledge of thee, my will renewed, and have been persuaded and enabled to embrace thee, as thou art freely offered in the gospel. Let me not be satisfied with the form of godliness, without its life-giving power. Search me, O Lord, and try me; and see if there be any evil way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting. Make me watchful against temptation; quick to retrace my way when I fall into evil; ready to confess my trespasses; and earnest in purposes of new obedience. Create in me a new heart, and renew a right spirit within me. Grant me forgiveness of

sins, and enable me to look forward, with a rejoicing hope, to an inheritance among them that are sanctified. Vouchsafe unto me, I pray thee, the testimony of thy Spirit, that I have been redeemed by thy grace. O, if thou hast begun a good work in me, continue it unto the end; and let thy grace be in me as a well of living water, springing up into everlasting life.

Lord, convince the impenitent of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment. Thou hast no pleasure in the death of him that dieth, and thou art not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. O lead many to inquire what they must do to be saved. Show them that they who are in the flesh cannot please God. Set before them distinctly, life and good; death and evil. May thy law be a schoolmaster to bring them to Christ, that they may be justified by faith. Persuade them to believe in that only name by which sinners can be saved. May they be born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible; by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever.

The Promise of God:

“All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out....No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day.”

John 6:37, 44

March 2

Call to Worship: Psalm 150:1a, 2

“Praise the LORD!...Praise Him for His mighty acts; praise Him according to His excellent greatness!”

Psalm 60

Scripture Reading:

Deuteronomy 28-30

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 60. *Can they who have never heard the gospel, and so know not Jesus Christ, nor believe in him, be saved by their living according to the light of nature?*

A. They who, having never heard the gospel, know not Jesus Christ, and believe not in him, cannot be saved, be they never so diligent to frame their lives according to the light of nature, or the laws of that religion which they profess; neither is there salvation in any other, but in Christ alone, who is the Savior only of his body the church.

Prayer:

Great God, the invisible things of thee, from the creation of the world, are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made; even thine eternal power and Godhead. Help me, I pray thee, to make Nature the handmaid of devotion. Give me knowledge to discern thy character in her various scenes. May I see thy power in the extent and diversity of creation; and discern thy wisdom in the arrangement and government of thy works; and acknowledge thy goodness in the harmony and excellence of thy products. Behold, all that I see is eloquent of God! The day, with its flood of light; the night, with its pall of darkness; the seasons, with their circle of changes; life, with its mysteries of being, thought, and feeling; and death, with its pains, and silence, and corruption—all, all are full of the messages of divinity! There is no language where their voice is not heard; their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world.

Yet, O Lord, Nature is, in all these, but the echo of thy word. Although thou hast given thyself such witness in her, that men are left without excuse in rejecting thee; yet without thy revealed will, they become vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart is darkened: they change the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man; and to birds, and to four-footed beasts, and to creeping things! Alas, the world by wisdom knew not God. Lord, give me grace ever to study thy works in the light of thy word; and dispose me to worship and serve the Creator, who is blessed forever.

The Promise of God:

“Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.’”

John 14:6

March 3

Call to Worship: Psalm 5:1-2

“Give ear to my words, O LORD, consider my meditation. Give heed to the voice of my cry, my King and my God, for to You I will pray.”

Psalm 61

Scripture Reading:

Deuteronomy 31-33

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 61. *Are all they saved who hear the gospel, and live in the church?*

A. All that hear the gospel, and live in the visible church, are not saved; but they only who are true members of the church invisible.

Prayer:

God of Truth, let a sense of thy presence, and a regard for thy will, preserve me from the odious sin of hypocrisy. Let me not insult thee with a lipservice, while my heart is far from thee: nor with a form of compliance with thy law, while my soul pursues the carnal pleasures of earth. Thou art not deceived, and thou canst not be mocked; because thou searchest all hearts, and understandest all the imaginations of the thoughts. O make me feel both the folly and vileness of this transgression. Thou hast said that the hope of the hypocrite shall perish, and that his trust shall be as the spider's web. Thou hatest them that cover up their wickedness; who are like whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but within are full of dead men's bones, and all manner of uncleanness. God forbid that I should have only the name, without the character, of godliness. Make thou my life the symbol of my heart, and my heart the living record of thy commandments.

Keep me, O God, from hypocrisy towards my fellow-creatures. Restrain me from desiring or attempting to make any deceptive impression on them. Let no guile be found in my tongue, nor affectation of righteousness in my walk. Let me not outwardly appear righteous to men, while within I am full of hypocrisy and iniquity. Keep me from a deceitful mind and flattering lips, and from all disposition to make or love a lie. Let not my heart be set on the applause or patronage of men; but on the favour of God, and on that final plaudit: “Well done, good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joy of thy Lord.”

The Promise of God:

“But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy.”

James 3:17

March 4

Call to Worship: Psalm 7:17

“I will praise the LORD according to His righteousness, and will sing praise to the name of the LORD Most High.”

Psalm 62

Scripture Reading:

Deuteronomy 34
Joshua 1-2

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 62. *What is the visible church?*

A. The visible church is a society made up of all such as in all ages and places of the world do profess the true religion, and of their children.

Prayer:

Great Shepherd of Israel, I thank thee that thou hast established thy church on the earth, and hast put the seal of thy redeeming grace on it, and hast promised that the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. I would praise thee that he who is thy fulness, has been made head over all things to his church, which is his body, and which he has redeemed by his blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation.

Lord, dispose me to sustain all the relations which I bear to thy heritage. Suffer me not to withdraw, in any degree, from the fellowship of the saints, in their profession of faith in the Lord Jesus. Thou hast commanded that fellowship; thou hast adapted it to our social nature; thou hast made it the stream of our consolation, the wall of our safety, and the field of our usefulness. May I love to seek thy face in the tabernacles of the righteous, and to worship thee there in spirit and in truth. May I cherish the reputation, and welcome the instructions, and encourage the labours of those whom thou hast set to minister in holy things. Lead me, O Lord, to seek the interest of thy church, in its purity, peace, knowledge, and universal dominion.

Lord, cause all thy people to strive for the welfare of Zion. May they mourn over her desolations, and rejoice when her righteousness goes forth as brightness, and her salvation as a lamp that burneth. Baptize them by one spirit, into one body; and make them all one in Christ Jesus. May they feel deeply humbled at their want of personal holiness, and at their neglect in extending the blessings of salvation to a perishing world. Let every one that nameth the name of Christ, depart from iniquity. May the sons of God be blameless, and harmless, and without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation; among whom may they shine, as lights in the world, holding forth the word of life. Make them a peculiar people, zealous of good works. Let utterance be given to them, that they may open their mouths boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel. Let not the ingratitude nor hostility of sinners discourage their efforts to win them to thy service. May they have the pleasure of seeing thy work prospering in their hands, and multitudes added to their number, of such as shall be saved.

Arise, and have mercy on Zion: let the time to favour her, yea, the set time come. Bring her up from the wilderness, leaning on her Beloved; and make her the perfection of beauty. When

her enemy comes in like a flood, do thou lift up a standard against him. Be thou as a wall of fire round about her, and a glory in the midst of her. Hast thou not purchased her with thy blood; and wilt thou not grave her on the palms of thy hands, and set her walls continually before thee? O, King of Kings, do thou marshal, and discipline, and strengthen, and multiply the sacramental host, and lead it on conquering and to conquer, until the kingdoms of this world shall become the kingdoms of our Lord and his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever.

The Promise of God:

“And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.”

Matthew 16:18

March 5

Call to Worship: Psalm 63:3-5

“Because Your lovingkindness *is* better than life, my lips shall praise You. Thus I will bless You while I live; I will lift up my hands in Your name. My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness, and my mouth shall praise You with joyful lips.”

Psalm 63

Scripture Reading:

Joshua 3-5

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 63. *What are the special privileges of the visible church?*

A. The visible church hath the privilege of being under God's special care and government; of being protected and preserved in all ages, notwithstanding the opposition of all enemies; and of enjoying the communion of saints, the ordinary means of salvation, and offers of grace by Christ to all the members of it in the ministry of the gospel, testifying, that whosoever believes in him shall be saved, and excluding none that will come unto him.

Prayer:

Exalted Jehovah, thou art worthy, both by thy nature and dealings, of the strongest love of all thy rational creatures. Thou art perfect in all the attributes of thy character. No ignorance impairs thy wisdom; no error perverts thy justice; no falsehood clouds thy truth; no spot stains thy holiness. Thou art, moreover, merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abundant in goodness. O that the language of my heart might always be—“Whom have I in heaven but thee; and there is none on earth I desire besides thee.” Be thou my Alpha and Omega; my morning praise; my noonday thought; my evening prayer; and my waking meditation.

Blessed Jesus, help me that I may love thee with all my heart, and soul, and strength, and mind. I desire to cherish the memory of thine example and instructions, thy benevolence and promises, as the dearest objects of thought. O may my affection for thee urge me to advance thy glory, to desire to be conformed to thine image, to seek communion with thee, and to love thy house, thine ordinances, thy word, and thy people. But let me not think that any strength of attachment can merit thy love to me; for O thine acceptance of my love is one of the crowning gifts of undeserved mercy.

Glorious God, may thy saints bring thee the full tribute of their hearts. Let the constant bearing of their thoughts be unto thee, and the remembrance of thy name. Fill their hearts with gratitude to thee, and lead them to seek thee, with delight, in all the exercises of religion. May they rejoice in thy word, as the index of thy will; and take pleasure in thy people, as the excellent of the earth; and seek the glory of Christ more than the favour of man, or the love of the world.

Lord, bring those who are now at enmity with thee, to esteem and desire thee, as their chief good. Cast out their selfishness and aversion, and take the dominion of their hearts, that they may be able to say, the Lord is their portion, and his love the fulness of their joy.

The Promise of God:

“Because Your lovingkindness *is* better than life, my lips shall praise You.”
Psalm 63:3

March 6

Call to Worship: Psalm 9:1-2

“I will praise *You*, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will tell of all Your marvelous works. I will be glad and rejoice in You; I will sing praise to Your name, O Most High.”

Psalm 64

Scripture Reading:

Joshua 6-8

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 64. *What is the invisible church?*

A. The invisible church is the whole number of the elect, that have been, are, or shall be gathered into one under Christ the head.

Prayer:

Lord, unite me to Christ by a living faith, even as the branch is united to the vine. Make me a new creature in him. May I receive of his fulness, and grace for grace. May he be to me that bread from heaven that giveth eternal life; and be formed in my heart the hope of glory. Make me a member of that body, of which Christ is the head. Build me upon the foundation of the Apostles and Prophets, Jesus Christ being the chief corner-stone; in whom the whole building, fitly framed together, groweth unto a holy temple of the Lord. O may my life be hid with Christ in God; that he may be made unto me, wisdom and righteousness, sanctification and redemption.

The Promise of God:

“And then He will send His angels, and gather together His elect from the four winds, from the farthest part of earth to farthest part of heaven.”

Mark 13:27

March 7

Call to Worship: Psalm 13:6

“I will sing to the LORD, because He has dealt bountifully with me.”

Psalm 65

Scripture Reading:

Joshua 9-11

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 65. *What special benefits do the members of the invisible church enjoy by Christ?*

A. The members of the invisible church by Christ enjoy union and communion with him in grace and glory.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, grant me, in the name of Jesus, that spiritual mind which is life and peace. Let not my heart be troubled nor careful about the things of this world; but let it choose that better part, which cannot be taken from me. May I regard the blessing of thy favour infinitely above any and all earthly good. Incline me to find my pleasure in the services of thy kingdom, and not in the debasements of sense. Purify my motives, and make the objects of my desires such as shall be in harmony with the teachings of the Holy Ghost.—Lord, fill my soul with those spiritual joys which raise the heart above the pleasures, honours and riches of the world; which throw the gladness of hope over earth's darkest scenes; and which are sweet foretastes of the happiness of that land of spirits, where formality, and sense, and sin, shall give place to sincerity, devotion, and holiness.

The Promise of God:

“Jesus answered and said to him, ‘If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him....’”

John 14:23

March 8

Call to Worship: Psalm 16:5-6

“O LORD, *You* are the portion of my inheritance and my cup; You maintain my lot. The lines have fallen to me in pleasant *places*; Yes, I have a good inheritance.”

Psalm 66

Scripture Reading:

Joshua 12-14

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 66. What is that union which the elect have with Christ?

A. The union which the elect have with Christ is the work of God's grace, whereby they are spiritually and mystically, yet really and inseparably, joined to Christ as their head and husband; which is done in their effectual calling.

Prayer:

Lord, grant me, through the mediation of Jesus, the grace of submission. I pray thee let me never murmur nor rebel against either thy word or providence. Thou hast an infinite right to reign in me, and to rule over me, and to do with me, as seemeth good in thy sight. Thou canst not devise any statute, which is not founded on infinite wisdom and goodness. Thou canst not execute any measure, that is not sanctioned by righteousness and grace.

O strengthen me by faith and love, that I may bow to every token of thy will—which is indeed the perfection of knowledge, holiness, and mercy. I thank thee, Lord, for that full expression of it, which thou hast bequeathed in thy word. There thou hast given line upon line, and precept upon precept, that none may err therein. And yet how often does my heart forget and forsake, and sometimes contend against thy law. How prone is it to be unsubmitive when thou layest thy hand upon me in correction or displeasure.—O God, assist me to recognise thy hand in all the workings of thy providence; and lead me to concur cheerfully, with every intimation which thou givest in these things, of thy sovereign pleasure. Incline me, I pray thee, to receive thy commandment as the law of my language, feelings, and conduct. Let me not despise thy chastenings, nor faint at thy rebukes. May I be still, and know that thou art God.

Saviour of Man, bring the impenitent to submit to thy will. Thou wouldst indeed have them forsake their rebellion, and obey thy law; and thou art seeking to win them to obedience, by the promises of thy grace, and the warnings of thy wrath. O convince them that thy judgments are round about them, and that the second death is before them. Show them that their unreserved submission to thee, is their only wisdom and safety: for then, instead of being exposed to thy sore displeasure, they will be received into thy favour, and enjoy the perfect peace of him whose heart is stayed on thee.

The Promise of God:

“And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: *‘My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; for whom the LORD loves He chastens, and scourges every son whom He receives.’* Now, no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.”

Hebrews 12:5-6, 11

March 9

Call to Worship: Psalm 18:1-3a

“I will love You, O LORD, my strength. The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. I will call upon the LORD, *who is worthy* to be praised....”

Psalm 67

Scripture Reading:

Joshua 15-17

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 67. *What is effectual calling?*

A. Effectual calling is the work of God's almighty power and grace, whereby (out of his free and special love to his elect, and from nothing in them moving him thereunto) he doth, in his accepted time, invite and draw them to Jesus Christ, by his word and Spirit; savingly enlightening their minds, renewing and powerfully determining their wills, so as they (although in themselves dead in sin) are hereby made willing and able freely to answer his call, and to accept and embrace the grace offered and conveyed therein.

Prayer:

Lord, I would come to thee, in the name of Christ, that I may learn the necessity, the nature, and the fruits of regeneration. O do thou fasten on my mind, abiding convictions that the carnal mind is enmity against thee, and that all mankind are by nature the children of wrath, and receive not the things of the Spirit, for they are foolishness to them; neither can they learn them, for they are spiritually discerned. Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

Show me, O Lord, that if any man be in Christ Jesus, he is a new creature; old things are passed away; all things are become new. He has put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge, after the image of him who created him, in righteousness and true holiness. It is thou, God of Mercy, who workest in such to will and to do of thine own good pleasure; not by works which they have done; but according to thy mercy; by the washing of regeneration, and the renewing of the Holy Ghost. They are born not of blood, nor of the will of man, but of God, who only giveth repentance unto life, and the earnest of that Spirit whereby they are sealed until the day of redemption.

Teach me, O Lord, that they who have been born from above bring forth fruits, meet for repentance; that they add to faith virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness, and charity; and that these, abounding in them, cause them that they be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of the Saviour. They are made free from sin, and have become servants unto God; having their fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.

Blessed Saviour, give me evidence in my heart and conduct, that I have passed from death unto life; that having been convinced of my sin and misery, I have had my mind enlightened in the knowledge of thee, my will renewed, and have been persuaded and enabled to embrace thee, as thou art freely offered in the gospel. Let me not be satisfied with the form of godliness, without its life-giving power. Search me, O Lord, and try me; and see if there be any evil way in

me, and lead me in the way everlasting. Make me watchful against temptation; quick to retrace my way when I fall into evil; ready to confess my trespasses; and earnest in purposes of new obedience. Create in me a new heart, and renew a right spirit within me. Grant me forgiveness of sins, and enable me to look forward, with a rejoicing hope, to an inheritance among them that are sanctified. Vouchsafe unto me, I pray thee, the testimony of thy Spirit, that I have been redeemed by thy grace. O, if thou hast begun a good work in me, continue it unto the end; and let thy grace be in me as a well of living water, springing up into everlasting life.

Lord, convince the impenitent of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment. Thou hast no pleasure in the death of him that dieth, and thou art not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. O lead many to inquire what they must do to be saved. Show them that they who are in the flesh cannot please God. Set before them distinctly, life and good; death and evil. May thy law be a schoolmaster to bring them to Christ, that they may be justified by faith. Persuade them to believe in that only name by which sinners can be saved. May they be born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible; by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever.

The Promise of God:

“For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover, whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified, and whom He justified, these He also glorified.”

Romans 8:29-30

March 10

Call to Worship: Psalm 68:4

“Sing to God, sing praises to His name; extol Him who rides on the clouds, by His name YAH, and rejoice before Him.”

Psalm 68

Scripture Reading:

Joshua 18-20

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 68. Are the elect only effectually called?

A. All the elect, and they only, are effectually called; although others may be, and often are, outwardly called by the ministry of the word, and have some common operations of the Spirit; who, for their willful neglect and contempt of the grace offered to them, being justly left in their unbelief, do never truly come to Jesus Christ.

Prayer:

O Most High, a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom. Justice and judgment are the habitation of thy throne: just and true are all thy ways, thou King of Saints. Of a truth thou art no respecter of persons: thy law is holy, and thy government upright. The righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him.—I would adore and praise thee, O Lord, that thou didst maintain and magnify the excellency of thy justice, in giving thy Son, to repair by his own blood, the violated law; and thus to make it more honourable in the redemption of the transgressor, than in his hopeless condemnation.

O Lord, show me, in the light of this attribute, the glory of thy dispensation of the gospel, in which thou canst be just, and the justifier of even the worst of sinners, who believe in Jesus. But, may I learn from it also, that thou wilt be to the finally impenitent, a consuming fire. May the knowledge of it prevent me from neglecting or violating the rights of my fellow-creatures, and lead me to render that which is just and equal, to all men. Let the threatened retributions of thy judgment warn me against transgression, and dispose me to seek conformity to thy will.

Lord, cause a sense of thy justice to alarm the fears of the ungodly. Make them know that they are treasuring up wrath against the day of wrath, and righteous revelation of the judgment of God. Lead them now to bow to thy sceptre, which is still the symbol of mercy; but which ere long may become the instrument of destruction. I pray thee, redeem them from the curse of the law, and give them the adoption of sons, through the righteousness of Christ.

The Promise of God:

“For they themselves declare concerning us what manner of entry we had to you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, *even* Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.”

1 Thessalonians 1:9-10

March 11

Call to Worship: Psalm 69:16, 30

“Here me, O LORD, for Your lovingkindness *is* good; turn to me according to the multitude of Your tender mercies....I will praise the name of God with a song, and will magnify Him with thanksgiving.”

Psalm 69

Scripture Reading:

Joshua 21-23

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 69. *What is the communion in grace which the members of the invisible church have with Christ?*

A. The communion in grace which the members of the invisible church have with Christ, is their partaking of the virtue of his mediation, in their justification, adoption, sanctification, and whatever else, in this life, manifests their union with him.

Prayer:

Lord, grant me a good hope through grace. May it be the fruit of thy Spirit, and be rooted and grounded in that faith by which we receive the atonement of the Messiah: for other foundation can no man lay than that which is laid in Jesus Christ. May it be a hope that maketh not ashamed; that purifieth the heart; that is a helmet of salvation; and an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, which enters into that within the veil, and rejoices in the expectation of the glory of God. O may it prompt me to seek to bring others into the same fellowship of joy, that we together may share the promise of life.

Teach the wicked, O God, that a door of hope has been opened for the chief of sinners:—a way of access to pardon, in which thou canst be just, and still be the justifier of them that believe in Jesus. Let not their hearts be deceived by those hopes of earthly good, which are either blasted in their bud, or ripen into bitter fruit. Show them that the expectation of the wicked shall perish, and that the trust of the hypocrite shall be as the spider's web: while the hope of the righteous shall be gladness and assurance forever. I pray thee bring many sinners to the footstool of thy throne, to learn the blessedness of putting their confidence in the blood of the everlasting covenant; from which only can they receive the promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.

The Promise of God:

“For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.”

Romans 15:4

March 12

Call to Worship: Psalm 19:14

“Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my strength and my Redeemer.”

Psalm 70

Scripture Reading:

Joshua 24
Judges 1-2

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 70. *What is justification?*

A. Justification is an act of God's free grace unto sinners, in which he pardoneth all their sins, accepteth and accounteth their persons righteous in his sight; not for anything wrought in them, or done by them, but only for the perfect obedience and full satisfaction of Christ, by God imputed to them, and received by faith alone.

Prayer:

Blessed Lord, give me clear, and scriptural, and saving views of that justification, which is a cardinal doctrine of the gospel, and an essential and lifegiving principle of personal piety. Teach me that it is an act of thy free grace, wherein thou pardonest all our sins, and acceptest us as righteous, in thy sight, only for the righteousness of Christ, imputed to us, and received by faith alone. Show me that in it thou hast displayed thy holiness, satisfied thy justice, and magnified thy law—Christ being made the end of the law, to every one that believeth. Instruct me that by the deeds of the law, no flesh living shall be justified; but only by the faith of Jesus; in whom thou art reconciling the world unto thyself, not imputing unto them their trespasses and sins.

Lord, justify me freely by thy grace, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. In his merits, acquit me from the punishment I deserve for my transgressions, and give me a title to those blessings which I would have received through thy law, if I had fulfilled it in sinless obedience. O may I ever be found in him, not having on mine own righteousness, which is of the law; but that which is by the faith of him, unto all and upon all that believe. Grant that I may have peace with thee, and access to thy throne, with confidence of acceptance, in the Beloved. Give me faith in him as a living, as well as a dying Saviour—he being risen again for our justification. May I know him in whom I have believed, as my atoning sacrifice; and be persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him. And grant, O Lord, that my hope of forgiveness and favour, in the blood of the Redeemer, may result in that open acknowledgment and acquittal, in the day of judgment, which will be followed by everlasting glory.

Lord, let the question, "How shall men be just with God?" agitate the minds of those that have not made their peace with thee. May thy Spirit answer it, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved." And do thou give this truth such convincing and persuading power, that many shall accept and rest on Christ, as the only and all sufficient hope of salvation.

The Promise of God:

“But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference; for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God set forth *as* a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.”

Romans 3:21-26

March 13

Call to Worship: Psalm 71:8, 15, 23

“Let my mouth be filled *with* Your praise *and with* Your glory all the day....My mouth shall tell of Your righteousness *and* Your salvation all the day....My lips shall greatly rejoice when I sing to You, and my soul, which You have redeemed.”

Psalm 71

Scripture Reading:

Judges 3-5

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 71. *How is justification an act of God's free grace?*

A. Although Christ, by his obedience and death, did make a proper, real, and full satisfaction to God's justice in the behalf of them that are justified; yet inasmuch as God accepteth the satisfaction from a surety, which he might have demanded of them, and did provide this surety, his own only Son, imputing his righteousness to them, and requiring nothing of them for their justification but faith, which also is his gift, their justification is to them of free grace.

Prayer:

Lord, enable me, through the adorable Redeemer, to know, and value, and possess the exceeding riches of thy grace. It is rich in its source; for it is the fulness of him that filleth all in all. It is rich in its abundance; since it is given to us for help in every time of need. And, O, it is rich in its unspeakable blessings; for it brings the forgiveness of sins—gives us the washing of regeneration—unites us to Christ by a living faith—justifies us by his merits—bestows on us the witness of the Spirit—gives us the victory over the world and the grave—makes us heirs of God, and joint heirs with Christ, in the enjoyments of heaven forever. Show me, O Lord, that Jesus is the mediator of this blessing: it is he that maketh peace through the blood of his cross: he giveth repentance and remission of sins: and he seals the redeemed soul, by the Spirit, through sanctification, unto eternal life.—Lord, thou couldst have glorified thyself in the destruction of thy rebel creatures; but thou hast chosen, in thy mercy, to win them back to thee by love, that thou mightest glorify thyself in their newness of life on earth, and their eternal bliss in heaven.

Merciful God, enable me, by thy blessing, to grow in grace. May I hunger and thirst after righteousness, and desire the sincere milk of the word, that I may grow thereby. May I seek to give strength to every godly principle within me, by habitual industry in thy service; by exercising myself unto godliness, and always abounding in the work of the Lord. Be pleased to order thy dispensations, whether of prosperity or adversity, so that they may promote my spiritual good. Build me on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ being the chief corner-stone. May I in all things by prayer and supplication, make known my requests unto thee. And, O, grant me thy Holy Spirit, to sanctify my affections, and to assist me in giving all diligence to make my calling and election sure.

Heavenly Father, transform me by the renewing of my mind, that I may know what is thy good, and perfect, and acceptable will. Animate my heart with supreme love to God, and impartial love to man. Give me an increasing purity of motive, strength of principle, abasement

of self, and loathing of sin. Turn me from every wrong pursuit, and lead me into every right way. Let me not love the world, nor the things that are in the world. May I cherish the fellowship of thy saints; and seek the welfare of thy kingdom, by gifts, by labour, and by supplication. Blessed Lord, make me holy, harmless, undefiled, and separate from sinners. Enable me to go from strength to strength; and do thou change me from glory to glory.

Shepherd of Israel, cause thy grace to dwell richly in the hearts of all thy people. May they watch unto prayer against anger, pride, and covetousness; against ambition, censoriousness, and impurity. May they look diligently, lest any fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up, trouble them, and thereby many be defiled. Make their Christian character as the light of heaven, which shineth more and more, unto the perfect day.

Lord, exert the power of thy grace on the hearts of the impenitent. Convince them of their guilt and danger; persuade them to accept of thy mercy in Jesus; renew their wills and sanctify their feelings; lead them to pant after thee, as the hart panteth after the water-brooks, and to run willingly in all the ways of thy commandments. O grant that where sin hath abounded, grace may much more abound. And to God, only wise, be glory, through Jesus Christ, forever.

The Promise of God:

“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.”

Ephesians 2:8-9

March 14

Call to Worship: Psalm 72:18-19b

“Blessed *be* the LORD God, the God of Israel, Who only does wondrous things! And blessed *be* His glorious name forever! And let the whole earth be filled *with* His glory....”

Psalm 72

Scripture Reading:

Judges 6-8

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 72. *What is justifying faith?*

A. Justifying faith is a saving grace, wrought in the heart of a sinner by the Spirit and Word of God, whereby he, being convinced of his sin and misery, and of the disability in himself and all other creatures to recover him out of his lost condition, not only assenteth to the truth of the promise of the gospel, but receiveth and resteth upon Christ and his righteousness, therein held forth, for pardon of sin, and for the accepting and accounting of his person righteous in the sight of God for salvation.

Prayer:

Lord, increase my faith. I would believe: help thou mine unbelief. Give me unwavering trust in thee as infinite, eternal, and unchangeable, in all thine attributes. Cause me to repose with implicit confidence in thy purposes and dispensations towards thy creatures. Enable me to confide all my interests, for time and eternity, to thy keeping. Be thou, O God, the strength of my heart, and my portion forever!

Let me not stagger at thy word through unbelief; for without faith it is impossible to please thee. May I trust thee in all thou hast spoken, as well as in all thou hast done. Let me not hold thy truth in unrighteousness; but do thou make it profitable to me for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, and for instruction in righteousness; that thereby I may be thoroughly furnished unto every good work. Teach me to confide in its precious promises, to heed its solemn warnings, to follow its sacred examples, and to obey its holy precepts.

Lead me, blessed God, to look unto Jesus, the author and finisher of faith. To him give all the prophets witness, that through him, whosoever believeth on his name, shall have remission of sins: while he that believeth not shall be damned. O may he be my Teacher, my Saviour, and my Ruler; and may I receive and rest upon him alone for salvation, as he is offered in the gospel.

Heavenly Father, excite my trust in thee by the examples of the saints, who by faith wrought righteousness, obtained promises, and out of weakness were made strong. Wherefore seeing that I am compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, may I also, for the joy set before me, endure the cross, and run my race with patience, striving against sin.

Lord, enable me to exercise faith in prayer. Give me an abiding conviction, that thou art the rewarder of all that diligently seek thee. May I ask of thee the things that are according to thy will, trusting that I shall receive them. May I knock at the door of thy mercy, believing that thou wilt open unto me. O grant me access with confidence to the throne of thy grace, in the strength

of Christ's merits, and of that intercession which he ever liveth to make for those that come unto thee by him.

Lord, give me grace to show my faith by my works; for as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also. May I add to it virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly-kindness, and charity. May it so work by love, that I may realize the iniquity and danger of those who are strangers to thy covenants of promise, and have the energies of my soul and body stirred up, to pluck them as brands from the burning.

Heavenly Father, give me the evidence of things not seen, and the substance of things hoped for. May I walk by faith, and not by sight; looking not at the things which are seen and temporal, but at those that are not seen, and are eternal. O may it please thee to give me that victory which overcometh the world; and to grant that in all the trials of life, and amid the struggles of death, I may come off more than conqueror, through him who is the end of the law for righteousness, to all that believe on him!

The Promise of God:

“Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion *is* an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom *the one* which shall not be destroyed.”

Daniel 7:14

March 15

Call to Worship: Psalm 73:25, 26, 28

“Whom have I in heaven *but You?* And *there is* none upon earth *that* I desire besides You. My flesh and my heart fail; *but God is* the strength of my heart and my portion forever. But *it is* good for me to draw near to God; I have put my trust in the LORD GOD, that I may declare all Your works.”

Psalm 73

Scripture Reading:

Judges 9-11

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 73. *How doth faith justify a sinner in the sight of God?*

A. Faith justifies a sinner in the sight of God, not because of those other graces which do always accompany it, or of good works that are the fruits of it, nor as if the grace of faith, or any act thereof, were imputed to him for his justification; but only as it is an instrument by which he receiveth and applieth Christ and his righteousness.

Prayer:

O thou who art righteous in all thy thoughts, purposes, and ways, give me, I pray thee, the character and blessings of righteousness. Make me just to thee, to myself, and to my fellow-creatures. But, O keep me from trusting to my own fancied merits. Rebuke and dispel every thing like self-confidence, and lead me humbly to the foot of the cross, there to find both the mercy of acceptance, and the grace of obedience. Behold, O God, my Shield, and look upon the face of thine Anointed. May he be for me the end of the law for righteousness. May I desire to be found only in him, not having on mine own righteousness, which is of the law; but that which is through the faith of Christ, and which is of God, by faith. O, may the accepted works which flow from that atoning union with him, be found in all my walk and conversation. Cleanse me from dead works to serve the living God. Make me diligent in working out my own salvation, knowing that thou workest in me both to will and to do, of thine own good pleasure. May I love mercy and do justice towards all men; and whatsoever I would that they should do to me, in temporal or spiritual things, may I do even so to them.—Blessed Source of all good, fill me with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God.

The Promise of God:

“*There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.*”

Romans 8:1

March 16

Call to Worship: Psalm 25:1, 4-5b

“To You, O LORD, I lift up my soul....Show me Your ways, O LORD; teach me Your paths. Lead me in Your truth and teach me, for You *are* the God of my salvation....”

Psalm 74

Scripture Reading:

Judges 12-14

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 74. *What is adoption?*

A. Adoption is an act of the free grace of God, in and for his only Son Jesus Christ, whereby all those that are justified are received into the number of his children, have his name put upon them, the Spirit of his Son given to them, are under his fatherly care and dispensations, admitted to all the liberties and privileges of the sons of God, made heirs of all the promises, and fellow-heirs with Christ in glory.

Prayer:

Lord, wilt thou give me the Spirit of adoption, by which I may cry "Abba, Father?" I am indeed thine offspring by creation. May I be thine by adoption: and be thou my parent in that nobler relation, of a reconciled God and Father in the Lord Jesus. Make me one of the number, and give me, through the merits of Christ, a title to the privileges, of thy dear children. Behold! what manner of love the Father hath bestowed on them, that they should be called the sons of God!

O grant that in indulging this hope, I may purify myself, even as thou art pure. Make it a spirit of tenderness and reverence, of gratitude and love, of obedience and zeal. May it give me access to thy throne with an humble confidence in the faith of Christ, of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named; and keep me from that spirit of bondage, that servile fear and slavish formality in duty, which will make me as a hired servant, instead of an heir, in my Father's house. May it enable me in all the vicissitudes of life to look up to thee as infinitely able and willing to bless me with thy paternal gifts: for if earthly parents know how to give good gifts to their children, much more will our heavenly Father give his Holy Spirit to them that ask him. Grant that thy Spirit may bear witness with mine that I am thy child; and if a child, then an heir, and a joint-heir with Christ, in that inheritance which fadeth not away.

Look in mercy, O God, on thy children by nature, who are wandering as prodigals from their home, and are living without God in the world. Touch their hearts with a feeling of their wants and their apostasy; and do thou bring many back, who shall say they have sinned against heaven and in thy sight, and are not worthy to be called thy children. Establish them in the fellowship of thy saints, and make them heirs of the grace of life, through the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Promise of God:

“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, ‘Abba, Father.’ The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs-heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with *Him*, that we may also be glorified together.”

Romans 8:14-17

March 17

Call to Worship: Psalm 27:4

“One *thing* I have desired of the LORD, that will I see: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in His temple.”

Psalm 75

Scripture Reading:

Judges 15-17

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 75. *What is sanctification?*

A. Sanctification is a work of God's grace, whereby they whom God hath, before the foundation of the world, chosen to be holy, are in time, through the powerful operation of his Spirit applying the death and resurrection of Christ unto them, renewed in their whole man after the image of God; having the seeds of repentance unto life, and all other saving graces, put into their hearts, and those graces so stirred up, increased, and strengthened, as that they more and more die unto sin, and rise unto newness of life.

Prayer:

O Most Holy, how impure is this heart which thou didst make to be the temple of the living God. But, thanks be to thy name, thou canst make me clean. Thy Spirit can sanctify me by thy truth, and by thy providence, and can change me into thine own image; making my powers fit for thy service, and my soul meet to be thy dwelling.

Lord, grant me that work of thy free grace, by which I shall be enabled, more and more, to die unto sin, and to live unto righteousness. May I remember that thou art holy; and that this is thy will, even our sanctification. May I look upon Jesus, in his character as a Saviour from sin. Show me in his sufferings and death, the guilt of man's sinfulness. Teach me by the rebellion of my own heart, its stubbornness and deformity. Convince me of its demerit, by vivid views of the unending punishment of the lost. O make me loathe transgression. Paralyze its power over my judgment, conscience, and affections; that the body of sin being destroyed, henceforth I may not serve sin, but be the servant of righteousness.

Great God, preserve the hearts of thy chosen generation from sinful thoughts, words, and actions; and do thou cause them to abound in the fruits of holiness. May thy grace sanctify them by a hope that purifieth, even as Christ is pure; by a love which seeks conformity to thine own image; and by a faith which looks at things that are not seen, and that are eternal.—Make them living epistles, seen and read of all men. Make them the salt of the earth—the means of leading a wicked and perverse generation, by the power of a good example, to glorify their Father in heaven. Gracious Sovereign, enable them to adorn the doctrine of God, their Saviour, in all things. Imbue them with that holiness without which no man can see the Lord.

The Promise of God:

“Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord *is*, there *is* liberty. But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.”

2 Corinthians 3:17-18

March 18

Call to Worship: Psalm 28:6-7

“Blessed *be* the LORD, because He has heard the voice of my supplications! The LORD *is* my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in Him, and I am helped; therefore my heart greatly rejoices, and with my song I will praise Him.”

Psalm 76

Scripture Reading:

Judges 18-21

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 76. *What is repentance unto life?*

A. Repentance unto life is a saving grace, wrought in the heart of a sinner by the Spirit and Word of God, whereby, out of the sight and sense, not only of the danger, but also of the filthiness and odiousness of his sins, and upon the apprehension of God's mercy in Christ to such as are penitent, he so grieves for and hates his sins, as that he turns from them all to God, purposing and endeavoring constantly to walk with him in all the ways of new obedience.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, grant me repentance unto life, through the merits of the Saviour. Give me, I beseech thee, a true sense of my sin. It is against thee, O Lord, I have sinned. I have broken thy holy, wise, and benevolent law, ways and times beyond number. I have sinned against the teachings of thy word, against the testimonies of conscience, against the drawings of thy love, and against the strivings of thy Spirit. My transgressions may have led others into the paths of evil, and thus have been instrumental in loading their souls with guilt. Mine iniquities have cast reproach on thy cause in the world; and they have shut out the precious light of thy countenance from my soul. O God, make me feel how hateful my sin is in thy sight, and that the perfections of thy nature are pledged for its punishment. O thou hast spread wide and deep, the lake of unquenchable fire—thou hast built, with everlasting strength, the prison-walls of hell—where the unrepenting sinner will dwell in torment forever.

Lord, I implore thee to give me deep convictions of the atrocious guilt and soul-destroying danger of sin. Grant me feelings of strong abhorrence towards it. Incline me to mourn, with bitterness of heart, over my transgressions. Imbue me with courage, to resolve to forsake them, and with strength, to turn from them unto thee, with earnest endeavours after new obedience. Teach me, that he who turns not away from every sin, turns not aright from any sin. O let not mine be the sorrow of the world, that worketh death; but a godly sorrow, that worketh repentance to salvation, not to be repented of. Bring me to thee, crying, " Lord, save me, or I perish." And say to me in thy mercy, "Son, be of good cheer; thy sins be forgiven thee."

O God, kindle a fire in the consciences of the impenitent, that shall cleanse them from the love of sin, and purify them unto thee, in holiness of heart and life. Convince them of the evil nature, and fearful consequences of their iniquity. Show them that thou art waiting to be gracious, and that thou hast no pleasure in the death of them that die, but that they turn and live. Turn them from the error of their ways, and lead them into the path of the just. Induce them to forsake their

sins, and to bring forth fruits meet for repentance. Incline them to obey thy will from the heart, not that they may seek, by the deeds of the law, to be justified in thy sight; but that he who was delivered for their offences, may be made their justification and complete salvation.

The Promise of God:

“Him God has exalted to His right hand *to be* Prince and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins”

Acts 5:31

March 19

Call to Worship: Psalm 77:11-12, 14a

“I will remember the works of the LORD; surely I will remember Your wonders of old. I will also meditate on all your work, and talk of Your deeds....You *are* the God who does wonders....”

Psalm 77

Scripture Reading:

Ruth 1-4
HCO²: 1 Samuel 1-2

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 77. *Wherein do justification and sanctification differ?*

A. Although sanctification be inseparably joined with justification, yet they differ, in that God in justification imputeth the righteousness of Christ; in sanctification his Spirit infuseth grace, and enableth to the exercise thereof; in the former, sin is pardoned; in the other, it is subdued: the one doth equally free all believers from the revenging wrath of God, and that perfectly in this life, that they never fall into condemnation; the other is neither equal in all, nor in this life perfect in any, but growing up to perfection.

Prayer:

Blessed Jehovah, enable me to withdraw my thoughts and desires, at frequent seasons, from the things that are seen and temporal, and to fix them on those that are unseen and eternal. O may thy character, in all its variety and fulness, be a rich topic of my meditation. Grant me holy and exalted converse with thine attributes, as they are revealed in thy word, and in thy works of creation, providence, and redemption.—May Jesus be to my soul, the chief among ten thousand, and one altogether lovely.—Draw out my thoughts, sweetly and confidingly, to that Holy Spirit, whose work is quietness and assurance forever.—May I love to dwell upon the law of thy mouth; and do thou make it better to me than thousands of gold and silver.—Teach me in these hours of reflection, my weakness and sinfulness, and the means by which I may grow in grace, and advance the various interests of thy kingdom.—Help me, O Lord, to fix my thoughts on the shortness of time, the certainty of death, and the undying worth of the soul.

Lord, grant me the presence and blessing of thy Spirit, in these solemn meditations. May the peace of God, which passeth understanding, fill my heart and make it a fountain of love to God, and of goodwill to man. May my knowledge be refreshed and enlarged. While I muse on holy things, cause the fire to burn within me, until the dross of sin be consumed, and my soul be as gold that has been tried in the furnace. O vouchsafe unto me, rich foretastes of those heavenly contemplations, where no cloud of sense, nor of sin, shall shut out the light of thy presence, and where there are pleasures for evermore.

² Hebrew Canonical Order

The Promise of God:

“This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.”

Joshua 1:8

March 20

Call to Worship: Psalm 29:2

“Give unto the LORD the glory due to His name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.”

Psalm 78

Scripture Reading:

1 Samuel 1-3
HCO: 1 Samuel 3

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 78. *Whence ariseth the imperfection of sanctification in believers?*

A. The imperfection of sanctification in believers ariseth from the remnants of sin abiding in every part of them, and the perpetual lustings of the flesh against the spirit; whereby they are often foiled with temptations, and fall into many sins, are hindered in all their spiritual services, and their best works are imperfect and defiled in the sight of God.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, grant me the spirit of holiness. O restore me to thy blessed image, and transform me by the renewing of my mind that I may know thy will, and present myself a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable, which is my reasonable service. Mold my character by thy word, and lead me to obey that form of doctrine which thou hast delivered to me. Make me spiritually-minded, which is life and peace. O enable me to say, "Behold, old things are passed away; all things are become new."

Lord, make me a partaker of thy holiness, and lead me in the paths of righteousness for thy name's sake. But let me not forget that this great work is not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. My heart is by nature desperately wicked; and unless thou give me the sanctifying power of thy Spirit, I shall remain dead in trespasses and sins. Renew me, I beseech thee, in the spirit of my mind, turn me from darkness unto light, and put on me the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

Blessed Lord, let me not regard iniquity in my heart, nor roll sin as a sweet morsel under my tongue. Make me feel all the motives that should deter me from transgression.—Teach me to be holy, because thou art holy.—Grant me such views of the cross of Christ as shall lead me to hate and forsake sin. Thou didst choose thy saints in Christ, before the foundation of the world, that they should be holy and without blame before thee in love: and he gave himself for them that he might redeem them from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people.—O may the hope of his salvation prompt me to purify myself, even as he is pure. Make me feel the guilt, misery, and danger of sin.—Assist me to mortify the flesh with the affections and lusts thereof, that I may live in thy favour.—May I remember that the eyes of men are upon me: let me not cause thy name to be blasphemed through my transgression.—Instruct me that thy glory requires me to hate evil; for thou hast made thy people a holy nation to show forth the praises of him who has called them from darkness into light.—O God, make me pure in heart; for without holiness no man shall see the Lord and there shall in no wise enter into heaven, any thing that defileth.

Lord, assist me, I beseech thee, in this great duty of personal sanctification. Let thy grace be

in me as a perpetual fountain of godliness. May I go from strength to strength, and may my path be as the shining light which shineth more and more unto the perfect day. O fill me with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God.

The Promise of God:

“For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do....For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but how to perform what is good I do not find. For the good that I will to do, I do not do; but the evil I will not to do, that I practice....For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man. But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? I thank God-through Jesus Christ our Lord!...”

Romans 7:15,18-19, 22-25a

March 21

Call to Worship: Psalm 33:1-3

“Rejoice in the LORD, O you righteous! *For* praise from the upright is beautiful. Praise the LORD with the harp; make melody to Him with an instrument of ten strings. Sing to Him a new song; play skillfully with a shout of joy.”

Psalm 79

Scripture Reading:

1 Samuel 4-6

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 79. *May not true believers, by reason of their imperfections, and the many temptations and sins they are overtaken with, fall away from the state of grace?*

A. True believers, by reason of the unchangeable love of God, and his decree and covenant to give them perseverance, their inseparable union with Christ, his continual intercession for them, and the Spirit and seed of God abiding in them, can neither totally nor finally fall away from the state of grace, but are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

Prayer:

God of Salvation, let me not be of those that draw back unto perdition, but of them that believe unto the saving of the soul. Make me steadfast in the pursuit of knowledge, and performance of duty. Teach me that the race is not to the swift, but to them who cast aside every weight, and the sin that doth so easily beset them; and who look to Jesus, as the Author and Finisher of faith. Blessed be God, the way I am called to run in, is not an unbeaten path; for thy people on earth are now walking in it as the highway to heaven; the saints in glory have followed it unto life eternal; yea, even the High Priest of our profession, Christ the Righteous, hath made it smooth by his glorious footsteps. Lord, give me a warmer zeal, and a holier strength, to run that heavenly road.

O God, set clearly and strongly before my mind, that exceeding and eternal weight of glory, which is laid up for those that endure unto the end. May I so run, that I shall obtain it. Enable me to continue in all things which are written in the book of the law, to do them. O teach me the duty of perseverance, by a conviction of the uncertainty of life. Those servants only shall be blessed, whom when the Lord cometh, he shall find watching.—Give me, I beseech thee, such views of the foes that are within and around me, as shall lead me to continual dependence on thy grace, and unremitting diligence in thy will. Imbue me with courage of mind and strength of heart, to overcome all the hinderances which Satan, or the world, or my own passions, may cast in my way.—Heavenly Father, let nothing be able to separate me from thy love in Christ Jesus. O, love me with an everlasting love. May he that is the Ransom of sinners, save me unto the uttermost. May thy Holy Spirit seal me unto the day of redemption, and be my Comforter, to abide with me forever. And then, in that inheritance which is incorruptible, and that fadeth not away, I will praise thee for the power of thy grace, by which I shall have been kept, through faith, unto salvation.

The Promise of God:

“...being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete *it* until the day of Jesus Christ.”

Philippians 1:6

March 22

Call to Worship: Psalm 34:1

“I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise *shall* continually *be* in my mouth.”

Psalm 80

Scripture Reading:

1 Samuel 7-9

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 80. *Can true believers be infallibly assured that they are in the estate of grace, and that they shall persevere therein unto salvation?*

A. Such as truly believe in Christ, and endeavor to walk in all good conscience before him, may, without extraordinary revelation, by faith grounded upon the truth of God's promises, and by the Spirit enabling them to discern in themselves those graces to which the promises of life are made, and bearing witness with their spirits that they are the children of God, be infallibly assured that they are in the estate of grace, and shall persevere therein unto salvation.

Prayer:

Lord, grant me a well-grounded assurance of a personal interest in thy favour. Comfort me by the persuasion, that my many offences have been remitted. Enable me to gather satisfactory evidence from my feelings and conduct, that I have passed from death unto life; and may thy Spirit bear witness with mine, that I am numbered with thy children. Give me the spirit of wisdom and revelation, in the knowledge of Christ, that I may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints. Cause me to feel that it is my duty to aim at the attainment of this grace, and my privilege to enjoy it, in the exercise of faith, prayer, and zeal. Enable me to say—"Though thou wast angry with me, thine anger is turned away; and thou comfortest me."

Blessed God, grant me the full assurance of hope unto the end:—a hope that I am accepted before thee, for the merits of Christ; that through his grace I shall be saved; and that though worms may devour this body, yet in my flesh I shall see thee, and be satisfied when I awake in thy likeness.

The Promise of God:

“These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may *continue to* believe in the name of the Son of God.”

1 John 5:13

March 23

Call to Worship: Psalm 57:11

“Be exalted, O God, above the heavens; *let Your glory be above all the earth.*”

Psalm 81

Scripture Reading:

1 Samuel 10-12

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 81. *Are all true believers at all times assured of their present being in the estate of grace, and that they shall be saved?*

A. Assurance of grace and salvation not being of the essence of faith, true believers may wait long before they obtain it; and, after the enjoyment thereof, may have it weakened and intermitted, through manifold distempers, sins, temptations, and desertions; yet are they never left without such a presence and support of the Spirit of God as keeps them from sinking into utter despair.

Prayer:

Merciful Father, preserve me from a doubtful mind. Let not disease of body, nor affliction of mind, disquiet my soul within me. Let not ignorance nor error intrude on my comfort in the hope of the gospel. Let not Satan unsettle my trust in thy covenant of mercy. And O, suffer not sin, in any form, to bring a cloud over the light of thy countenance, and the joys of thy salvation.—O thou that givest rest to the weary and heavy-laden, show me that thy mercy endureth forever. Teach me that thou art merciful and gracious, long-suffering and abundant in goodness. Lead me, I pray thee, in every feeling of despondency, to that throne from which thou givest grace to help in every season of trial. Say unto me, when accused by a guilty conscience—"Come, let us reason together; though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow: though they be red, like crimson, they shall be as wool." Dissipate my fears, and give me an assurance of an interest in thy favour, and of acceptance in thy sight, through the righteousness of Christ. Grant me thy blessed Comforter, that I may have joy in the Holy Ghost. Cheer me by thy gracious promises, which are Yea and Amen in Christ Jesus. Give me, O Lord, beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, and the garments of praise for the spirit of heaviness. Let my light rise in my obscurity, and my darkness be as the noonday. Cause thy righteousness to go before me, and thy glory to be my re-reward!

The Promise of God:

“Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”

1 Peter 1:3-5

March 24

Call to Worship: Psalm 42:1-2a

“As the deer pants for the water brooks, so pants my soul for You, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God....”

Psalm 82

Scripture Reading:

1 Samuel 13-15

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 82. *What is the communion in glory which the members of the invisible church have with Christ?*

A. The communion in glory which the members of the invisible church have with Christ, is in this life, immediately after death, and at last perfected at the resurrection and day of judgment.

Prayer:

O thou that hearest prayer, grant that I may hold communion of spirit with thee, the Father of Spirits. As the hart panteth after the water-brooks, so may my soul pant after thee: and as the parched land drinketh in the rain of heaven, so let my soul receive the gifts of thy presence. Dispose me to be faithful and to delight in the observance of stated seasons of private devotion, and in the frequent exercises of occasional prayer. May I love to seek thee in the tabernacles of the righteous. Let my thoughts and desires hold intercourse with thee in thy word, and in thy works, and in thy ways. Let my walk be close with thee; and do thou fix my affections on thee, as the highest and noblest object of love. Teach me thy will, that I may acquaint myself with thee, and be at peace.

Lord, lift up the light of thy countenance upon me. Draw near to me in all my attempts to approach thee; and manifest thyself unto me as thou dost not unto the world. Sprinkle reconciling blood on the altar where I meet thee. Kindle with heavenly fire the incense I bring thee, and let it rise up as a sweet-smelling savour before thee. Make thine abode with me; and let my heart be a temple of the Holy Ghost. Give me that Spirit of adoption by which I may cry, "Abba, Father." May I be persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate me from thy love, which is in Christ Jesus. Give me such a sense of pardoned sin, as shall fill me with holy joys, and strong purposes of new obedience to thy will. Grant me, in these seasons of sweet converse with thee, those blessings which are spiritual in their nature, satisfying in their possession, and eternal in their continuance. Cause me, in the enjoyment of them, to commiserate the destitution of those who are without God in the world, and the woe of them who are shut out from thy presence forever. O let me cling closer to this precious privilege, and be pervaded with deeper pity, and animated with stronger zeal, for those who know not the delights of thy communion.

Lord, vouchsafe that my fellowship with thee may be sought only through him who is the way, the truth, and the life; for no man cometh unto the Father but by him. Let the communion of thy Holy Spirit rest upon me, and abide within me, now, henceforth and forever.

The Promise of God:

“God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.”
1 Corinthians 1:9

March 25

Call to Worship: Psalm 59:16-17

“But I will sing of Your power; Yes, I will sing aloud of Your mercy in the morning; for You have been my defense and refuge in the day of my trouble. To You, O my Strength, I will sing praises; for God is my defense, my God of mercy.”

Psalm 83

Scripture Reading:

1 Samuel 16-18

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 83. *What is the communion in glory with Christ which the members of the invisible church enjoy in this life?*

A. The members of the invisible church have communicated to them in this life the firstfruits of glory with Christ, as they are members of him their head, and so in him are interested in that glory which he is fully possessed of; and, as an earnest thereof, enjoy the sense of God's love, peace of conscience, joy in the Holy Ghost, and hope of glory; as, on the contrary, sense of God's revenging wrath, horror of conscience, and a fearful expectation of judgment, are to the wicked the beginning of their torments which they shall endure after death.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, grant me peace of conscience towards thee, through the atoning blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. Give me, I pray thee, that holy serenity of mind, which the world can neither give nor take away, and which results from receiving thy love, and from knowing and doing thy will continually.—Enable me to live peaceably with all men—respecting with justice their rights, and not seeking with pertinacity my own—giving place to wrath, and refraining from an evil tongue, and every thing that stirs up strife.—Lord, give thy churches rest from unholy divisions within, and from wicked assaults without. May the household of faith dwell together in unity; and then the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. O God, promote and establish peace between man and man, and between nation and nation, throughout the world. Supplant, by the influence of the gospel, that selfishness which is the fruitful source of every form of contention: and in its place implant that holy love which worketh no ill to its neighbour, and which leadeth man to regard every human being as a neighbour and a brother. Then shall individuals cease from strife—nations shall learn war no more—and Jesus, the Prince of Peace, shall reign over a dominion where there shall be none to hurt nor destroy—where heart shall beat in harmony with heart—where eye shall speak peace to eye—and where hand shall be to hand the exchange of good-will to man.

The Promise of God:

“God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

1 Corinthians 1:9

March 26

Call to Worship: Psalm 84:1-2

“How lovely *is* Your tabernacle, O LORD of hosts! My soul longs, yes, even faints for the courts of the LORD; my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God.”

Psalm 84

Scripture Reading:

1 Samuel 19-21

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 84. *Shall all men die?*

A. Death being threatened as the wages of sin, it is appointed unto all men once to die; for that all have sinned.

Prayer:

Blessed Lord, make me ever mindful of the truth, that it is appointed unto all men once to die. Thou canst wound and kill, and there is none to deliver out of thy hand. Thou hast determined our days, and appointed the bounds of our habitations. O lead me to consider my latter end, and teach me to number my days, that I may apply my heart unto wisdom. Make me to know my end, and the measure of my days, that I may learn how frail I am. Lord, what is my life? It is a vapour that appeareth for a little while, and then vanisheth away.

Teach me, thou Source of Wisdom, that death is the great crisis of my being, which will determine my destiny forever. He whom it finds unjust and filthy, shall be unjust and filthy still; and he whom it finds righteous and holy, shall be righteous and holy still. Lord, let me pass the time of my sojourning here in fear, seeking to be ready for its solemn message; for in such an hour as we think not, the Son of Man cometh. Whatsoever, therefore, my hand findeth to do, may I do it with my might; since there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave whither I go. Let me not fear them that can kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul; but rather fear him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell, which is the second death.

Lord, train me to such habits of obedience to thy will, and trust in thy dealings, and faith in thy promises, that while I look upon the earthly house of this tabernacle, as one that must be dissolved, I may rejoice in the hope, that I shall have a building of God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. When I am called to walk through the valley of the shadow of death, be thou my rod and staff, to comfort me: and when my heart and flesh fail, be thou the strength of my heart, and my portion forever. Let me die the death of the righteous, and let my last end be like his.

Lord, fix the thoughts of the impenitent on that great event in their history, when the last fibres of life are breaking; and the soul, fluttering on the verge of eternity, looks back on the familiar scenes of earth with keen remorse, and forward on the unknown future with acute despair. May they now inquire, "How shall my heart endure, or my hands be strong, in the day when thou wilt deal with me?" Persuade them to make their peace with thee now; and then amid the strife of dissolution, thou wilt soothe their tender consciences with the assurance of pardoned sin, and cheer their fainting hearts with the hope of glory.

Look in mercy, I pray thee, on those who are encompassed by the sorrows of death. Prepare them for their solemn and awful change. If they have made their peace with thee, through the blood of Christ, comfort them, and give them blessed foretastes of thy heavenly kingdom. But if they have not, O bring them by thy saving power into thy covenant of grace.

O thou who didst weep at the tomb of Lazarus, comfort those who mourn for the loss of cherished friends. May they kiss thy rod; and if it be consistent with the life or death of the departed, let them not sorrow as those who have no hope; but look forward to that hour, when the hand that now has riven, will restore their fellowship, and make it pure as the light and lasting as the days of heaven!

The Promise of God:

“For a day in Your courts *is* better than a thousand. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness. For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD will give grace and glory; No good *thing* will He withhold from those who walk uprightly.”

Psalm 84:10-11

March 27

Call to Worship: Psalm 85:8a,b

“I will hear what God the LORD will speak, for He will speak peace to His people and to His saints...”

Psalm 85

Scripture Reading:

1 Samuel 22-24

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 85. *Death, being the wages of sin, why are not the righteous delivered from death, seeing all their sins are forgiven in Christ?*

A. The righteous shall be delivered from death itself at the last day, and even in death are delivered from the sting and curse of it; so that, although they die, yet it is out of God's love, to free them perfectly from sin and misery, and to make them capable of further communion with Christ in glory, which they then enter upon.

Prayer:

Blessed God, revive thy work; in the midst of the years make known; in wrath remember mercy. Let not thy heritage be in bondage to sin and slothfulness; nor the ungodly go down to death, without the strong, and special, and redeeming influences of thy Holy Spirit. Let thy work appear unto thy servants, and thy glory unto their children: and let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us. Make the wilderness like Eden; and the desert like the garden of the Lord: let joy and gladness be found therein, with thanksgiving and the voice of melody.

Great God, may all thy ministers be indeed preachers of righteousness, and ambassadors for Christ. Sanctify their motives, and inflame their zeal. Give them wisdom to devise, and faithfulness to execute, such efforts as shall promote thy glory, in the work of saving souls. Let them not heal the hurt of the daughter of thy people slightly; saying, "Peace, peace," when there is no peace. May they search Jerusalem, as with lighted candles; and apply thy truth to all their hearers, with plainness, fulness, and pungency. Bless the word of their mouth, and accompany it with the demonstration of thy Spirit.

O Lord, let judgment begin at the house of God. Take away the hopes of those who have the form of godliness, without its power. Convince thy people of sin against thee, against each other, and against the souls of the ungodly. Bring them to repentance that needeth not to be repented of. Break from them the fetters with which the world, the flesh, and the devil, have encompassed them. Give them that clearness and strength of faith, by which they shall learn the value of their own souls, and the worth of the souls of perishing sinners around them.

Heavenly Father, burden the hearts of thy people with earnest desires for the revival of pure and undefiled religion. May they present fervent, importunate, and believing prayer, at the throne of thy grace, for the prosperity of Zion, and the salvation of the ungodly. O fill them with thy Spirit, and cause them to abound in love, zeal, and holiness. May they love the places where supplication is wont to be made, and where souls have been born to God. Give them grace to uphold, by prayer, the hands of thy ministers, whilst thou art using such to carry forward the

triumphs of the gospel. Make thy saints willing to adopt and sustain those measures which are agreeable to thy will, and which receive the abiding sanction of thy Spirit. Lord, cast up and remove every stumbling block out of the ways of Zion. Give thy servants unity of feeling and action; and lead them to act in the faith of thy word, wherein thou hast said, that if two shall agree on earth, as touching any thing they shall ask, it shall be done for them of our Father in heaven. Let the blessing of the Lord our God be upon them; and establish the work of their hands upon them: yea, the work of their hands, establish thou it.

O Most High, visit with convincing and converting power, the consciences of sinners. Bring them within the reach of the preached gospel, and the hearing of effectual prayer. May thy Spirit set home to their hearts the truth, which is able to make them wise unto salvation. Make them feel deeply, that they are guilty before thee; and that instead of having the offer of salvation, thy righteous retribution would blast them in everlasting death. O, may they cherish the workings of the Holy Ghost within them, and fear lest that Divine Agent give them up to blindness of mind, and hardness of heart. Let that godly sorrow, which worketh life, possess every feeling of their souls. Show them that now is the accepted time, and this the day of salvation. Give them clear, and convincing, and persuading views of Christ, as the only, and all-sufficient, and infinitely willing Saviour. O God, grant, for the honour of Jesus, that now, whilst thou art waiting to be gracious, they may renounce their iniquities, receive Christ, as he is freely offered in the gospel, and give themselves to thee, in a covenant never to be forgotten.

Lord of Hosts, make the fruits of revivals glorious in the history of thy church. May their converts to righteousness be for multitude, as the drops of the dew in the morning. May they be distinguished for consistent piety and holy zeal, and be honoured instruments in multiplying the trophies of redeeming grace, until the Lord shall have made bare his holy arm in the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall have seen the salvation of our God. And to God, the Father, Son, and Spirit, shall be all the praise in earth and heaven, now and forever.

The Promise of God:

“Then *comes* the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power. For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. The last enemy *that* will be destroyed *is* death.”

1 Corinthians 15:24-25

March 28

Call to Worship: Psalm 86:11-12

“Teach me Your way, O LORD; I will walk in Your truth; unite my heart to fear Your name. I will praise You, O LORD my God, with all my heart, and I will glorify Your name forevermore.”

Psalm 86

Scripture Reading:

1 Samuel 25-27

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 86. *What is the communion in glory with Christ, which the members of the invisible church enjoy immediately after death?*

A. The communion in glory with Christ which the members of the invisible church enjoy immediately after death, is, in that their souls are then made perfect in holiness, and received into the highest heavens, where they behold the face of God in light and glory, waiting for the full redemption of their bodies, which even in death continue united to Christ, and rest in their graves as in their beds, till at the last day they be again united to their souls. Whereas the souls of the wicked are at their death cast into hell, where they remain in torments and utter darkness, and their bodies kept in their graves, as in their prisons, till the resurrection and judgment of the great day.

Prayer:

O God, Most High, assist my feeble powers to contemplate the bliss of heaven. In that blest land the righteous shall hunger no more; neither thirst any more; and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes. There they shall understand all mysteries and all knowledge. Now they see through a glass darkly; but then they shall see face to face —now they know but in part; but then they shall know even as they are known. There they shall dwell in the city of the living God, the New Jerusalem, with an innumerable company of angels, and spirits of just men made perfect; and shall sing, with unwearied tongues, the new song of praise to the Lamb, who has redeemed them to God by his blood, out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation. There they shall serve God with fulness of joy, holiness of heart, and obedience of will: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them, the Lamb shall feed them, and lead them to living fountains of waters: and thus they shall be forever with the Lord!

I thank thee, O God, that thou hast made known to us the glories of the heavenly state, and that thou hast taught us how we may obtain them. Life and immortality have been brought to light by the gospel; and though the carnal eye hath not seen, nor the ear heard, nor have entered into such heart, the things which thou hast prepared for them that love thee; yet thou hast revealed them to thy children, by thy Spirit, as a foretaste of that glory which shall be made known in the eternal life.—O Lord, shall I be a partaker of that blessedness? Grant that the contemplation of it may make me feel the vanity of earthly things, and lead me to set my affections on things that are heavenly and divine. May I follow after holiness, without which

no man shall see the Lord; and seek a building of God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

Lord, grant that visions of heavenly glory may quicken the hopes, and purify the hearts, and animate the zeal of thy chosen people. May they have thy grace in them, as a rich prelude to the joys of everlasting life. May they show by their lives, that here they have no abiding place, no continuing city; but that they seek a better, even a heavenly.—Lead them, O Lord, while they strive to work out their own salvation, to seek to bring others into the path of eternal life. Make them feel that their own happiness and glory in the future state, will be greatly increased by their turning souls unto righteousness here: for then they shall shine as the brightness of the firmament, and as the stars forever and ever.

Blessed Lord, convince the worldly-minded and sinful, of the depraving and perishing nature of temporal things; and of the exalted and eternal treasures thou hast laid up in the home of the righteous. Induce them, by thy Spirit, to renounce the world, the flesh, and the devil; and to seek that faith in Christ, that purity of heart, and that compliance with thy will, by which they shall be made meet for the inheritance of the saints in light. And to thy name, Father, Son, and Spirit, shall be the glory of their salvation forever.

The Promise of God:

“And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, ‘Behold, the tabernacle of God *is* with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them *and be* their God. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.’”

Revelation 21:3-4

March 29

Call to Worship: Psalm 63:3-5

“Because Your lovingkindness *is* better than life, my lips shall praise You. Thus I will bless You while I live; I will lift up my hands in Your name. My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness, and my mouth shall praise You with joyful lips.”

Psalm 87

Scripture Reading:

1 Samuel 28-30

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 87. *What are we to believe concerning the resurrection?*

A. We are to believe that at the last day there shall be a general resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust: when they that are then found alive shall in a moment be changed; and the selfsame bodies of the dead which were laid in the grave, being then again united to their souls forever, shall be raised up by the power of Christ. The bodies of the just, by the Spirit of Christ, and by virtue of his resurrection as their head, shall be raised in power, spiritual, incorruptible, and made like to his glorious body; and the bodies of the wicked shall be raised up in dishonor by him, as an offended judge.

Prayer:

God of the living, thou hast revealed the doctrine that thou wilt raise these mortal frames, at the day of judgment, from their long decay of death, and make them joint-heirs with our spirits in the retributions of eternity. All that are in the graves shall hear thy voice, and shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.

Lord, I thank thee that our Blessed Saviour became the first-fruits of them that slept; thus setting the seal of heaven to the truth of his gospel, and to the hope of our resurrection. If Christ be not risen, then is our faith vain. But, thanks be to thy name, he has the keys of death, and could not be holden of it: and as we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus, will God bring with him. O may I rejoice in the hope, that though after my skin, worms destroy my body, yet in my flesh, I shall see God, and be forever with the Lord. O grant that when the earth shall cast forth her dead, this corruptible may put on incorruption, and this mortality put on immortality, and be fashioned like unto Christ's glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able to subdue all things to himself.

The Promise of God:

“Most assuredly I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life. Most assuredly, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear will live. For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has

granted the Son to have life in Himself, and has given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of Man. Do not marvel at this, for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth – those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.”

John 5:24-29

March 30

Call to Worship: Psalm 68:4

“Sing to God, sing praises to His name; extol Him who rides on the clouds, by His name YAH, and rejoice before Him.”

Psalm 88

Scripture Reading:

1 Samuel 31
2 Samuel 1-2

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 88. *What shall immediately follow after the resurrection?*

A. Immediately after the resurrection shall follow the general and final judgment of angels and men; the day and hour whereof no man knoweth, that all may watch and pray, and be ever ready for the coming of the Lord.

Prayer:

Great God, thou hast appointed unto men once to die, and after this the judgment, when every one of us shall give account of himself to God; and when thou wilt display to an assembled universe, the righteousness of thy justice, and the glory of thy holiness. Of that day and that hour knoweth no man; but it shall be the end of the world, when all the works therein shall be burnt up, the heavens pass away with a great noise, and the elements melt with fervent heat. Lord, make me mindful of that awful day, and of the solemn truths thou hast revealed concerning it. Then the Lord Jesus will come with his holy angels, and sit on his great white throne, and open the books of remembrance—the testimonies of creation, of providence, of scripture, and of conscience. The quick and dead shall stand before him, to be judged out of those things that are written in the books, according to their works, with every secret thing, whether it be good or evil; and also for every thing which thou didst command to be done, but which they left undone. Lord, make me realize that men will then be judged also for the privileges they have enjoyed; for of them unto whom much has been given, much will be required. O, even the best of thy saints will then need the atonement of Christ: they could not stand before thee, if thou shouldst mark their iniquities. But, blessed be thy name, there will be no condemnation to them that are in Christ Jesus: they shall receive the promise of a new heaven and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness. But then the judge will say to them on his left hand—“Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:” and the wicked shall be turned into hell, with all the nations that forget God. O God of infinite compassion, grant that in that fearful day of trial, my name may be found written in the Lamb's book of life, and that my unworthy, hell-deserving spirit may be received, through the merits of Christ, into the habitations of eternal life.

The Promise of God:

“Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world.”

1 John 4:19

March 31

Call to Worship: Psalm 89:1

“I will sing of the mercies of the LORD forever; with my mouth will I make known Your faithfulness to all generations.”

Psalm 89

Scripture Reading:

2 Samuel 3-5

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 89. *What shall be done to the wicked at the day of judgment?*

A. At the day of judgment, the wicked shall be set on Christ's left hand, and, upon clear evidence, and full conviction of their own consciences, shall have the fearful but just sentence of condemnation pronounced against them; and thereupon shall be cast out from the favorable presence of God, and the glorious fellowship with Christ, his saints, and all his holy angels, into hell, to be punished with unspeakable torments, both of body and soul, with the devil and his angels forever.

Prayer:

O Lord, give me a deep conviction of the awful truth, that thou hast ordained and fixed a place of torment for all the finally impenitent—a bottomless pit, where there is the blackness of darkness—a prison, where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth — a lake of fire, where the smoke of their torment ascendeth forever. There they will remember their ungodly deeds; their multiplied mercies; the riches of thy long-suffering which they despised; the instruction they hated; and their hardness and impenitence of heart, whereby they treasured unto themselves wrath against the day of wrath. There they shall have cruel fellowship with the devil and his angels: hatred and malice, and every evil passion, shall vex their souls; while around, and above, and beneath them, will be indignation and wrath, tribulation and anguish!

Lord, let not my heart ever rebel against the wisdom and righteousness of thy punitive justice. Just and true are all thy ways, thou King of Saints. Teach me, O God, by the deep damnation of the wicked, that thou hatest sin and lovest holiness; and that thou art thus promoting the obedience and welfare of the universe, and sustaining thy character as the moral Governor of creation.

Assist me, God of Grace, to flee from the wrath to come, and to lay hold of eternal life, through the Saviour. But O, let me not be satisfied with my own safety. May I seek the salvation of those that are in the broad way of ruin. Impel me by keen sympathy for their danger, and love for their happiness, to put forth such efforts of prayer and labour, as shall be the means of saving some that are ready to perish.

O do thou arouse the church to a conviction of her duty to a perishing world. Let none of thy people dishonour their calling, by carelessness about the eternal welfare of the impenitent. May each one feel the powers of the world to come; and by earnest supplication, and by fervent action, strive for the blessedness of converting sinners from their dangerous ways, and of saving souls from the second death.

Lord, I beseech thee, give the wicked such views of the everlasting destruction awaiting the

unrepenting sinner, as shall lead them to consider the mercy that has provided a way of escape from perdition. Persuade them, by thy terrors, to be reconciled to thee by the blood of the everlasting covenant. O make many, who now seem to be vessels of wrath, fitting for destruction, to be vessels of mercy, preparing for glory; who shall be kept by thy power, through faith, unto final salvation: where the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, which are begun on earth, shall be perfected forever.

The Promise of God:

“For they themselves declare concerning us what manner of entry we had to you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.”

1 Thessalonians 1:9-10

April 1

Call to Worship: Psalm 69:16, 30

“Here me, O LORD, for Your lovingkindness *is* good; turn to me according to the multitude of Your tender mercies....I will praise the name of God with a song, and will magnify Him with thanksgiving.”

Psalm 90

Scripture Reading:

2 Samuel 6-8

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 90. *What shall be done to the righteous at the day of judgment?*

A. At the day of judgment, the righteous, being caught up to Christ in the clouds, shall be set on his right hand, and there openly acknowledged and acquitted, shall join with him in the judging of reprobate angels and men, and shall be received into heaven, where they shall be fully and forever freed from all sin and misery; filled with inconceivable joys, made perfectly holy and happy both in body and soul, in the company of innumerable saints and holy angels, but especially in the immediate vision and fruition of God the Father, of our Lord Jesus Christ, and of the Holy Spirit, to all eternity. And this is the perfect and full communion which the members of the invisible church shall enjoy with Christ in glory, at the resurrection and day of judgment.

Prayer:

O God, Most High, assist my feeble powers to contemplate the bliss of heaven. In that blest land the righteous shall hunger no more; neither thirst any more; and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes. There they shall understand all mysteries and all knowledge. Now they see through a glass darkly; but then they shall see face to face —now they know but in part; but then they shall know even as they are known. There they shall dwell in the city of the living God, the New Jerusalem, with an innumerable company of angels, and spirits of just men made perfect; and shall sing, with unwearied tongues, the new song of praise to the Lamb, who has redeemed them to God by his blood, out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation. There they shall serve God with fulness of joy, holiness of heart, and obedience of will: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them, the Lamb shall feed them, and lead them to living fountains of waters: and thus they shall be forever with the Lord!

I thank thee, O God, that thou hast made known to us the glories of the heavenly state, and that thou hast taught us how we may obtain them. Life and immortality have been brought to light by the gospel; and though the carnal eye hath not seen, nor the ear heard, nor have entered into such heart, the things which thou hast prepared for them that love thee; yet thou hast revealed them to thy children, by thy Spirit, as a foretaste of that glory which shall be made known in the eternal life.—O Lord, shall I be a partaker of that blessedness? Grant that the contemplation of it may make me feel the vanity of earthly things, and lead me to set my affections on things that are heavenly and divine. May I follow after holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord; and seek a building of God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

Lord, grant that visions of heavenly glory may quicken the hopes, and purify the hearts, and animate the zeal of thy chosen people. May they have thy grace in them, as a rich prelude to the joys of everlasting life. May they show by their lives, that here they have no abiding place, no continuing city; but that they seek a better, even a heavenly.—Lead them, O Lord, while they strive to work out their own salvation, to seek to bring others into the path of eternal life. Make them feel that their own happiness and glory in the future state, will be greatly increased by their turning souls unto righteousness here: for then they shall shine as the brightness of the firmament, and as the stars forever and ever.

Blessed Lord, convince the worldly-minded and sinful, of the depraving and perishing nature of temporal things; and of the exalted and eternal treasures thou hast laid up in the home of the righteous. Induce them, by thy Spirit, to renounce the world, the flesh, and the devil; and to seek that faith in Christ, that purity of heart, and that compliance with thy will, by which they shall be made meet for the inheritance of the saints in light. And to thy name, Father, Son, and Spirit, shall be the glory of their salvation forever.

The Promise of God:

“Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His temple. And He who sits on the throne will dwell among them. They shall neither hunger anymore nor thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any heat; for the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to living fountains of waters. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

Revelation 7:15-17

April 2

Call to Worship: Psalm 91:2

“I will say of the LORD, ‘*He is my refuge and my fortress; my God, in Him I will trust.*’”

Psalm 91

Scripture Reading:

2 Samuel 9-11

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 91. *What is the duty which God requireth of man?*

A. The duty which God requireth of man is, obedience to his revealed will.

Prayer:

Adorable Jehovah, bestow on me, for the merits of thy Son, the spirit of unreserved and fullhearted obedience to thy law. Thou art entitled to the service of all thy creatures. Thou didst form man out of the dust of the ground, and didst give him the breath of life, that he should honour and obey thee. Thou hast preserved his being, and gathered around him the comforts of life, that he should show forth thy praise. And he owes thee allegiance, because thou art the Governor of the universe, having a right to do thy pleasure among the army of heaven and the inhabitants of earth; none of whom can resist thy will, but at the risk of thy sore displeasure. But thou hast strengthened, infinitely, all these claims on his service, by the offer of salvation to a perishing world. Without this there had been no hope of escape from the fruits of disobedience, which had treasured up wrath against the day of wrath. Blessed be thy mercy, that with this precious gift, thou hast not only infinitely increased our obligations, but thou hast actually redeemed unto thyself, a peculiar people, who are zealous of good works. Though thy righteous claims of creation, preservation, and benefaction, have been disregarded, thou hast overcome the rebellion of many of thy creatures, by the controlling influence of a Saviour's love; so that they no longer live unto themselves, but unto him who died for them.

Lord, enable me to present myself to thee, a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable, which is my most reasonable service. Aid me to do thy will in the things which thou hast commanded, and in those which thou hast forbidden. May I fulfil thy commandment out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned. Teach me that whoso keepeth thy word, in him verily is the love of God perfected. O let me not confer with flesh and blood, in reference to the claims of duty. Give me courage to hold forth the word of life in evil report, and in good report. O let my obedience have that symmetry and that fulness, which are found in adding to faith virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly-kindness and charity. Give me patient continuance in well-doing; and cheer me by the hope, that in due season, if I faint not, I shall reap eternal blessedness.

Blessed Sovereign, may thy chosen generation adorn the doctrine of God, their Saviour, in all things. Enable them, by a holy walk, to be the light of the world, and to put to silence the ignorance of foolish men. Make their consciences void of offence toward God and man. May they find that thy yoke is easy and thy burden light. Make them fruitful of every good work; for thou hast ordained them, that they should go and bring forth fruit; and herein is our Father glorified, that they should bear much fruit. Grant that they may walk worthy of thee, in holiness

and righteousness before thee, all the days of their lives. Make them willing, if needs be, to lose life for thy sake and the gospel's; for then they shall find it in life everlasting. And the praise of their service, sanctified by Christ's merits, and accepted through his pleadings, shall be thine forever.

The Promise of God:

“And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.”

1 John 2:17

April 3

Call to Worship: Psalm 92:1-2

“It is good to give thanks to the LORD, and to sing praises to Your name, O Most High; to declare Your lovingkindness in the morning, and Your faithfulness every night....”

Psalm 92

Scripture Reading:

2 Samuel 12-14

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 92. *What did God at first reveal unto man as the rule of his obedience?*

A. The rule of obedience revealed to Adam in the estate of innocence, and to all mankind in him, besides a special command not to eat of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, was the moral law.

Prayer:

Lord, grant me, through the mediation of Jesus, the grace of submission. I pray thee let me never murmur nor rebel against either thy word or providence. Thou hast an infinite right to reign in me, and to rule over me, and to do with me, as seemeth good in thy sight. Thou canst not devise any statute, which is not founded on infinite wisdom and goodness. Thou canst not execute any measure, that is not sanctioned by righteousness and grace.

O strengthen me by faith and love, that I may bow to every token of thy will—which is indeed the perfection of knowledge, holiness, and mercy. I thank thee, Lord, for that full expression of it, which thou hast bequeathed in thy word. There thou hast given line upon line, and precept upon precept, that none may err therein. And yet how often does my heart forget and forsake, and sometimes contend against thy law. How prone is it to be unsubmitive when thou layest thy hand upon me in correction or displeasure.—O God, assist me to recognise thy hand in all the workings of thy providence; and lead me to concur cheerfully, with every intimation which thou givest in these things, of thy sovereign pleasure. Incline me, I pray thee, to receive thy commandment as the law of my language, feelings, and conduct. Let me not despise thy chastenings, nor faint at thy rebukes. May I be still, and know that thou art God.

Saviour of Man, bring the impenitent to submit to thy will. Thou wouldst indeed have them forsake their rebellion, and obey thy law; and thou art seeking to win them to obedience, by the promises of thy grace, and the warnings of thy wrath. O convince them that thy judgments are round about them, and that the second death is before them. Show them that their unreserved submission to thee, is their only wisdom and safety: for then, instead of being exposed to thy sore displeasure, they will be received into thy favour, and enjoy the perfect peace of him whose heart is stayed on thee.

The Promise of God:

“The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree, he shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon. Those who are planted in the house of the LORD shall flourish in the courts of our God. They shall still bear fruit in old age; they shall be fresh and flourishing, to declare that the LORD is upright....”

Psalm 92:12-15a

April 4

Call to Worship: Psalm 93:1ab, 2, 5b

“The LORD reigns, He is clothed with majesty; the LORD is clothed, He has girded Himself with strength...Your throne *is* established from of old; You *are* from everlasting...holiness adorns Your house, O LORD, forever.”

Psalm 93

Scripture Reading:

2 Samuel 15-17

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 93. *What is the moral law?*

A. The moral law is the declaration of the will of God to mankind, directing and binding every one to personal, perfect, and perpetual conformity and obedience thereunto, in the frame and disposition of the whole man, soul, and body, and in performance of all those duties of holiness and righteousness which he oweth to God and man: promising life upon the fulfilling, and threatening death upon the breach of it.

Prayer:

I thank thee, Great God, for that law of nature, impressed on my conscience, by which I am left without excuse, in the transgression of thy will. But I would praise thee still more, that thou hast given me the law of thy word, to convince me of sin, to warn and restrain me, and to lead me in the ways that are well-pleasing in thy sight. Thy commandment, O Lord, is holy, just, and good. Thou art holy; and thy law is perfect, converting the soul—thou art just; wherefore thy judgments are true and righteous altogether—thou art good; and thy statutes rejoice the heart; for in keeping them there is great reward. Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in nowise pass from the law, until all be fulfilled.

Incline me, O Lord, to take heed to my ways, according to thy word. Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law. Make thou thy testimonies my delight and counsellors; my songs in the house of my pilgrimage, and the daily monitors of my conduct. May I make thy will my meditation by day, and my remembrance in the night. Make it a lamp to my feet, and a light to my path; and do thou incline my heart to perform thy statutes always, even to the end. Impress deeply on my mind that solemn truth—whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, is guilty of all.

Lord, teach me that thy commandment is exceeding broad and deep: that it has relation not only to the actions of life, but to the hidden workings of thought and feeling. For though the sound of my lips, and the work of my hands, may be right before men; yet thy statutes may condemn the thoughts of my heart; and I may stand more guilty in thy sight, for secret sin, than for open violations of thy will.

Heavenly Father, let not my regard for thy commandment create within me a spirit of self-righteousness: for in the trial of thy justice, every mouth shall be stopped, and all the world become guilty before God. Make it a schoolmaster to bring me to Christ, as my only hope of justification. May I remember, that while it is the rule of my obedience, it is not the plan of

salvation. He who came to fulfil it, is himself the end of the law for righteousness, to every one that believeth.

O Lord, make thy law the sword of the Spirit in thy dealings with the impenitent. May it awaken and alarm their consciences, enlighten and convince their minds, and persuade and sanctify their wills; so that they may be born, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible; by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever.

The Promise of God:

“Blessed *are* the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the LORD! Blessed *are* those who keep His testimonies, who seek Him with the whole heart!”

Psalm 119:1-2

April 5

Call to Worship: Psalm 71:8, 15, 23

“Let my mouth be filled *with* Your praise *and with* Your glory all the day....My mouth shall tell of Your righteousness *and* Your salvation all the day....My lips shall greatly rejoice when I sing to You, and my soul, which You have redeemed.”

Psalm 94

Scripture Reading:

2 Samuel 18-20

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 94. *Is there any use of the moral law to man since the fall?*

A. Although no man, since the fall, can attain to righteousness and life by the moral law; yet there is great use thereof, as well common to all men, as peculiar either to the unregenerate, or the regenerate.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, assist me to contemplate the riches of thy forbearance and long-suffering. I am not deserving of the least of thy mercies. Hadst thou been strict to mark mine iniquities, I had long ere this been receiving the endless retributions of sin. My whole life has been a witness for thee, that thou wilt have mercy, and not sacrifice: and I enjoy now the privilege of approaching thy mercy seat, because thy mercy rejoiceth against thy judgment. O I am not worthy to come into thy presence, nor to lift up mine eyes to the place where thine honour dwelleth. Lord, let me not vex thine enduring goodness by continued sin, lest thou say in thy wrath, "Ephraim is joined to his idols, let him alone." Let me not weary thy patience with unfruitfulness; lest thou pronounce thy judgment, "Cut him down: why cumbereth he the ground?" Merciful Father, grant that thy forbearance may lead me to the humility of penitence, and the obedience of faith.

Lord, let not sinners despise nor presume on the riches of thy long-suffering. Suffer not their hearts to be set in them to do evil, because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily. Show them that thou givest thy mercy, that they may have space for repentance; or, that if they turn not from their evil ways, thou mayest display thy holy justice in their condemnation. O grant, Lord, that thy patience with them may lead them to repent, and to learn, in the day of their merciful visitation, the things which belong to their peace.

The Promise of God:

“Blessed *is* the man whom You instruct, O LORD, and teach out of Your law....”

Psalm 94:12

April 6

Call to Worship: Psalm 72:18-19b

“Blessed *be* the LORD God, the God of Israel, Who only does wondrous things! And blessed *be* His glorious name forever! And let the whole earth be filled *with* His glory....”

Psalm 95

Scripture Reading:

2 Samuel 21-23

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 95. *Of what use is the moral law to all men?*

A. The moral law is of use to all men, to inform them of the holy nature and will of God, and of their duty, binding them to walk accordingly; to convince them of their disability to keep it, and of the sinful pollution of their nature, hearts, and lives: to humble them in the sense of their sin and misery, and thereby help them to a clearer sight of the need they have of Christ, and of the perfection of his obedience.

Prayer:

Lord, thou art glorious in holiness. There is no stain on thy will, and no spot on thy character: the righteous Lord loveth righteousness. Just, and true, and pure are all thy thoughts, purposes, and doings. Thou art of purer eyes than to countenance evil in others; and thou canst not look on sin without abhorrence. Thou art angry with the wicked every day, and thou wilt cast them, unless they repent, into everlasting destruction. Even the heavens are not clean in thy sight; and thou chargest thine angels with folly.

Blessed God, teach me the beauty of thy holiness. O, it is the life and perfection of thy character. Thou hast shown it in all thy ways—in the works of creation, which were all very good—in thy providence, by which thou hast sought to make us partakers of thy holiness—in thy grace, which teaches us to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts—in the gift of Jesus, who came to save us from the guilt and dominion of sin—in thy truth, by which we are sanctified—in the work of thy Spirit, whereby we are baptized unto righteousness:—and thou wilt show it in the awful decisions of the last day, when the wicked shall go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into life eternal.

O Lord, may a sense of thy holiness awe and control my spirit. May it dispose me to walk humbly in thy sight: for if the holy ones of heaven veil their faces before thee, it becomes me to lie in the dust, and to cry, “Guilty; unclean: God be merciful to me a sinner.” Teach me that there is no communion between God and unholy spirits; and that none but the pure in heart can enjoy thy favour, or see thy face in righteousness. May I learn more and more the excellence of the Saviour whom thou hast provided for sinners: for if we were not accepted in the Beloved, none could be justified in thy sight. Cause a conviction of thy sinless perfection to fill me with reverence in all my approaches to thee; and suffer me not to forget that if I regard iniquity in my heart, thou wilt not hear my supplications. O give me such contemplations of thy holiness as shall cause me to die unto sin and live unto righteousness. And may I, beholding as in a glass its glory, be changed into the same image, from glory to glory.

The Promise of God:

“Who shall not fear You, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For *You* alone *are* holy. For all nations shall come and worship before You, for Your judgments have been manifested.”

Revelation 15:4

April 7

Call to Worship: Psalm 96:1-6

“Oh, sing to the LORD a new song! Sing to the LORD, all the earth. Sing to the LORD, bless His name; proclaim the good news of His salvation from day to day. Declare His glory among the nations, His wonders among all peoples. For the LORD *is* great and greatly to be praised; He *is* to be feared above all gods. For all the gods of the peoples *are* idols, but the LORD made the heavens. Honor and majesty *are* before Him; strength and beauty *are* in His sanctuary.”

Psalm 96

Scripture Reading:

2 Samuel 24

1 Kings 1-2

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 96. *What particular use is there of the moral law to unregenerate men?*

A. The moral law is of use to unregenerate men, to awaken their consciences to flee from the wrath to come, and to drive them to Christ; or, upon the continuance in the estate and way of sin, to leave them inexcusable, and under the curse thereof.

Prayer:

God of Judgment, I thank thee that thou hast given me an inward monitor, to warn me against iniquity, and to smite me when I transgress. May I regard its testimony as a proof of a future judgment; when the righteous shall receive the recompense of reward, and the wicked the retribution of wo. Enable me, I pray thee, to nourish and culture this plant of thy hand. Show me that my happiness and welfare, and the enjoyment of thy life-giving countenance, will depend on the activity, strength, and purity of my conscience. If the light that is in me be darkness, how great is that darkness! May thy will, as exhibited in thy word, be the supreme rule of its actings. May thy Spirit cleanse it from error and sin, and animate it with right knowledge and holy power. Lord, give it peace through the justifying merits of Jesus Christ, and purge it from dead works to serve the living God. Make it tender and watchful, and a faithful index of thy sovereign will; that it may be void of offence towards God and man.

Lord, stimulate and give a wholesome vigour to the conscience of all men. May it exercise a controlling and righteous influence over their inmost thoughts and their outward actions. Teach them that though they may turn away from its testimonies, and stifle its chidings, yet there is a day coming when, if they continue impenitent, it will rise up in judgment against them; when he that sitteth upon the throne will confirm its testimony, by pronouncing the verdict "Depart, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels."

The Promise of God:

“Say among the nations, ‘The LORD reigns; the world also is firmly established, it shall not be moved; he shall judge the peoples righteously....For He is coming, for He is coming to judge the earth. He shall judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with His truth.

Psalm 96:10, 13bc

April 8

Call to Worship: Psalm 73:25, 26, 28

“Whom have I in heaven *but You?* And *there is* none upon earth *that* I desire besides You. My flesh and my heart fail; *but God is* the strength of my heart and my portion forever. But *it is* good for me to draw near to God; I have put my trust in the LORD GOD, that I may declare all Your works.”

Psalm 97

Scripture Reading:

1 Kings 3-5

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 97. *What special use is there of the moral law to the regenerate?*

A. Although they that are regenerate, and believe in Christ, be delivered from the moral law as a covenant of works, so as thereby they are neither justified nor condemned; yet besides the general uses thereof common to them with all men, it is of special use, to show them how much they are bound to Christ for his fulfilling it, and enduring the curse thereof in their stead, and for their good; and thereby to provoke them to more thankfulness, and to express the same in their greater care to conform themselves thereunto as the rule of their obedience.

Prayer:

God of Salvation, vouchsafe unto me a spirit of intelligent and devoted piety. Make me a Christian, not only in name, but in truth. May I watch diligently, lest while I have the form of godliness, I may be destitute of its power.—Lead me, I pray thee, into the constant exercise of repentance towards God, and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Fill my heart with love to thee, thine ordinances, thy service, thy people, and all mankind. Give that love such strength and purity, that it shall fulfil thy law. Make it abound more and more, in knowledge and judgment, until I am filled with the fruits of righteousness, unto the glory and praise of God. Cleanse thou my heart from evil thoughts, and my life from wicked ways; and enable me to die unto sin, and to live unto righteousness. Make me meek and forgiving, sincere and humble. Let consistency, self-denial, and gratitude, pervade all my actions. Make me earnest in prayer, unwavering in faith, and joyful in hope. Prepare me for the quiet endurance of every trial, and for the zealous performance of every duty. If I suffer as a Christian, let me not be ashamed, but glorify God on this behalf.

Lord, make me a follower of them who, through faith and patience, inherit the promises. Permit me not to put a stumbling-block, or an occasion to fall, in my brother's way: but cause me to follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another. May I so act before the world, that men may take knowledge of me, and be led to glorify our Father in heaven. May the same mind which was in Christ be also in me. As I have borne the image of the earthly, so let me bear the image of the heavenly; and of his fulness receive, and grace for grace. Blessed Lord, grant that by patient continuance in well-doing, I may seek for glory, and honour, and immortality, where the righteous shall shine forth as the sun, in the kingdom of their Father.

The Promise of God:

“You who love the LORD, hate evil! He preserves the souls of His saints; He delivers them out of the hand of the wicked. Light is sown for the righteous, and gladness for the upright in heart.”

Psalm 97:10-11

April 9

Call to Worship: Psalm 98:1-3a

“Oh, sing to the LORD a new song! For He has done marvelous things; His right hand and His holy arm have gained Him the victory. The LORD has made known His salvation; His righteousness He has revealed in the sight of the nations. He has remembered His mercy and His faithfulness to the house of Israel....”

Psalm 98

Scripture Reading:

1 Kings 6-8

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 98. *Where is the moral law summarily comprehended?*

A. The moral law is summarily comprehended in the Ten Commandments, which were delivered by the voice of God upon mount Sinai, and written by him in two tables of stone; and are recorded in the twentieth chapter of Exodus; the four first commandments containing our duty to God, and the other six our duty to man.

Prayer:

Eternal God, O may my daily and hourly inquiry be, "What wilt thou have me to do?" Instruct me that the duty which thou requirest of me, is obedience to thy revealed will. Help me, I pray thee, to discharge all my obligations to thee, to myself, and to my fellow-creatures.

May I love thee with all my soul, and mind, and strength, and heart. Dispose me to submit to thy will; to love thy character; to trust in thy name; and to fear thine excellent greatness. May I regard thee as, through Christ, the object of prayer, and the rewarder of them who diligently seek thee. Help me, I pray thee, to worship thee, who art a Spirit, in spirit and in truth.

Lord, enable me, by thy Spirit, to do my duty to myself. May I exercise faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and repentance unto life; and make a diligent use of all the outward and ordinary means whereby Christ communicates unto us the benefits of redemption. May I work out my salvation with fear and trembling, knowing that it is God that worketh in me, to will and to do of his own good pleasure.

Assist me, O Lord, to perform all the duties, social, civil, and religious, which I owe to my fellow-creatures. May my conduct to them be governed by that spirit of charity which excludes anger, revenge, censoriousness, prejudice, injury, and oppression. Make me averse to injure the feelings, persons, property and character of any. May I delight in the happiness of others. Make my heart a well-spring of sympathy, compassion, and liberality; and lead me to spend cheerfully my property, my time, and, if needs be, my life, in works of mercy and justice. Enable me to fulfil all my relations as a superior, an inferior, and an equal.

Lord, I thank thee for the encouragements thou art giving, in the course of thy providence, to religious effort, by making rich with thy blessing those who are diligent in thy cause. Yet, I would feel that while these things are to be remembered with thankfulness, they increase my obligation to labour, that I may return thine own to thee with abundant usury.—Strengthen me, I pray thee, to do thy will, while it is called today—to do it with my might, and with perseverance therein to the end—even as thine angels do it in heaven.

Lord, I would offer these and all other petitions through him who is the Prophet, Priest, and King of the whole Israel of God; and without whose merits and intercessions, all my services would be without hope or profit.

The Promise of God:

“Great peace have those who love Your law, and nothing causes them to stumble.”
Psalm 119:165

April 10

Call to Worship: Psalm 77:11-12, 14a

“I will remember the works of the LORD; surely I will remember Your wonders of old. I will also meditate on all Your work, and talk of Your deeds....You *are* the God who does wonders....”

Psalm 99

Scripture Reading:

1 Kings 9-11

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 99. *What rules are to be observed for the right understanding of the ten commandments?*

A. For the right understanding of the Ten Commandments, these rules are to be observed:

1. That the law is perfect, and bindeth every one to full conformity in the whole man unto the righteousness thereof, and unto entire obedience forever; so as to require the utmost perfection of every duty, and to forbid the least degree of every sin.
2. That it is spiritual, and so reacheth the understanding, will, affections, and all other powers of the soul; as well as words, works, and gestures.
3. That one and the same thing, in divers respects, is required or forbidden in several commandments.
4. That as, where a duty is commanded, the contrary sin is forbidden; and, where a sin is forbidden, the contrary duty is commanded: so, where a promise is annexed, the contrary threatening is included; and, where a threatening is annexed, the contrary promise is included.
5. That what God forbids, is at no time to be done; what he commands, is always our duty; and yet every particular duty is not to be done at all times.
6. That under one sin or duty, all of the same kind are forbidden or commanded; together with all the causes, means, occasions, and appearances thereof, and provocations thereunto.
7. That what is forbidden or commanded to ourselves, we are bound, according to our places, to endeavor that it may be avoided or performed by others, according to the duty of their places.
8. That in what is commanded to others, we are bound, according to our places and callings, to be helpful to them; and to take heed of partaking with others in what is forbidden them.

Prayer:

Omniscient Jehovah, I thank thee for the gift of my understanding, by which I may acquire knowledge, and without which I should be ignorant of thy law, and should live as the brutes that perish. I pray thee, in the name of the Heavenly Advocate, that thou wouldst make me feel the solemn responsibilities which belong to the noble faculty of reason. Let not ignorance, nor prejudice, nor depravity control its exercises. Preserve it from error, and guide it into the knowledge of truth. Make it a storehouse of useful knowledge. Direct its energies chiefly towards that wisdom which is from above. Grant me enlarged and discriminating views of thy character, works, and will. Dispose me, great God, to submit my judgment to the tokens of thy mind, in all things; for thine understanding is infinite.

The Promise of God:

“I will run the course of Your commandments, for You shall enlarge my heart.”
Psalm 119:32

April 11

Call to Worship: Psalm 84:1-2

“How lovely *is* Your tabernacle, O LORD of hosts! My soul longs, yes, even faints for the courts of the LORD; my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God.”

Psalm 100

Scripture Reading:

1 Kings 12-14

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 100. *What special things are we to consider in the ten commandments?*

A. We are to consider, in the ten commandments, the preface, the substance of the commandments themselves, and several reasons annexed to some of them, the more to enforce them.

Prayer:

Lord, I bring unto thee the sacrifice of thanksgiving; for thou art the Father of Lights, from whom Cometh every good and perfect gift. I desire to praise thee for the multitude of thy favours, and to acknowledge that I have not deserved even the least of them. I would magnify thee for thy providing, sparing, forgiving, and saving mercies. I bless thee for the various powers of my body, the faculties of my mind, and the affections of my heart; for health and employment; for food and clothing; for social happiness and public safety. I thank thee for preserving me in the weakness and diseases of childhood, and conducting me over the slippery paths of youth, and protecting me amid the dangers of riper years. Thou hast indeed made my life, which ought, in justice, to have been a wilderness, to bud and blossom as the rose. My trials have been few and short; while my mercies have been without number and without end.

But, O Lord, I would thank thee for the blessings of the gospel, more than for every thing else. O what a rich cluster of gifts is offered to us in the grace that bringeth salvation. Thou hast given us the Bible, the preached word, the privilege of prayer, the ordinances of thy house, the Son of God, the influences of thy Holy Spirit, and the hope of glory. Lord, teach me the value of thy bounties. Strengthen my memory that I may retain a knowledge of them. Fill my heart with gratitude and love, because of thine unnumbered, unmerited blessings. May they lead me to repentance, humility, and faith, and to consecrate them and myself to thy service and glory.

The Promise of God:

“For the LORD will not cast off His people, nor will He forsake His inheritance.”

Psalm 94:14

April 12

Call to Worship: Psalm 101:1

“I will sing of mercy and justice; to You, O LORD, I will sing praises.”

Psalm 101

Scripture Reading:

1 Kings 15-17

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 101. *What is the preface to the ten commandments?*

A. The preface to the ten commandments is contained in these words, *I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.* Wherein God manifesteth his sovereignty, as being JEHOVAH, the eternal, immutable, and almighty God; having his being in and of himself, and giving being to all his words and works: and that he is a God in covenant, as with Israel of old, so with all his people; who, as he brought them out of their bondage in Egypt, so he delivereth us from our spiritual thralldom; and that therefore we are bound to take him for our God alone, and to keep all his commandments.

Prayer:

Adorable Jehovah, I would praise thee for thine excellent greatness. Thou dwellest in light that is inaccessible and full of glory: thou coverest thyself with it as with a garment; and thou art clothed with honour and majesty! Thou dwellest on high, and humblest thyself to behold the things that are done in heaven and earth. Thou art infinite, eternal, and unchangeable in thy being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth. Thou art not worshipped as though thou needest any thing; for thou givest unto all, life, and breath, and all things. Yet thou art exalted above principalities and powers, that at thy name every knee should bow, and every tongue confess.

O, thou art infinitely worthy of the everlasting adoration of all thy rational creatures. Thou art glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders. In thee I live, and move, and have my being. From thee I derive every good and perfect gift. It was thy power which created me; it is thy wisdom that governs me; thy goodness that provides for me; and thy grace that saves me. O help me, adorable Jehovah, to feel and express the infinite excellencies of thy character, and to bow before thee as over all, God, blessed forever!

The Promise of God:

“But you *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; who once *were* not a people but *are* now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.”

1 Peter 2:9-10

April 13

Call to Worship: Psalm 85:8a,b

“I will hear what God the LORD will speak, for He will speak peace to His people and to His saints....”

Psalm 102

Scripture Reading:

1 Kings 18-20

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 102. *What is the sum of the four commandments which contain our duty to God?*

A. The sum of the four commandments containing our duty to God is, to love the Lord our God with all our heart, and with all our soul, and with all our strength, and with all our mind.

Prayer:

Exalted Jehovah, thou art worthy, both by thy nature and dealings, of the strongest love of all thy rational creatures. Thou art perfect in all the attributes of thy character. No ignorance impairs thy wisdom; no error perverts thy justice; no falsehood clouds thy truth; no spot stains thy holiness. Thou art, moreover, merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abundant in goodness. O that the language of my heart might always be—"Whom have I in heaven but thee; and there is none on earth I desire besides thee." Be thou my Alpha and Omega; my morning praise; my noonday thought; my evening prayer; and my waking meditation.

Blessed Jesus, help me that I may love thee with all my heart, and soul, and strength, and mind. I desire to cherish the memory of thine example and instructions, thy benevolence and promises, as the dearest objects of thought. O may my affection for thee urge me to advance thy glory, to desire to be conformed to thine image, to seek communion with thee, and to love thy house, thine ordinances, thy word, and thy people. But let me not think that any strength of attachment can merit thy love to me; for O thine acceptance of my love is one of the crowning gifts of undeserved mercy.

Glorious God, may thy saints bring thee the full tribute of their hearts. Let the constant bearing of their thoughts be unto thee, and the remembrance of thy name. Fill their hearts with gratitude to thee, and lead them to seek thee, with delight, in all the exercises of religion. May they rejoice in thy word, as the index of thy will; and take pleasure in thy people, as the excellent of the earth; and seek the glory of Christ more than the favour of man, or the love of the world.

Lord, bring those who are now at enmity with thee, to esteem and desire thee, as their chief good. Cast out their selfishness and aversion, and take the dominion of their hearts, that they may be able to say, the Lord is their portion, and his love the fulness of their joy.

The Promise of God:

“For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome.”

1 John 5:3

April 14

Call to Worship: Psalm 103:1

“Bless the LORD, O my soul; and all that is within me, *bless His holy name!*”

Psalm 103

Scripture Reading:

1 Kings 21-22
2 Kings 1

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 103. *Which is the first commandment?*

A. The first commandment is, *Thou shalt have no other gods before me.*

Prayer:

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits; for God is love. Thou art good, O Lord, in giving, preserving, and blessing the lives of thy creatures. They are thine offspring, and have their being in thy mercy. The eyes of all are unto thee, and thou givest them their meat in due season: thou openest thy hand, and satisfiest the desires of every living thing. Thou crownest the year with thy goodness, and thy paths drop fatness.—Thou hast shown thy mercy in thy forbearance; for if thou didst mark iniquity, who could stand? Yea, thou art long-suffering, and art not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.—But thou hast exhibited thy goodness, above all, in the gift of thy Son. Thou didst so love the world, as to give him, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life: and thou didst commend thy love to us, in that while we were sinners, Christ died for us. Though we had turned every one to his own way, the Lord laid on him the iniquity of us all.—Blessed God, thou art merciful in the gift of the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make us wise unto salvation—and in the bestowment of that Comforter, whose ministrations are life, because of righteousness.—Even our afflictions have been blessings in disguise; for thou hast chastened us for our profit, that we might be partakers of thy holiness: and though thy chastenings seemed not to be joyous, but grievous, yet afterwards they worked the peaceable fruits of righteousness.—Lo! thou hast made even the sins of thy creatures to work together for good: thou hast made the wrath of man to praise thee: and where sin hath abounded, grace doth much more abound. —Whoso is wise, and will observe these things, even he shall understand the loving-kindness of the Lord!

Heavenly Father, make me feel that I am not worthy of the least of thy mercies, and that I have deserved thy wrath instead of thy kindness. Bind me, I beseech thee, to thee and thy cause, by a strong and an abiding gratitude. Permit me not to forget nor abuse thy mercies. Let them not rise up in judgment against me, either in this world, or in that which is to come. Do thou lead me, O Lord, to imitate thy goodness, by labours of love, and by seeking occasions to do good, in all the relations of life.

Lord, draw all men unto thee by the cords of thy love. May thy kindness lead them to repentance, and to devotion to thy cause. O that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men. His goodness endureth continually, and his mercy is everlasting. Lord let thine abundant grace, through the thanksgiving of many, redound to thy glory.

The Promise of God:

“For as the heavens are high above the earth, *so* great is His mercy toward those who fear Him;
as far as the east is from the west, *so* far has He removed our transgressions from us.”

Psalm 103:11-12

April 15

Call to Worship: Psalm 104:1,33-34

“Bless the LORD, O my soul! O LORD my God, You are very great; You are clothed with honor and majesty....I will sing to the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have my being. May my meditation be sweet to Him; I will be glad in the LORD.”

Psalm 104

Scripture Reading:

2 Kings 2-4

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 104. *What are the duties required in the first commandment?*

A. The duties required in the first commandment are, the knowing and acknowledging of God to be the only true God, and our God; and to worship and glorify him accordingly, by thinking, meditating, remembering, highly esteeming, honoring, adoring, choosing, loving, desiring, fearing of him; believing him; trusting, hoping, delighting, rejoicing in him; being zealous for him; calling upon him, giving all praise and thanks, and yielding all obedience and submission to him with the whole man; being careful in all things to please him, and sorrowful when in anything he is offended; and walking humbly with him.

Prayer:

Great Builder of the Universe, in the beginning thou didst make the heaven and the earth; and by thee were all things created, that are in heaven and earth, whether they be thrones or dominions, or principalities, or powers. Thou didst speak, and it was done: thou didst command, and it stood fast.—Lord, thou didst make man in thine own image, in knowledge, righteousness and holiness, with dominion over the creatures. But man being in honour abode not. He fell from that holy and happy estate, in which he was created, by sinning against God; and now all that dwell upon the face of the earth are by nature the children of wrath: yea, the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain, because of transgression. O God, redeem the works of thy power from their degeneracy. May this earth be renewed with the beauty of Eden. Breathe thou into man the breath of life, and make him a new creature in Christ Jesus.

Lord, assist me to acknowledge thy power, wisdom, and goodness, as they are shown in the works of thy hands. The heavens declare thy glory, and the firmament showeth thy handy-work. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night showeth knowledge. There is no speech nor language where their voice is not heard. Their line is gone out through all the earth; and their words to the end of the world! All thy works praise thee. O let my tongue and my soul join the chorus of creation; and praise thee in songs of rejoicing, and in newness of life.

Great God, make me thoughtful of the truth, that the heavens and earth, which are now, are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment, and perdition of ungodly men. Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of person ought I to be, in all holy conversation and godliness—looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God; wherein the heavens, being on fire, shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?—Nevertheless, may I, according to thy promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

The Promise of God:

“The fear of the LORD *leads* to life, and *he who has it* will abide in satisfaction; he will not be visited with evil.”

Proverbs 19:23

April 16

Call to Worship: Psalm 105:1-5

“Oh, give thanks to the LORD! Call upon His name; make known His deeds among the peoples! Sing to Him, sing psalms to Him; talk of all His wondrous works! Glory in His holy name; let the hearts of those rejoice who seek the LORD! Seek the LORD and His strength; seek His face evermore! Remember His marvelous works which He has done, His wonders, and the judgments of His mouth....”

Psalm 105

Scripture Reading:

2 Kings 5-7

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 105. *What are the sins forbidden in the first commandment?*

A. The sins forbidden in the first commandment, are, atheism, in denying or not having a God; idolatry, in having or worshiping more gods than one, or any with or instead of the true God; the not having and avouching him for God, and our God; the omission or neglect of anything due to him, required in this commandment; ignorance, forgetfulness, misapprehensions, false opinions, unworthy and wicked thoughts of him; bold and curious searching into his secrets; all profaneness, hatred of God; self-love, self-seeking, and all other inordinate and immoderate setting of our mind, will, or affections upon other things, and taking them off from him in whole or in part; vain credulity, unbelief, heresy, misbelief, distrust, despair, incorrigibleness, and insensibleness under judgments, hardness of heart, pride, presumption, carnal security, tempting of God; using unlawful means, and trusting in lawful means; carnal delights and joys; corrupt, blind, and indiscreet zeal; lukewarmness, and deadness in the things of God; estranging ourselves, and apostatizing from God; praying, or giving any religious worship, to saints, angels, or any other creatures; all compacts and consulting with the devil, and hearkening to his suggestions; making men the lords of our faith and conscience; slighting and despising God and his commands; resisting and grieving of his Spirit, discontent and impatience at his dispensations, charging him foolishly for the evils he inflicts on us; and ascribing the praise of any good we either are, have, or can do, to fortune, idols, ourselves, or any other creature.

Prayer:

Great God, look in mercy on those who are bowing down to gods which their own hands have made, or worshipping the things thou hast created, and which are dependent on thee for their being. O Lord, further every effort that is made to spread light among the dark places of the earth. May brightness spring up to them that sit in the region and shadow of death. Cause the isles to wait for thy law, and the Gentiles to come to thy light. Bring many from the east and the west, who shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven. Say to the north, "Give up;" and to the south, "Hold not back." Bring thy sons from afar, and thy daughters from the ends of the earth. Make the wilderness and solitary place to be glad; and the desert to rejoice and blossom as the rose.—Lord, teach the heathen that the Godhead is not like unto gold, or silver, or stone; graven by art or man's device. May they learn the folly and

wickedness of their worship, and casting their idols to the moles and the bats, honour and serve the living God.—Lord, thou seest that this harvest is plenteous, but the labourers are few. Send forth labourers into it, who shall be the means of dispelling every form of superstition, and spreading the day-spring of thy gospel: until every heart shall be an altar, and every tongue a voice of praise, unto him that sitteth on the throne, and unto the Lamb, forever.

Blessed Lord, keep my own heart from idolatry. Thou art God; and beside thee there is none other. Suffer me not to idolize the world, nor any thing that is in the world. Let no created good supplant thy dominion over my heart. Let no object of affection divert from thee that supreme love which I owe thee, as my Creator, Preserver, and Redeemer. What concord hath Christ with Belial? What agreement should the temple of God have with idols? Be thou to me my all, and in all. Persuade and control my soul to acknowledge thee as the only true God, and my God; and to worship and glorify thee accordingly.

The Promise of God:

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.”

Proverbs 3:5-6

April 17

Call to Worship: Psalm 106:1

“Praise the LORD! Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for *He is* good! For His mercy *endures* forever!”

Psalm 106

Scripture Reading:

2 Kings 8-10

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 106. *What are we specially taught by these words before me in the first commandment?*

A. These words, *before me*, or before my face, in the first commandment, teach us, that God, who seeth all things, taketh special notice of, and is much displeased with, the sin of having any other God: that so it may be an argument to dissuade from it, and to aggravate it as a most impudent provocation: as also to persuade us to do as in his sight, whatever we do in his service.

Prayer:

O God, whither shall I go from thy Spirit; or where shall I flee from thy presence? If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, thou art there: if I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me! Thou fillest and exceedest the vast amplitude of the universe.

Lord, help me to understand the purposes of thy universal presence. Thou art bestowing the blessings of thy providence, and exerting the righteousness of thy government, over all thy creatures. Thou art comforting, protecting, and sanctifying the hearts of thy saints, and bestowing mingled mercy and justice on the earthly probation of the wicked. Thou art pervading heaven with the bliss of eternal life, and filling hell with the anguish of everlasting death.

O Lord, assist me to profit by the truth, that thou art everywhere present, at all times. Teach me by it, that in the infinite contrast with thee, I am but a grain of dust, a point, an atom, or as nothing! O that it might lead me to be vigilant in doing thy will, and in trusting to thy protecting providence, and redeeming goodness. Lord, grant me here, I beseech thee, a foretaste of that fulness of joy, which is in thy heavenly presence for evermore.

The Promise of God:

“Their sorrows shall be multiplied who hasten *after* another *god*...I have set the LORD always before me; because *He is* at my right hand I shall not be moved.”

Psalm 16:4a, 8

April 18

Call to Worship: Psalm 107:1

“Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for *He is good!* For His mercy *endures* forever.”

Psalm 107

Scripture Reading:

2 Kings 11-13

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 107. *Which is the second commandment?*

A. The second commandment is, *Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; and shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.*

Prayer:

Lord Jehovah, thou art good, and lovest to do good. Thou art the giver of every good and perfect gift. My whole life has been a record of thy mercy. Thou hast given me the blessings of health and peace, food and clothing, home and friends, protection and happiness. Yet all these are but as the small dust of the balance, compared with thy mercy in Christ Jesus. Though the creatures thou hadst made, to be the subjects of thy bounty, had all rebelled against thy law, thou didst so love them, as to give thy Son for them, to bring them back, with an everlasting redemption. And because they still, notwithstanding this matchless offer of compassion, would not come unto thee, that they might have life, thou hast given them the influences of thy Holy Spirit, to persuade them to accept of mercy. And to as many as thou hast given power to become the sons of God, thou hast vouchsafed such measures of thy grace, that they shall be able to persevere in obedience, through faith, unto complete salvation.

O Lord, cause my gratitude to bear some proportion to thy goodness. Let me not forget thy benefits, nor think that my own hand has wrought any of them. Incline me to look back often, with mingled feelings of wonder and love, on the way in which thou hast led me by thy providence and grace. Show me the enormity of my sinfulness, which has made me blind to thy love, forgetful of thy favour, and thankless for thy mercy: and grant me deeper impressions of that benevolence, which though thus abused, has still waited to be gracious. Give me such views of thy loving-kindness, and of my own utter unworthiness, as shall lead me to magnify continually the richness of thy goodness. Induce me to love thee because thou hast first loved me. Make my enjoyment of thy mercies a motive to obedience. Especially may the love of Christ constrain me to do thy will. O may I desire to show my sense of obligation to thee, by always seeking to do what is well-pleasing in thy sight.

Great God, cause thine unnumbered mercies towards guilty men, to melt the hardness of their hearts, to subdue their rebellious wills, and to lead them, by the allurements of thy love, to a godly sorrow for sin, a cordial faith in the atonement, and a grateful devotion to thy cause. Make

the multitudes who are children of disobedience, the sons of adoption, to the praise of the fulness of thy grace.

O Lord, permit me not to be ungrateful to my fellow-creatures. Thou hast been pleased so to constitute our social relations, that each is dependent on others for kindness and favour. Thou hast made many of them the almoners of thy bounty to me. Make my heart sensible to every benefit I receive from them: and while my affections abound towards those who do me good, lead me, O Lord, to do good to all men.—Promote, I beseech thee, the prevalence of acts of good-will among all thy creatures; until envy, ingratitude, and hatred shall be banished from the world, and all men abound in love to God, and to each other.

The Promise of God:

“Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.”

Hebrews 12:28

April 19

Call to Worship: Psalm 108:1-5

“O God, my heart is steadfast; I will sing and give praise, even with my glory. Awake, lute and harp! I will awaken the dawn. I will praise You, O LORD, among the peoples, and I will sing praises to You among the nations. For Your mercy *is* great above the heavens, and Your truth *reaches* to the clouds. Be exalted, O God, above the heavens, and Your glory above all the earth....”

Psalm 108

Scripture Reading:

2 Kings 14-16

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 108. *What are the duties required in the second commandment?*

A. The duties required in the second commandment are, the receiving, observing, and keeping pure and entire, all such religious worship and ordinances as God hath instituted in his word; particularly prayer and thanksgiving in the name of Christ; the reading, preaching, and hearing of the word; the administration and receiving of the sacraments; church government and discipline; the ministry and maintenance thereof; religious fasting; swearing by the name of God, and vowing unto him: as also the disapproving, detesting, opposing, all false worship; and, according to each one's place and calling, removing it, and all monuments of idolatry.

Prayer:

Adorable Jehovah, thou art exalted above principalities and powers, that at thy name every knee should bow, and every tongue confess. All thy works praise thee. Bestow on me, in the name of Jesus, that grace which will qualify me to worship thee in spirit and in truth. Let me not seek to draw nigh to thee with my lips, while my heart is far from thee; nor take the attitude of devotion, while my thoughts wander among the cares and pleasures of life. If the language of insincerity be offensive when offered to a fellow-being, how much more when it is presented to the God of Truth! May strong convictions of thy greatness and presence rest upon me, and make me suitably afraid. Make me feel that I am unworthy of the least of thy mercies, and that if thou wert strict to mark iniquity, I dare not come before thee, but should take up my abode where there is no mercy-seat, and no answer of peace to the cry of despairing woe.

Gracious God, let all my approaches to thee be in humble reliance upon the merits of Christ. Give me such an impression of thy goodness, in the bounties of thy providence and the covenant of thy grace, that I shall go to thee with the love and confidence of a child to its father; for if earthly parents know how to give good gifts to their children, much more will our Heavenly Father give his Holy Spirit to them that ask him. Lord, grant me such views of thy character, and of my own wants and those of mankind, as shall dispose me to magnify thy name, with an adoring and grateful spirit, and lead me to seek thy favour by fervent and believing supplication.

Lord, bless the assemblies of thy saints. May reverence, love, and faith, animate their devotions. May thy praise be sung with holy affections; thy favour be sought with believing hearts; thy word be preached in the demonstration of the Spirit, and be heard as a message of divine wisdom and mercy. Bring into thy sanctuaries those who neglect thy worship; and fill thy

courts with such as live regardless of thy statutes. Grant, O Lord, that all the solemn feasts of thy house may be seasons of refreshing from thy presence, in which saints shall grow in grace, and many prodigals be brought into the adoption of the sons of God; to the glory of thy mercy in Jesus, both now and forever.

The Promise of God:

“Who shall not fear You, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For *You* alone *are* holy, for all nations shall come and worship before You, for Your judgments have been manifested.”

Revelation 15:4

April 20

Call to Worship: Psalm 86:11-12

“Teach me Your way, O LORD; I will walk in Your truth; unite my heart to fear Your name. I will praise You, O LORD my God, with all my heart, and I will glorify Your name forevermore.”

Psalm 109

Scripture Reading:

2 Kings 17-19

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 109. *What are the sins forbidden in the second commandment?*

A. The sins forbidden in the second commandment are, all devising, counseling, commanding, using, and anywise approving, any religious worship not instituted by God himself; the making any representation of God, of all or of any of the three persons, either inwardly in our mind, or outwardly in any kind of image or likeness of any creature whatsoever; all worshipping of it, or God in it or by it; the making of any representation of feigned deities, and all worship of them, or service belonging to them; all superstitious devices, corrupting the worship of God, adding to it, or taking from it, whether invented and taken up of ourselves, or received by tradition from others, though under the title of antiquity, custom, devotion, good intent, or any other pretense whatsoever; simony; sacrilege; all neglect, contempt, hindering, and opposing the worship and ordinances which God hath appointed.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, teach me to pray, and quicken me by thy Spirit, that I may worship thee in spirit and in truth. Give me clear and abiding views of the nature of this solemn act of worship. Grant me a proper estimate of thy character, as infinitely able and willing to bless all who would approach the throne of grace, according to thy will. Enable me to make thy glory the ruling object of my desires; and to present them only in the name of the heavenly Mediator; whom thou always hearest, for in him thou art ever well-pleased. May every supplication be offered in the wish and hope that Jesus will present it, with his prevailing intercession, at the throne of grace. Lord, make me feel my entire and continual dependance on thee for all the blessings I possess, or hope to enjoy. O do thou give me such a craving sense of want, such a conviction that there is no other source of relief, and such confidence in thy promises, that supplication shall be the language of my tongue, the thought of my heart, and the food of my soul.

Great God, thou art, indeed, not worshipped as though thou needest any thing; for thou givest to all, life, and breath, and all things. It is in mercy to us that thou art willing to hear and answer the prayer of penitence and faith. Thou hast moreover commanded it, as our imperative duty—thus making our privilege and our obligation one and inseparable.

Infinite Fountain of Blessing, grant me the influences of thy Spirit, to show me what I should pray for, and the way in which I should draw nigh to the mercy-seat.—Teach me, I pray thee, the various and numerous wants of my dependent nature, until my thoughts shall grow familiar with them, in all their number, and my heart shall be absorbed by convictions of their importance. Lord, dispose me to submit every object of hope and every pursuit of desire, by prayer, to the

control of thy will: and do thou turn me away from continuing or completing any thing, which has not the sanction of thy favour, and upon which I cannot invoke thy blessing. O Lord, suffer me not to confine my supplications to my own wants; but do thou give me a spirit of prayer on behalf of others. Make me feelingly alive to all the interests of thy church, and abundant in intercession for her knowledge, purity, and increase. O burden my heart with anxious solicitude for the impenitent; and lead my feelings out in earnest and importunate pleadings for their salvation.—Lord, suffer me not to approach thee, on any subject, with thoughtlessness or insincerity. Restrain me from a wandering and corrupted mind. May every petition be the expression of true and anxious feeling. Suffer me not to forget my supplications, with the passing breath that utters them; but do thou cause my memory to retain them, and my hope to pursue them; and if I receive not, may I be assured that it is because I ask amiss.

Father of Mercy, assist me to bring my desires into conformity to thy will. Let me not ask thee for any thing inconsistent with thy holy and sovereign pleasure.—Help me to come in the humble boldness of faith to thy throne, that I may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need. Thou art indeed more ready to hear than I am to pray; and more willing to give than I am to ask. Enable me, I pray thee, to come to thee in the confidence with which I would approach an earthly parent: for if such an one knows how to give good gifts to his children, much more will our heavenly Father give his Holy Spirit to them that ask him. Lord, help thou mine unbelief, and enable me to believe that thou art the rewarder of them that diligently seek thee.—Teach me that if I regard iniquity in my heart, thou wilt not hear me. Do thou therefore cleanse my heart, that my desires may go forth unspotted by sin, and find acceptance in thy sight. Lord, lead me to the thankful acknowledgment of past mercies; and dispose me to hope from them for the bestowment of future good.—Bring me to thee, O Searcher of hearts, with humble confession of sins; for it becomes me to say, that instead of having any claim to thine audience and favour, I have only deserved thy displeasure. It is of thy grace that I am even permitted to plead for mercy.

Heavenly Father, dispose me to fulfil every suitable occasion of devotional duty. May I love the public and social supplications of thy saints. Let me not withhold the incense from the family altar. May I delight to hold converse with thee, where there is no other eye to watch, and no other ear to hear, and where I shall feel that I am alone with God. And give me. Blessed Master, that spirit of ejaculatory prayer, which will purify every current of my thoughts, and sanctify every business of my life.— Lord, enable me, in all the vicissitudes of life, to watch unto prayer, and to find that it is good for me to draw nigh to God. May I wrestle, as did thy servant of old, who had power with thee, and prevailed. And may my soul ascribe, in sincerity and love, the praise of all the mercies I derive from thee, to thy matchless grace in the Redeemer, both now and forever.

The Promise of God:

“Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.”

James 5:16

April 21

Call to Worship: Psalm 89:1

“I will sing of the mercies of the LORD forever; with my mouth will I make known Your faithfulness to all generations.”

Psalm 110

Scripture Reading:

2 Kings 20-22

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 110. *What are the reasons annexed to the second commandment, the more to enforce it?*

A. The reasons annexed to the second commandment, the more to enforce it, contained in these words, *For I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; and shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments*; are, besides God's sovereignty over us, and propriety in us, his fervent zeal for his own worship, and his revengeful indignation against all false worship, as being a spiritual whoredom; accounting the breakers of this commandment such as hate him, and threatening to punish them unto divers generations; and esteeming the observers of it such as love him and keep his commandments, and promising mercy to them unto many generations.

Prayer:

Great Giver of every good and perfect gift, grant me a sanctifying and saving knowledge of thy mercy. Thou art good and gracious; slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy. Yet thou hast a perfect right to withhold it from us—yea, to visit us with unmixed and irretrievable evil, for we are not only unworthy of the least expression of thy goodness, but we have deserved the severe retributions of thy wrath. Nevertheless, thy goodness has pursued us in all the walks of life. It has stayed, or soothed, or healed the inflictions of merited evil; and it has bestowed on us uncounted tokens of unmerited good. When we have been thoughtless of thee, thou hast been mindful of us: when we hated thee, thou hast loved us. Verily, thou art long-suffering, and abundant in compassion. Thou dost not mete unto man evil for evil; but dost crown him with loving-kindness and tender mercy.

O that my memory could retain, and that my heart could properly value, the long catalogue of thine affectionate dealings with me. Thou hast watched over me by night, and guarded me by day; thou hast preserved me in health, and healed me in sickness; thou hast chosen for me the changes of life, and hast suited me to them: and more than all things else, thou hast given our race that mercy of Christ, whereby the dayspring from on high hath visited us, with healing in its beams. Lord, enable me to cherish a suitable estimate of thy goodness. May it lead me to love thee, and to do thy will—may it succour me when I am tempted, and comfort me when I am grieved.—May it strengthen me in the hour of death, and be the song of my rejoicing throughout the ages of eternity.

Compassionate Father, deal not in strict justice with those who are now rejecting thy mercy. Say not in thy wrath, that they shall not enter thy rest. Make them hear thy tender and oft-repeated entreaties to turn from their wickedness, whilst thou art waiting to be gracious. Display

to them the riches and fulness of that compassion, which brings the Sovereign of heaven to plead with them, and to pursue them, in their obstinacy, with so many expressions of love. Extend to them thy golden sceptre of grace, that they may touch it, and live. O, forsake them not; but multiply thy mercies upon them, until their hardness of heart shall be melted down, in humble sorrow and love—until their rebellious wills shall be brought to serve the living and true God.

The Promise of God:

“Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”

Hebrews 4:16

April 22

Call to Worship: Psalm 91:2

“I will say of the LORD, ‘*He is my refuge and my fortress; my God, in Him I will trust.*’”

Psalm 111

Scripture Reading:

2 Kings 23-25

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 111. *Which is the third commandment?*

A. The third commandment is, *Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain: for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.*

Prayer:

Lord, grant that my heart may always be influenced by that fear of thee, which is the beginning of wisdom; and which is a fountain of life that is clean, enduring forever. Let not my fear of thee be the dread of a slave, nor the terror of a criminal; but the awe of a servant, mingled with the confidence of a child. May it lead me to avoid thy displeasure—to desire thy favour—to hate evil—and to do thy pleasure, in all the walks of life.

Lord, cause the dread of thy judgments to rest on the wicked. Make them feel that thy presence is continually about them, and that thy knowledge makes record of all their transgressions. May they learn thy power and justice, and be convinced that these attributes are pledged to destroy the finally impenitent. Cause them to kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and they perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Show them that thy mercy is upon all that fear thee, from generation to generation.

Keep me, O Lord, from the fear of man that bringeth a snare. If thou art for me, who can be against me? Who is he that will harm me, if I am a follower of that which is good? Grant me courage to speak of thy testimonies and not be ashamed. Though the proud have me in derision, let me not decline from thy law. Help me to despise the shame of a gainsaying world, lest the Son of Man be ashamed of me, when he cometh in the glory of the Father, with his holy angels.

The Promise of God:

“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; a good understanding have all those who do
His commandments. His praise endures forever.”

Psalm 111:10

April 23

Call to Worship: Psalm 92:1-2

“*It is good to give thanks to the LORD, and to sing praises to Your name, O Most High; to declare Your lovingkindness in the morning, and Your faithfulness every night....*”

Psalm 112

Scripture Reading:

1 Chronicles 1-3
HCO: Isaiah 1-3

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 112. *What is required in the third commandment?*

A. The third commandment requires, that the name of God, his titles, attributes, ordinances, the word, sacraments, prayer, oaths, vows, lots, his works, and whatsoever else there is whereby he makes himself known, be holily and reverently used in thought, meditation, word, and writing; by an holy profession, and answerable conversation, to the glory of God, and the good of ourselves, and others.

Prayer:

Lord God Almighty, thou art glorious in the infinite excellencies of thy character. Thou art everlasting in being, almighty in power, infinite in wisdom, inflexible in justice, eternal in truth, spotless in holiness, and boundless in mercy. Great and marvellous are thy works, just and true are thy ways, thou King of Saints. Who will not fear and glorify thy name? The heavens declare thy glory, and the firmament exhibiteth thy handiwork: day unto day uttereth speech concerning thee, and night unto night showeth knowledge of thee. All thy works praise thee. But it is in the person and work of our blessed Saviour, that thou hast chiefly shown the perfection of thy character, for the adoration and homage of thine intelligent creation. There thou didst make thy richest display of might and knowledge, righteousness and goodness. O, thou art worthy to be held in everlasting honour, that he who was the brightness of the Father's glory, and the express image of his person, was made flesh, and dwelt with us, being in all points tempted as we are; and when he had filled up the measure of his reproach and persecution, gave himself up to an ignominious death, that we might have redemption through his blood, even the remission of sins!

Father in Heaven, hallowed be thy name. O help me to honour thee whenever I contemplate thy works, or thy word, or thy providence. Make me willing to spend my substance, my reputation, my time, and my life itself, to promote the honour of thy name. May I praise thee in my thoughts, and with my lips, and by my life: and whether I eat or drink, or whatsoever I do, may I do all to the glory of God. And do thou shine into my heart to give me the knowledge of thy glory, in the face of Jesus Christ.

Lord, let all thy saints bless thee. Instruct them that their chief end is to glorify thee. Dispose them to show forth the praises of him who hath called them out of darkness into his marvellous light. May they meditate on thy greatness, and talk of thy wondrous works, and honour thy will by acts of holy obedience. Be thou admired in all that believe on thee. Make them the blessed instruments of leading multitudes, who now cast dishonour on thy mercy, to witness and magnify the riches of thy grace.

Father, glorify thy name in turning the wicked from the error of their ways unto the wisdom of the just. O fulfil in all their power and efficacy the messages of the gospel, which are glory to God in the highest; peace on earth, and good-will to men.

The Promise of God:

“Praise the LORD! Blessed *is* the man *who* fears the LORD, *who* delights greatly in His commandments. His descendants will be mighty on earth; the generation of the upright will be blessed. Wealth and riches *will be* in his house, and his righteousness endures forever.”

Psalm 112:1-3

April 24

Call to Worship: Psalm 113:2-3

“Blessed be the name of the LORD from this time forth and forevermore! From the rising of the sun to its going down the LORD’s name *is* to be praised.”

Psalm 113

Scripture Reading:

1 Chronicles 4-6
HCO: Isaiah 4-6

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 113. *What are the sins forbidden in the third commandment?*

A. The sins forbidden in the third commandment are, the not using of God's name as is required; and the abuse of it in an ignorant, vain, irreverent, profane, superstitious, or wicked mentioning or otherwise using his titles, attributes, ordinances, or works, by blasphemy, perjury; all sinful cursings, oaths, vows, and lots; violating of our oaths and vows, if lawful; and fulfilling them, if of things unlawful; murmuring and quarreling at, curious prying into, and misapplying of God's decrees and providences; misinterpreting, misapplying, or any way perverting the word, or any part of it, to profane jests, curious or unprofitable questions, vain janglings, or the maintaining of false doctrines; abusing it, the creatures, or anything contained under the name of God, to charms, or sinful lusts and practices; the maligning, scorning, reviling, or any wise opposing of God's truth, grace, and ways; making profession of religion in hypocrisy, or for sinister ends; being ashamed of it, or a shame to it, by unconformable, unwise, unfruitful, and offensive walking, or backsliding from it.

Prayer:

Lord, let me not take thy holy name in vain. Keep me from profaning or abusing any thing whereby thou makest thyself known; and lead me into a holy and reverend use of thy names, titles, attributes, ordinances, word, and works.

Suppress, I beseech thee, the profanity which so shamefully abounds in the world. O, I would lament before thee, that because of swearing, the land mourneth. May all who are guilty of this transgression, be persuaded that it is an unprovoked, a wilful, and presumptuous sin against the Most High, whose name is exalted, that every knee should bow, and every tongue confess before him, in the deepest reverence and self-abasement. Thou hast revealed thy name, and character, and dealings, that mankind should praise, and supplicate, and obey thee: but they have, in their madness of heart, made this knowledge the occasion of impious profaneness. Lord, show them that thou wilt not hold those guiltless, who take thy name in vain. They that love cursing, shall be cursed. Adorable Jehovah, give them a speedy repentance and forsaking of their sin. Grant that every tongue which has abused thy majesty, may become a voice of thanksgiving and prayer.

The Promise of God:

“Our help is in the name of the LORD, who made heaven and earth.”

Psalm 124:8

April 25

Call to Worship: Psalm 92:1-2

“*It is good to give thanks to the LORD, and to sing praises to Your name, O Most High; to declare Your lovingkindness in the morning, and Your faithfulness every night....*”

Psalm 114

Scripture Reading:

1 Chronicles 7-9
HCO: Isaiah 7-9

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 114. *What reasons are annexed to the third commandment?*

A. The reasons annexed to the third commandment, in these words, *The Lord thy God, and, For the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain*, are, because he is the Lord and our God, therefore his name is not to be profaned, or any way abused by us; especially because he will be so far from acquitting and sparing the transgressors of this commandment, as that he will not suffer them to escape his righteous judgment, albeit many such escape the censures and punishments of men.

Prayer:

Thou art the uncreated, self-existent, independent Jehovah. Who hath been thy counsellor; who hath taught thee the path of judgment; or showed thee the way of understanding?—Thou hast stretched forth the heavens alone, and spread the earth by thyself: thou faintest not, neither art weary with labour: thou art everlasting strength.—Thou needest not the wisdom nor power of any, to help thee in the measures of thy government; for they are all thy creatures, and thy counsel standeth forever. Thou art not worshipped as though thou needest any thing; every beast of the forest being thine, with the cattle upon a thousand hills; and thou givest unto all, life, and breath, and all things: yea, thou art exalted above blessing and praise.

Lord, make me understand that I am dependent on thee for life, for hope, for blessing, for every thing. O dispose me to seek thee, as the source of every right feeling, and the fountain of every pure joy. Of thee, and through thee, and unto thee, are all things; to whom be glory forever.

The Promise of God:

“For God *is* not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name....”

Hebrews 6:10

April 26

Call to Worship: Psalm 93:1ab, 2, 5b

“The LORD reigns, He is clothed with majesty; the LORD is clothed, He has girded Himself with strength...Your throne *is* established from of old; You *are* from everlasting...holiness adorns Your house, O LORD, forever.”

Psalm 115

Scripture Reading:

1 Chronicles 10-12
HCO: Isaiah 10-12

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 115. *Which is the fourth commandment?*

A. The fourth commandment is, *Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labor, and do all thy work; but the seventh day is the sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates. For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.*

Prayer:

Gracious God, help me to consecrate myself to thee, with full purpose of soul, and with endeavours after new obedience. Make me feel that if I could offer thee a world, and yet hold back the gift of my heart, my oblation would be but a worthless and odious thing in thy sight. Lord, I am thine by creation, and by constant benefaction. O has not Christ died for me, that I should be thine, in the purchase of his atoning blood? Let me, therefore, not live unto myself, but unto him. Enable me to say from my heart, "Here, Lord, I give myself to thee; it is all that I can do." Accept, I pray thee, that offering, in the name of Jesus, the Ransom of sinners.

I would take thee, O Lord, as my portion—thy law as my rule—thy service as my meat and drink—and thy purposes as the ground of my faith and hope. Bring all my expectations, wishes, and intentions into conformity with thy will; and let me live, and move, and have my being in a covenant of full-hearted and never-failing devotion to thee, and the interests of thy kingdom.

The Promise of God:

“There remains therefore a rest for the people of God.”

Hebrews 4:9

April 27

Call to Worship: Psalm 96:1-6

“Oh, sing to the LORD a new song! Sing to the LORD, all the earth. Sing to the LORD, bless His name; proclaim the good news of His salvation from day to day. Declare His glory among the nations, His wonders among all peoples. For the LORD *is* great and greatly to be praised; He *is* to be feared above all gods. For all the gods of the peoples *are* idols, but the LORD made the heavens. Honor and majesty *are* before Him; strength and beauty *are* in His sanctuary.”

Psalm 116

Scripture Reading:

1 Chronicles 13-15
HCO: Isaiah 13-15

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 116. *What is required in the fourth commandment?*

A. The fourth commandment requireth of all men the sanctifying or keeping holy to God such set times as he hath appointed in his word, expressly one whole day in seven; which was the seventh from the beginning of the world to the resurrection of Christ, and the first day of the week ever since, and so to continue to the end of the world; which is the Christian sabbath, and in the New Testament called the *Lord's day*.

Prayer:

O thou that hearest and answerest prayer for the merits of Jesus, the Heavenly Advocate, give me grace, I beseech thee, to remember the Sabbath-day, to keep it holy. In six days thou didst make heaven, earth, and sea; and didst rest the seventh day: wherefore thou hast blessed the Sabbath, and hallowed it. I thank thee, God of Mercy, for that consecrated season, in which thou givest rest to our wearied natures, and affordest us leisure for reflection on our duties in this world, and our destinies in the world to come. I thank thee for its privileges of praise, of prayer, and of instruction, by which thy saints are built up in faith and zeal, and sinners are brought from the darkness and iniquity of carnal nature, to the light and holiness of heavenly grace. I would praise thee that there still remaineth this rest to the people of God. Thou hast made the Sabbath for man; and thou hast abolished neither its privileges nor its duties; but thou wilt continue them down to the end of the world.

The Promise of God:

“Come to Me, all *you* who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”

Matthew 11:28-30

April 28

Call to Worship: Psalm 98:1-2

“Oh, sing to the LORD a new song! For He has done marvelous things; His right hand and His holy arm have gained Him the victory. The LORD has made known His salvation; His righteousness He has revealed in the sight of the nations.”

Psalm 117

Scripture Reading:

1 Chronicles 16-18
HCO: Isaiah 16-18

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 117. *How is the sabbath or the Lord's day to be sanctified?*

A. The sabbath or Lord's day is to be sanctified by an holy resting all the day, not only from such works as are at all times sinful, but even from such worldly employments and recreations as are on other days lawful; and making it our delight to spend the whole time (except so much of it as is to be taken up in works of necessity and mercy) in the public and private exercises of God's worship: and, to that end, we are to prepare our hearts, and with such foresight, diligence, and moderation, to dispose and seasonably dispatch our worldly business, that we may be the more free and fit for the duties of that day.

Prayer:

O that I might always be in the Spirit on the Lord's-day.—May I remember that thou hast given me six days of the week for my own employments, and hast challenged a special ownership of the seventh; and that thou hast given it the sanction of thine own example and blessing. O let me not profane that holy time by idleness; nor by doing that which is in itself sinful; nor by unnecessary thoughts, words, or works, about worldly employments or recreations. May I sanctify it by a holy resting, even from such avocations as are lawful on other days; and spend all its sacred hours in the public and private exercises of God's worship; except so much as may be taken up in the works of necessity and mercy. Let that day ever be a precious occasion, wherein thy love shall be richly manifested to me, and my affections shall hold free, and holy, and rejoicing communion with thy Spirit. May I be prepared by its sanctifying duties and reviving pleasures, for serving thee and mankind better, in all the relations of life. O make it a blessed type of that eternal Sabbath, which is reserved for the pure in heart, in the regions of unmingled bliss.

The Promise of God:

“Say to the righteous that *it shall be well with them*, for they shall eat the fruit of their doings....”
Isaiah 3:10

April 29

Call to Worship: Psalm 118:1,14, 28

“Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for *He is* good! For His mercy endures forever....The LORD *is* my strength and song, and He has become my salvation....You *are* my God, and I will praise You; *You are* my God, I will exalt You.”

Psalm 118

Scripture Reading:

1 Chronicles 19-21
HCO: Isaiah 19-21

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 118. *Why is the charge of keeping the sabbath more specially directed to governors of families, and other superiors?*

A. The charge of keeping the sabbath is more specially directed to governors of families, and other superiors, because they are bound not only to keep it themselves, but to see that it be observed by all those that are under their charge; and because they are prone oftentimes to hinder them by employments of their own.

Prayer:

O thou, who art King of Kings and Lord of Lords, bless those who occupy places of authority over their inferiors. Teach them the duties of their stations. Induce masters to give that which is just and equal to their servants, in every thing that relates to courtesy, recompense, and goodwill. May they forbear threatening, knowing that their Master is in heaven, and that with him there is no respect of persons. May they reflect that though their servants are inferior in rank, they are their equals by nature, equals in the grave, and equals at the throne of judgment.—Show them that the labourer is worthy of his hire: and let no honest wages be kept back by meanness or fraud; lest the cry of the hireling enter into the ears of the Lord God of Sabaoth, and thou render vengeance for unrequited toil.—Lord, incline the hearts of masters to kindness. Make them careful to avoid unjust exactions of labour, and every display of the pride of rank and authority. Give them patience under provocation; and lead them to seek every reasonable comfort for their domestics. And above all, may they strive to promote their spiritual welfare, by setting them a godly example, by giving them full access to the means of grace, and by personal exertions, that they may become the servants of God, and heirs of that recompense of reward, which liveth and abideth forever.

The Promise of God:

“All the kings of the earth shall praise You, O LORD, when they hear the words of Your mouth.
Yes, they shall sing of the ways of the LORD, for great *is* the glory of the LORD.”

Psalm 138:4-5

April 30

Call to Worship: Psalm 119:7, 10, 12, 108

“I will praise You with uprightness of heart, when I learn Your righteous judgments....With my whole heart I have sought You; oh, let me not wander from Your commandments....Blessed *are* You, O LORD! Teach me Your statutes....Accept, I pray, the freewill offerings of my mouth, O LORD, and teach me Your judgments.”

Psalm 119:1-8

Scripture Reading:

1 Chronicles 22-24
HCO: Isaiah 22-24

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 119. *What are the sins forbidden in the fourth commandment?*

A. The sins forbidden in the fourth commandment are, all omissions of the duties required, all careless, negligent, and unprofitable performing of them, and being weary of them; all profaning the day by idleness, and doing that which is in itself sinful; and by all needless works, words, and thoughts, about our worldly employments and recreations.

Prayer:

Lord, save thy holy day from the desecration which has been so fearfully brought upon it. Thou seest how men pursue on it their carnal pleasures and worldly interests, regardless of thy statutes, and the ultimate welfare of their country, and of mankind. Even those who have made a covenant with thee, to keep thy commandments, sometimes join hand in hand with the ungodly, in these profanations of sacred time. O that thy people would set their faces as flint against these transgressions, and bear the testimony of their voice and conduct against them. Bring not thy wrath upon our land, because its inhabitants make the Sabbath their season of amusement, convenience, and lucre. Teach all men that it is thine imperative will, that they should sanctify that day: and that thou hast judgments in store for its transgressors:—while they who turn away their feet from polluting it, and from doing their pleasure on it, and shall call the Sabbath a delight, the holy of the Lord, honourable; and shall honour thee, not doing their own ways, nor finding their own pleasure, nor speaking their own words—they shall ride upon the high places of the earth, and shall be fed with the heritage of Jacob; for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it!

The Promise of God:

“Treasures of wickedness profit nothing, but righteousness delivers from death.”

Proverbs 10:2

May 1

Call to Worship: Psalm 136:1-4, 26

“Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for *He* is good! For His mercy *endures* forever. Oh, give thanks to the God of gods! For His mercy *endures* forever. Oh, give thanks to the Lord of lords! For His mercy *endures* forever: to Him who alone does great wonders, for His mercy *endures* forever....Oh, give thanks to the God of heaven! For His mercy *endures* forever.”

Psalm 119:9-16

Scripture Reading:

1 Chronicles 25-27
HCO: Isaiah 25-27

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 120. *What are the reasons annexed to the fourth commandment, the more to enforce it?*

A. The reasons annexed to the fourth commandment, the more to enforce it, are taken from the equity of it, God allowing us six days of seven for our own affairs, and reserving but one for himself, in these words, *Six days shalt thou labor, and do all thy work*: from God's challenging a special propriety in that day, *The seventh day is the sabbath of the Lord thy God*: from the example of God, *who in six days made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day*: and from that blessing which God put upon that day, not only in sanctifying it to be a day for his service, but in ordaining it to be a means of blessing to us in our sanctifying it; *Wherefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.*

Prayer:

O Most High, enable me to deny myself, to take up my cross daily, and to follow my blessed Saviour; who, though he had shared with the Father, the glory from the beginning, yet made himself of no reputation; and though he had all power in heaven and earth, took upon him the form of a servant, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

Lord, grant me the spirit of self-denial in what I eat and drink, and wherewithal I am clothed. Let me not be a lover of pleasure more than a lover of God. Make me temperate in every lawful pursuit. Help me to abstain from fleshly lusts that war against the soul. May I forsake uncleanness of thought, word, and action. Turn me away from the love of money, which is the root of all evil. Give me grace to stifle my desires for the praise of men, whose favour is indeed deceitful. Raise me above the fear of man, that bringeth a snare. Assist me, I beseech thee, to overcome my temptations to display and to self-righteousness; and let me count all things but loss, that I may be found in Christ, with that righteousness which is of God, by faith. Make me willing to give up every thing which will come in competition with the interests of my soul, or the welfare of thy kingdom. Yea, let me not count my life dear to myself, if I may avoid that which is evil, and cleave to that which is right: for whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but he that loseth his life for thy sake, shall find it.

The Promise of God:

“By humility and the fear of the LORD are riches and honor and life.”

Proverbs 22:4

May 2

Call to Worship: Psalm 138:1a, 2c

“I will praise You with my whole heart...for Your lovingkindness and Your truth....”

Psalm 119:17-24

Scripture Reading:

1 Chronicles 28-29
2 Chronicles 1
HCO: Isaiah 28-30

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 121. *Why is the word Remember set in the beginning of the fourth commandment?*

A. The word Remember is set in the beginning of the fourth commandment, partly, because of the great benefit of remembering it, we being thereby helped in our preparation to keep it, and, in keeping it, better to keep all the rest of the commandments, and to continue a thankful remembrance of the two great benefits of creation and redemption, which contain a short abridgment of religion; and partly, because we are very ready to forget it, for that there is less light of nature for it, and yet it restraineth our natural liberty in things at other times lawful; that it cometh but once in seven days, and many worldly businesses come between, and too often take off our minds from thinking of it, either to prepare for it, or to sanctify it; and that Satan with his instruments much labor to blot out the glory, and even the memory of it, to bring in all irreligion and impiety.

Prayer:

Lord, quicken thou me in thy way. Make me diligent in thy work, continuing instant in prayer, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Grant, that in every duty I may be active, watchful and persevering; for no man having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God. Let not mine be the doom of that servant who hid his master's talent in the earth. Let me not be slothful in business, but fervent in spirit, serving the Lord. Suffer me not to rely on the memory of past experience, nor on the hope of future obedience; but whatsoever my hand findeth to do, give me zeal to do it with my might. O give me the spirit of diligence in every work of faith and labour of love; remembering my accountability to thee, the importance of the trusts thou hast reposed in me, the shortness of human life, and the abundant rewards thou hast promised to them who are faithful in thy service. Lord, enable me to lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset me, and run with patience the race that is set before me; looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of faith, and pressing toward the mark, for the prize of the high calling of God, which is in Christ Jesus.

Lord, rebuke the sloth of thy covenant-people. Give them a spirit of active energy in all that relates to the sanctification of their own hearts, the saving health of thy church, and the conversion of sinners. Yet do thou make them feel that while they strive with all their vigour in the obedience of faith, it is thou that workest all in all.

The Promise of God:

“If you turn away your foot from the Sabbath, *from* doing your pleasure on My holy day, and call the Sabbath a delight, the holy *day* of the LORD honorable, and shall honor Him, not doing your own ways, nor finding your own pleasure, nor speaking *your own* words, then you shall delight yourself in the LORD; and I will cause you to ride on the high hills of the earth, and feed you with the heritage of Jacob your father. The mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

Isaiah 58:13-14

May 3

Call to Worship: Psalm 145:1-3

“I will extol You, my God, O King; and I will bless Your name forever and ever. Every day I will bless You, and I will praise Your name forever and ever. Great *is* the LORD, and greatly to be praised; and His greatness *is* unsearchable.”

Psalm 119:25-32

Scripture Reading:

2 Chronicles 2-4
HCO: Isaiah 31-33

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 122. *What is the sum of the six commandments which contain our duty to man?*

A. The sum of the six commandments which contain our duty to man is, to love our neighbor as ourselves, and to do to others what we would have them to do to us.

Prayer:

Lord, I pray thee for Christ's sake, to make my heart a wellspring of affection for all mankind. Let no jealousy, nor selfishness, nor anger, nor malice, lead me to forget that every man is my brother. Thou makest thy sun to rise on the evil and on the good; and sendest rain on the just and on the unjust. Why then should I shut up my compassions from any that are my fellow-creatures? O help me to feel for every want and to sympathize with every wo that afflicts humanity. And, I pray thee, dispose me in benevolence of heart, to do what I can to dry up the fountains of human misery and to multiply the sources of man's real happiness.

Lord, incline me to love the souls of men. May I have strong pity for those who are thoughtlessly or wilfully destroying their eternal peace; and may I seek to bring them under the influences of the blessed gospel. Grant me that spirit which seeketh not her own, and is not easily provoked, and that rejoiceth in the truth. Cause me to abound in good-will to the brotherhood of faith, and to be kindly affectioned towards them in brotherly love. May I seek their company, and be glad in their prosperity, and make common cause with them in all their interests. Lord, give me, I pray thee, the love of benevolence towards every thing that is capable of happiness or misery, and the affection of complacency towards every creature possessed of holiness.

The Promise of God:

“But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil.”

Luke 6:35

May 4

Call to Worship: Psalm 146:1-2

“Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD, O my soul! While I live I will praise the LORD; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.”

Psalm 119:33-40

Scripture Reading:

2 Chronicles 5-7
HCO: Isaiah 34-36

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 123. *Which is the fifth commandment?*

A. The fifth commandment is, *Honor thy father and thy mother; that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.*

Prayer:

Lord, bless all the households of the earth. Thou art worthy to be praised for the institution of the family relation, in which thou hast blended the sweet influences of support and dependence, protection and control, love and obedience; which are essential to the comfort and virtue of individual being, and the safety and purity of social life. Fulfil, I pray thee, all the purposes of mercy thou hadst in view, in the establishment of the domestic constitution; and do thou make all the homes of earth households of piety.

Lord, let mutual attachment, counsel, and assistance, and love to God, be the bonds of union between every husband and wife. Give to parents an adequate sense of the responsibility thou hast laid on them, to train up their offspring in knowledge, industry, and virtue. Cause them to teach thy words diligently to their children; and to talk of thy statutes when they sit in their house, when they walk by the way, when they lie down, and when they rise up. Show them that the rod and reproof give wisdom; but a child, left to himself, bringeth shame. Make them wise to discern, and faithful to execute, those measures, which will secure, with thy blessing, domestic happiness and piety. O let an altar, for daily sacrifice, be raised in every dwelling to consecrate its pleasures, and to obtain thy favour.

Heavenly Father, dispose children everywhere to obey their parents, in the Lord. Let them not, by unkindness and disobedience, bring shame or sorrow to the hearts of fathers and mothers; nor draw down disgrace or misery on their own heads, though they can never requite the care and labour that have been bestowed on them; yet may they by reverent affection and dutiful service, minister to the comfort and well-being of their parents. And O do thou gladden the hearts of such, by bringing their offspring into the adoption of the sons of God.

Lord, cause the relations of brothers and sisters to be distinguished by forbearance, conciliation, assistance, and love: and let all their reciprocal ties be purified and cemented by the friendship of him that sticketh closer than a brother.

O do thou secure for those that are servants, justice and kindness from their superiors. Teach them the duties of their station; and incline them to discharge every lawful labour with cheerful fidelity. Make them realize thine own claims on their obedience; and incline them to fulfil, with all their strength, the service of their heavenly Master.

Gracious God, make the domestic circle the dwelling-place of every thing that is pure, and lovely, and of good report. Make it the cradle of the household of faith, and the nursery of the brotherhood of glory.

The Promise of God:

“My son, hear the instruction of your father, and do not forsake the law of your mother; for they *will be* a graceful ornament on your head, and chains about your neck.”

Proverbs 1:8-9

May 5

Call to Worship: Psalm 150:1a, 2

“Praise the LORD!...Praise Him for His mighty acts; praise Him according to His excellent greatness!”

Psalm 119:41-48

Scripture Reading:

2 Chronicles 8-10
HCO: Isaiah 37-39

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 124. *Who are meant by father and mother in the fifth commandment?*

A. By *father* and *mother*, in the fifth commandment, are meant, not only natural parents, but all superiors in age and gifts; and especially such as, by God's ordinance, are over us in place of authority, whether in family, church, or commonwealth.

Prayer:

O thou who hast said that no flesh shall glory in thy presence, redeem and preserve me from the spirit of pride. Show me its folly and sinfulness; and incline me to watch closely against its corrupting influence over my soul. Lord, why should a worm of the dust, a being of weakness, want, and dependence, exalt itself in the vanity of self-sufficiency, and ask the tribute of praise or homage from its fellow-creatures? O, thou hatest pride; thou makest it go before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall. Lead me, I pray thee, to reflect that this wicked spirit cast out the rebel angels from their first estate, into that fearful darkness, where they are reserved in everlasting chains; and that by it man was beguiled, in the garden of Paradise, into that disobedience which brought death into the world; and that it has ever since been a fountain of guilt, sending forth innumerable streams of corruption and desolation. Enable me to set this vice in strong contrast with the meekness of Christ, and with that humility, by which are riches, and honour, and life. Lord, wherefore should I glory, since all that I am, and all that I have, are the gifts of thine unmerited goodness? O do thou give me such abiding perceptions of thy greatness and excellency, and of my own weakness and unworthiness—such views of the presumption, sinfulness, and danger of pride, and of the beauty and blessedness of meekness—as shall lead me to renounce, at once and forever, the dominion of a haughty spirit.

Great God, stain the pride of human glory. May sinners learn the vanity and guilt of every thing that exalts itself against the will of God. Teach them that neither birth, nor learning, nor wealth, nor rank, is noble in thy sight: while the humble and childlike are the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. O thou exalted Jehovah, bring all their thoughts into captivity to the obedience of Christ. Let them that glory, glory in the Lord; who though he be to carnal men a stumbling block and foolishness, is yet to them that are called, the power of God, and the wisdom of God, unto salvation!

The Promise of God:

“A man’s pride will bring him low, but the humble in spirit will retain honor.”

Proverbs 29:23

May 6

Call to Worship: Psalm 5:1-2

“Give ear to my words, O LORD, consider my meditation. Give heed to the voice of my cry, my King and my God, for to You I will pray.”

Psalm 119:49-56

Scripture Reading:

2 Chronicles 11-13
HCO: Isaiah 40-42

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 125. *Why are superiors styled father and mother?*

A. Superiors are styled *father* and *mother*, both to teach them in all duties toward their inferiors, like natural parents, to express love and tenderness to them, according to their several relations; and to work inferiors to a greater willingness and cheerfulness in performing their duties to their superiors, as to their parents.

Prayer:

Father of Mercies, fill my heart with ever-living sympathies for the wants and woes of all my fellow creatures. Make me merciful even as thou, Heavenly Father, art merciful. May I desire more the blessing of them that are ready to perish, than the favour of the wise, and rich, and mighty. Make me the steward of thy bounty; for with such sacrifices thou art well pleased. Incline me to practice that economy which will enable me to give to him that needeth. May I remember that whoso hath this world's goods, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, the love of God dwelleth not in him.

Gracious God, sanctify my motives in all the exercises of charity. Let them not be done to be seen of men, nor as acts of self-righteousness. I would do good, that I may enjoy the testimony of an approving conscience, and find it more blessed to give than to receive. May I regard benevolence as the means of improving the heart, and making the character like that of Jesus. I would remember, too, that thou lovest a cheerful giver. Help me, O God, to make thy glory the end of all my benevolence.—Dispose me to do good, as I have opportunity, in all my spheres of life. May I be eyes to the blind, feet to the lame, health to the sick, strength to the feeble, help to the needy, and comfort to the mourner. But above all, may my desires and zeal go forth for the spiritual wants of mankind. Let not indolence, selfishness, nor unbelief steel my heart against the claims of those who live regardless of thy will, and of those who are perishing for lack of knowledge. Lord, make me an humble yet honoured instrument in thy hand, of spreading the knowledge of thy truth, and of turning sinners from the error of their ways, unto the wisdom of the just.

The Promise of God:

“He who has pity on the poor lends to the LORD, and He will pay back what he has given.”

Proverbs 19:17

May 7

Call to Worship: Psalm 7:17

“I will praise the LORD according to His righteousness, and will sing praise to the name of the LORD Most High.”

Psalm 119:57-64

Scripture Reading:

2 Chronicles 14-16
HCO: Isaiah 43-45

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 126. *What is the general scope of the fifth commandment?*

A. The general scope of the fifth commandment is, the performance of those duties which we mutually owe in our several relations, as inferiors, superiors, or equals.

Prayer:

Eternal God, O may my daily and hourly inquiry be, "What wilt thou have me to do?" Instruct me that the duty which thou requirest of me is obedience to thy revealed will. Help me, I pray thee, to discharge all my obligations to thee, to myself, and to my fellow-creatures.

May I love thee with all my soul, and mind, and strength, and heart. Dispose me to submit to thy will; to love thy character; to trust in thy name; and to fear thine excellent greatness. May I regard thee as, through Christ, the object of prayer and the rewarder of them who diligently seek thee. Help me, I pray thee, to worship thee who art a Spirit, in spirit and in truth.

Lord, enable me by thy Spirit to do my duty to myself. May I exercise faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and repentance unto life; and make a diligent use of all the outward and ordinary means whereby Christ communicates unto us the benefits of redemption. May I work out my salvation with fear and trembling, knowing that it is God that worketh in me to will and to do of his own good pleasure.

Assist me, O Lord, to perform all the duties social, civil, and religious which I owe to my fellow-creatures. May my conduct to them be governed by that spirit of charity which excludes anger, revenge, censoriousness, prejudice, injury, and oppression. Make me averse to injure the feelings, persons, property, and character of any. May I delight in the happiness of others. Make my heart a well-spring of sympathy, compassion, and liberality; and lead me to spend cheerfully my property, my time, and if needs be, my life, in works of mercy and justice. Enable me to fulfil all my relations as a superior, an inferior, and an equal.

Lord, I thank thee for the encouragements thou art giving, in the course of thy providence, to religious effort, by making rich with thy blessing those who are diligent in thy cause. Yet, I would feel that while these things are to be remembered with thankfulness, they increase my obligation to labour that I may return thine own to thee with abundant usury.—Strengthen me, I pray thee, to do thy will while it is called today—to do it with my might, and with perseverance therein to the end—even as thine angels do it in heaven.

Lord, I would offer these and all other petitions through him who is the Prophet, Priest, and King of the whole Israel of God; and without whose merits and intercessions all my services would be without hope or profit.

The Promise of God:

“And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.”

Galatians 6:9

May 8

Call to Worship: Psalm 9:1-2

“I will praise *You*, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will tell of all Your marvelous works. I will be glad and rejoice in You; I will sing praise to Your name, O Most High.”

Psalm 119:65-72

Scripture Reading:

2 Chronicles 17-19
HCO: Isaiah 46-48

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 127. *What is the honor that inferiors owe to their superiors?*

A. The honor which inferiors owe to their superiors is, all due reverence in heart, word, and behavior; prayer and thanksgiving for them; imitation of their virtues and graces; willing obedience to their lawful commands and counsels; due submission to their corrections; fidelity to, defense, and maintenance of their persons and authority, according to their several ranks, and the nature of their places; bearing with their infirmities, and covering them in love, that so they may be an honor to them and to their government.

Prayer:

Heavenly Master, bless those that occupy the relation of servants. Teach them the duties of their station, and dispose them to do them in the fear of the Lord. May they count their masters worthy of honour, and obey them in singleness of heart, as unto Christ; with good-will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men; knowing that whatsoever good things any man doth, the same shall he receive of the Lord. Make them faithful in protecting and diligent in promoting the interests, reputation, and comfort of their employers.—O that they might always be treated with kindness and liberality; and thus be induced to a grateful attachment to those whom they serve. Lord, protect them from oppression, unkindness, and fraud. Make them contented and happy in the discharge of their lawful duties. May they remember that even the Son of Man took upon him the form of a servant, and came not to be ministered unto, but to minister. Show them that their station is of the ordinance of God; and that by a faithful use of their opportunities, they may so labour in the service of heaven, that at the last day, their great Master may say unto them, “Well done, good and faithful servants; enter ye into the joy of your Lord.”

The Promise of God:

“And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him.”

Revelation 22:3

May 9

Call to Worship: Psalm 13:6

“I will sing to the LORD, because He has dealt bountifully with me.”

Psalm 119:73-80

Scripture Reading:

2 Chronicles 20-22
HCO: Isaiah 49-51

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 128. *What are the sins of inferiors against their superiors?*

A. The sins of inferiors against their superiors are, all neglect of the duties required toward them; envying at, contempt of, and rebellion against their persons and places, in their lawful counsels, commands, and corrections; cursing, mocking, and all such refractory and scandalous carriage, as proves a shame and dishonor to them and their government.

Prayer:

Father in Heaven, preserve my heart from the baneful dominion of envy. Teach me its exceeding sinfulness, and show me that if I indulge in it, it will be a fountain of unhappiness to myself, and of mischief to my fellows; while it will bring down on me thy heavy displeasure. Lord, let me not be jealous of the gifts, or advantages, or success of others. Let me not be envious of the prosperity of the wicked, whose eyes stand out with fatness, and who have more than heart could wish; surely thou hast set them in slippery places! Though a sinner do evil a hundred times, and his days be prolonged; yet may I be assured it will be well only with them that fear the Lord. May I feel that I am not worthy of the least of the mercies thou hast already given me; and teach me that thou hast not, in caprice, withheld from me, and bestowed on others, the things which seem good in my eyes. Lord, make me content with thy will; and so shall my heart rejoice in thy ways for evermore.

The Promise of God:

“Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time....”

1 Peter 5:6

May 10

Call to Worship: Psalm 16:5-6

“O LORD, *You* are the portion of my inheritance and my cup; You maintain my lot. The lines have fallen to me in pleasant *places*; Yes, I have a good inheritance.”

Psalm 119:81-88

Scripture Reading:

2 Chronicles 23-25
HCO: Isaiah 52-54

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 129. *What is required of superiors towards their inferiors?*

A. It is required of superiors, according to that power they receive from God, and that relation wherein they stand, to love, pray for, and bless their inferiors; to instruct, counsel, and admonish them; countenancing, commending, and rewarding such as do well; and discountenancing, reproving, and chastising such as do ill; protecting, and providing for them all things necessary for soul and body: and by grave, wise, holy, and exemplary carriage, to procure glory to God, honor to themselves, and so to preserve that authority which God hath put upon them.

Prayer:

Lord, make me understand the good and evil influences I may exert in the world by my example. Let me not dishonour thy name, nor cast shame on thy church, nor throw a stumbling-block in the way of sinners, by a careless or unholy walk: but may my light so shine before men, that they may see my good works, and glorify thee. May I walk as the children of light, and have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness; but rather reprove them. Enable me by well-doing, to put to silence the ignorance of foolish men. Make me blameless and without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse people; holding forth the word of life, that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not laboured in vain. Blessed Lord, grant me, for Christ's sake, a name and a place among thy peculiar people, whom thou hast chosen to show forth thy praises. Make me a guide to the blind, a light to them that walk in darkness, and a living epistle of good works, known and read of all men. Enable me to hold fast the profession of my faith, without wavering, that men may take knowledge of me that I have been with Jesus. O God, restore thy salvation unto me, and uphold me by thy free Spirit; so shall I teach transgressors thy ways, and sinners shall be converted unto thee.

Lord remove every deformity and repair every defect in my character; and mould my temper and conduct according to the image of the Saviour; who has left us an example, that we should follow in his steps. Make me a partaker of his holiness, that I may escape the corruption that is in the world; and that when he shall appear, I may be like him, and see him as he is.

The Promise of God:

“Whoever causes the upright to go astray in an evil way, he himself will fall into his own pit; but the blameless will inherit good.”

Proverbs 28:10

May 11

Call to Worship: Psalm 18:1-3a

“I will love You, O LORD, my strength. The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. I will call upon the LORD, *who is worthy* to be praised....”

Psalm 119:89-96

Scripture Reading:

2 Chronicles 26-28
HCO: Isaiah 55-57

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 130. *What are the sins of superiors?*

A. The sins of superiors are, besides the neglect of the duties required of them, an inordinate seeking of themselves, their own glory, ease, profit, or pleasure; commanding things unlawful, or not in the power of inferiors to perform; counseling, encouraging, or favoring them in that which is evil; dissuading, discouraging, or discountenancing them in that which is good; correcting them unduly; careless exposing, or leaving them to wrong, temptation, and danger; provoking them to wrath; or any way dishonoring themselves, or lessening their authority, by an unjust, indiscreet, rigorous, or remiss behavior.

Prayer:

Great Sovereign, let not my motives nor conduct be governed by selfishness. Teach me that this principle is the original and deep-rooted sin of my nature. O how has it exalted self above all other creatures, and above God himself! How has it filled the world, in all the length of its history, with pride, self-indulgence, contention, cruelty, and death.—Lord, suffer me not to setup my judgment against thy wisdom, nor my desires against thy will. Show me that thy will is the supreme law of both duty and happiness. Keep me from seeking my own interests heedlessly, or at the expense of the welfare of others. Make me realize that I am but a unit among the multitudes of thy rational creatures, each of whom has the same deep stake with myself, in the pursuit of comfort and well-being. Thou hast said that he who would follow Jesus, must deny himself. Keep me from the character and woe of those that covet an evil covetousness, and who would grow rich in pleasure and worldly good, at the cost of the humble and needy. O let me not exclude myself from thy love, nor dishonour humanity, by shutting up my feelings of compassion at the cry of want or misery. Give me that charity that seeketh not her own, that goeth about doing good, even as did our Lord and Master.

Lord, preserve me from selfishness in the pursuits of religion. Though thou hast enjoined on me the most diligent efforts for growth in grace and personal salvation, thou hast laid necessity upon me, to spread the gospel among the destitute, and to warn souls from the broad way of death, and win them to the narrow path of life. O help me so to blend my duties to myself and my neighbour, that we together may be partners of thy fellowship on earth, and joint-heirs of thy communion in heaven.

The Promise of God:

“A ruler who lacks understanding *is* a great oppressor, *but* he who hates covetousness will prolong *his* days.”

Proverbs 28:16

May 12

Call to Worship: Psalm 19:14

“Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my strength and my Redeemer.”

Psalm 119:97-104

Scripture Reading:

2 Chronicles 29-31
HCO: Isaiah 58-60

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 131. *What are the duties of equals?*

A. The duties of equals are, to regard the dignity and worth of each other, in giving honor to go one before another; and to rejoice in each other's gifts and advancement, as their own.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, give me such views of thine infinite excellence, and of my unworthiness, as shall humble me in the dust before thee. Thou art the infinite, eternal, and unchangeable Jehovah; and all thine attributes and works are excellent and glorious. But as for us, we dwell on the footstool of thy dominion, and live every moment at the expense of thy goodness. We are ignorant; not knowing what a day may bring forth. We are helpless; not being able to make one hair white or black. We are by nature the children of wrath; and even in our best estate, when thy Spirit has wrought upon our hearts, it becomes us to say, "God be merciful to us, sinners." Lord, what is man, that thou art mindful of him; or the son of man, that thou visitest him?

Lord, I would remember that he who was the brightness of his Father's glory, abased himself, and led a life of trial and reproach, and suffered a death of cruelty and shame. O God, make me a follower of him who was thus meek and lowly. Lo, the angels of heaven veil their faces before thee, in expressive token of inferiority and unworthiness. How much more should I humble myself in thy holy presence. Thanks be to thy name, this which is my duty, is also my privilege. Thou hast given thy promise to humility; saying, that he who humbleth himself shall be exalted. Thou hast been pleased to put matchless and unspeakable honour on it, by making the contrite heart thy dwelling place. O may this grace control my life. May it dwell in my heart, teaching me my proper character. May it pervade my walk, leading me to meekness of speech and action, and controlling my spirit, both in prosperity and in adversity. May it fit me for doing thy holy will in all things.

Lord, clothe all thy followers with humility. Make them feel their infinite disparity with thee. May they, in lowliness of mind, esteem others better than themselves. Let them not be high-minded, but fear: and while they think they stand, may they take heed lest they fall. May they look back to the hole of the pit whence they were digged. Teach them that thou hatest the pride of man; and that thou wilt give the kingdom of heaven to those only who are poor in spirit.

The Promise of God:

“Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and depart from evil. It will be health to your flesh, and strength to your bones.”

Proverbs 3:7-8

May 13

Call to Worship: Psalm 25:1, 4-5b

“To You, O LORD, I lift up my soul....Show me Your ways, O LORD; teach me Your paths. Lead me in Your truth and teach me, for You *are* the God of my salvation....”

Psalm 119:105-112

Scripture Reading:

2 Chronicles 32-34
HCO: Isaiah 61-63

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 132. *What are the sins of equals?*

A. The sins of equals are, besides the neglect of the duties required, the undervaluing of the worth, envying the gifts, grieving at the advancement of prosperity one of another; and usurping pre-eminence one over another.

Prayer:

Preserve me, Great Helper, from the vice of covetousness, which is idolatry. O let me not worship filthy lucre, instead of the living God. May I remember the judgment of the Valley of Achor, on him who coveted forbidden spoil; and the swift destruction of them that kept back part of the price, and agreed together to tempt the Spirit of the Lord. Let me not dishonour my faith in thee, nor blight my spiritual comfort, nor bring disgrace on thy cause, in the eyes of the world, by indulging in this wickedness. Give me full contentment with my own condition, and a right and charitable frame of spirit towards my neighbour and all that is his. Banish from my mind all discontentment with my own estate; all envying and grieving at the good of my neighbour, and all inordinate emotions and affections to any thing that is his.

Help me, O Lord, to overcome the love of the world. May I seek thy favour as the chief good of life, and say in my heart—"There is none on earth I desire beside thee." Lead me to look with the eye of benevolence on the wants of my fellow creatures; and in supplying them, as thou hast prospered me, to find that it is more blessed to give than to receive. Let me not seek to lay up treasures on earth, but in heaven; where moth and rust do not corrupt, and where thieves cannot break through and steal.

Lord, redeem thy church from this vice, which has spotted her garments, and tainted her blood, and crippled her energies. How long, Blessed Saviour, shall they, who have covenanted to be thine, bow the knee at the golden shrine of mammon? Show them that covetousness degrades their immortal nature, breaks thy holy law, and is the fruitful source of manifold iniquity. Keep them from those graspings of avarice, those daring speculations and greedy monopolies, which are the offspring of pride, and the fountains of misery. May they thus judge, that if Christ has bought them by his own precious blood, they should not live for themselves, but for him. Excite thy people, O Lord, to active and unwearying benevolence. As thou hast made them the stewards of thy multiplied mercies, let none forget to do good, and to communicate; for with such sacrifices thou art well pleased. May they cease to do evil and learn to do well; and labour not for the meat that perisheth, but for that which endureth unto everlasting life.

The Promise of God:

“Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, ‘I will never leave you nor forsake you.’ So we may boldly say: ‘The LORD is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?’”

Hebrews 13:5-6

May 14

Call to Worship: Psalm 27:4

“One *thing* I have desired of the LORD, that will I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in His temple.”

Psalm 119:113-120

Scripture Reading:

2 Chronicles 35-36
Ezra 1
HCO: Isaiah 64-66

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 133. *What is the reason annexed to the fifth commandment, the more to enforce it?*

A. The reason annexed to the fifth commandment, in these words, *That thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee*, is an express promise of long life and prosperity, as far as it shall serve for God's glory and their own good, to all such as keep this commandment.

Prayer:

Lord, suffer me not to be anxious for worldly prosperity. O let me not forget its fearful dangers—how often it leads the soul away in forgetfulness and ingratitude from God; how it binds the heart in the fetters of worldly conformity and self-indulgence; how it nourishes pride, indolence, and unfeelingness, and palsies faith, zeal, and prayer.

Lord, if it please thee to bestow abundance on me, enable me to use it, not in fulfilling the lust of the flesh, but for thy glory and the good of man. If riches increase, let me not set my heart upon them. Make me willing to surrender them at thy call. May I remember that the duration of their enjoyment must at best be short; that their pleasures are mixed with vanity and vexation of spirit; and that thou wilt judge men according to the plenty they enjoy from thee. O give me such views of thy better inheritance, as shall preserve me from the thralldom of those vices which spring from a prosperous life. Give such strength to my hope of the eternal weight of glory, that all the enjoyments of earth shall be barren and tasteless in the infinite contrast. O make me ever mindful of the solemn warning, “How hardly shall they that have riches, enter into the kingdom of God!”

Heavenly Father, let me not be envious nor rebellious when I see the prosperity of the wicked. Surely thou hast set them in slippery places. They that will be rich fall into temptations and snares, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. Lord, what shall it profit a man if he gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?

God of Beneficence, enlarge the souls of those on whom thou hast cast the mantle of plenty. May they bless the Lord, and forget not all his benefits. Make them rich in good works, and ready to distribute, according as thou hast prospered them. Teach them that the silver and the gold are thine, and make them the stewards of thy bounty—willing instruments in sustaining and enlarging every work of faith and labour of love. Give them grace to lay up treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not corrupt, and where thieves cannot break through and steal.

The Promise of God:

“And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.”

Colossians 3:23-24

May 15

Call to Worship: Psalm 28:6-7

“Blessed *be* the LORD, because He has heard the voice of my supplications! The LORD *is* my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in Him, and I am helped; therefore my heart greatly rejoices, and with my song I will praise Him.”

Psalm 119:121-128

Scripture Reading:

Ezra 2-4
HCO: Jeremiah 1-3

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 134. *Which is the sixth commandment?*

A. The sixth commandment is, *Thou shalt not kill.*

Prayer:

Lord, keep my heart from the occasional or frequent influence of malice. Let no rivalry and no sense of injury, ever excite me to feelings or acts of malignity. O how infinitely is such a temper opposed to thy holiness; and how nearly does it approach to the hatred which fills the bosoms of the damned!—Blessed Jesus, bring me into closer likeness to thy precious example. Thou didst not render railing for railing, nor evil for evil; but contrariwise, blessing. O give me, I pray thee, that spirit of love which worketh no ill to its neighbour; and which looks on the earth, in all its length and breadth, as one neighbourhood—and on all its diversified races, as one brotherhood of man.

The Promise of God:

“Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but *rather* give place to wrath; for it is written, ‘*Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,*’ says the Lord. Therefore ‘*If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him a drink; for in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head.*’ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.”

Romans 12:19-21

May 16

Call to Worship: Psalm 29:2

“Give unto the LORD the glory due to His name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.”

Psalm 119:129-136

Scripture Reading:

Ezra 5-7
HCO: Jeremiah 4-6

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 135. *What are the duties required in the sixth commandment?*

A. The duties required in the sixth commandment are, all careful studies, and lawful endeavors, to preserve the life of ourselves and others by resisting all thoughts and purposes, subduing all passions, and avoiding all occasions, temptations, and practices, which tend to the unjust taking away the life of any; by just defense thereof against violence, patient bearing of the hand of God, quietness of mind, cheerfulness of spirit; a sober use of meat, drink, physic, sleep, labor, and recreations; by charitable thoughts, love, compassion, meekness, gentleness, kindness; peaceable, mild and courteous speeches and behavior; forbearance, readiness to be reconciled, patient bearing and forgiving of injuries, and requiting good for evil; comforting and succoring the distressed, and protecting and defending the innocent.

Prayer:

Giver of all Good, grant me that fruit of the Spirit which is love. May this be the element where my soul will live, and move, and have its being. O, may I feel that if I could speak with the tongues of men and angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass or a tinkling cymbal: though I should bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.

Lord, grant that thy holy commandment, and the countless examples of thy good-will, and the various wants of my fellow-creatures, may be heart-stirring motives to this law of kindness. And especially may the love of Christ constrain me to love my neighbour as myself. Make it a bond of perfectness, and the end of the commandment; springing out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned. May this grace preserve me from envy, censoriousness, and ill-will, and so mould my temper and character, that I shall be meek and forbearing, disinterested and self-denying, and steadfast and kind in all my intercourse with mankind. Blessed God, let it not be bounded by narrow limits, but be as expansive as the length and breadth of the world, and take into the bosom of its sympathies the whole family of man.

O thou, Sovereign of Destinies, hasten that time when charity shall fill the hearts and control the conduct of all men; when anger, and malice, and revenge shall have fled away forever; when nations shall learn war no more, and Jesus, the Prince of Peace, shall reign over an undisturbed empire of love.

The Promise of God:

“But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.”

James 3:17-18

May 17

Call to Worship: Psalm 33:1-3

“Rejoice in the LORD, O you righteous! *For* praise from the upright is beautiful. Praise the LORD with the harp; make melody to Him with an instrument of ten strings. Sing to Him a new song; play skillfully with a shout of joy.”

Psalm 119:137-144

Scripture Reading:

Ezra 8-10
HCO: Jeremiah 7-9

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 136. *What are the sins forbidden in the sixth commandment?*

A. The sins forbidden in the sixth commandment are, all taking away the life of ourselves, or of others, except in case of public justice, lawful war, or necessary defense; the neglecting or withdrawing the lawful and necessary means of preservation of life; sinful anger, hatred, envy, desire of revenge; all excessive passions, distracting cares; immoderate use of meat, drink, labor, and recreations; provoking words, oppression, quarreling, striking, wounding, and whatsoever else tends to the destruction of the life of any.

Prayer:

Lord, strengthen me by thy grace, that I may restrain and conquer my propensities to unholy anger. Let it not cloud my brow, nor envenom my tongue, nor vex my heart. Let gentleness, courtesy, and kindness spread themselves, like the green covering of earth, over my character and conduct. Teach me that he who ruleth his own spirit is greater than he who taketh a city; and that he who is hasty of spirit exalteth folly, and shall suffer punishment. Show me that a soft answer turneth away wrath, but grievous words stir up strife. He that soweth to the wind shall reap the whirlwind; but the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace. May I consider him who endured the contradiction of sinners, and seek not to avenge myself, but rather give place to wrath. Let me do nothing in rashness and strife. Enable me, in the exercise of candour, forbearance, meekness, and forgiveness, to disarm every temptation to sinful passion, and to cause the wrath of my adversaries to praise thee.

Source of Wisdom, instruct me how I may be angry and sin not. Let me not be indignant without cause and above cause. Give me a holy displeasure against transgression; but let it be mingled with a reclaiming pity towards the transgressor; and be exercised for his good and thy glory.

The Promise of God:

“He who is slow to anger is better than the mighty, and he who rules his spirit than he who takes a city.”

Proverbs 16:32

May 18

Call to Worship: Psalm 34:1

“I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise *shall* continually *be* in my mouth.”

Psalm 119:145-152

Scripture Reading:

Nehemiah 1-3
HCO: Jeremiah 10-12

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 137. *Which is the seventh commandment?*

A. The seventh commandment is, *Thou shalt not commit adultery.*

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, grant me, in the name of Jesus, that spiritual mind which is life and peace. Let not my heart be troubled nor careful about the things of this world; but let it choose that better part, which cannot be taken from me. May I regard the blessing of thy favour infinitely above any and all earthly good. Incline me to find my pleasure in the services of thy kingdom, and not in the debasements of sense. Purify my motives, and make the objects of my desires such as shall be in harmony with the teachings of the Holy Ghost.—Lord, fill my soul with those spiritual joys which raise the heart above the pleasures, honours and riches of the world; which throw the gladness of hope over earth's darkest scenes; and which are sweet foretastes of the happiness of that land of spirits, where formality, and sense, and sin, shall give place to sincerity, devotion, and holiness.

The Promise of God:

“Oh, taste and see that the LORD *is* good; blessed *is* the man *who* trusts in Him!”

Psalm 34:8

May 19

Call to Worship: Psalm 42:1-2a

“As the deer pants for the water brooks, so pants my soul for You, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God...”

Psalm 119:153-160

Scripture Reading:

Nehemiah 4-6
HCO: Jeremiah 13-15

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 138. *What are the duties required in the seventh commandment?*

A. The duties required in the seventh commandment are, chastity in body, mind, affections, words, and behavior; and the preservation of it in ourselves and others; watchfulness over the eyes and all the senses; temperance, keeping of chaste company, modesty in apparel; marriage by those that have not the gift of continency, conjugal love, and cohabitation; diligent labor in our callings; shunning all occasions of uncleanness, and resisting temptations thereunto.

Prayer:

Heavenly Parent, thou hast shown both thy wisdom and goodness in the institution of marriage. Thou hast sought by it to increase the happiness and promote the virtue of mankind. The works of thy creation, though good in thy sight, were unfinished, while man dwelt alone; and thy last and best gift to earth, was she that should be a fountain of joy, a partner of pleasure, and a solace of sorrow. Lord, teach all men that this relation of life is still (and must be throughout the annals of time) identified with the comfort and welfare of our race. O let none with ruthless and impious hand, undermine nor overthrow this ordinance of God; but may all regard and sustain it as the safeguard of purity, the pledge of social bliss, and the bond of public good.

Lord, reform the opinions and correct the practice of Christians in relation to unhallowed marriages. Let none such be unequally yoked with unbelievers. May they marry only in the Lord. Show them that those who ally themselves in sacred ties with the ungodly, rebel against the will of God, cast snares and unhappiness in their way through life, and fearfully hinder the grace of God in their own hearts.

Lord, govern by the dictates of affection, prudence, and piety, those who would enter on the duties and pleasures of matrimony.—Bless all who have embarked on them. May their relations be characterized by mutual love, esteem, forbearance, assistance, and sympathy. May the same sincere, ardent, unchangeable, protecting, and providing love, which the Saviour manifests to his spouse, the church, be shown by the husband to his wife. And do thou direct her conduct to him in subjection, reverence, prudence, and love. Lord, make their union conducive to every rational good of human life. Let it be an emblem of the union between Christ and his church; that they may walk in all the statutes and ordinances of the Lord, blameless, and be made mutual helpers in the fellowship of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

The Promise of God:

“He who finds a wife finds a good thing, and obtains favor from the LORD.”

Proverbs 18:22

May 20

Call to Worship: Psalm 57:11

“Be exalted, O God, above the heavens; *let Your glory be above all the earth.*”

Psalm 119:161-168

Scripture Reading:

Nehemiah 7-9
HCO: Jeremiah 16-18

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 139. *What are the sins forbidden in the seventh commandment?*

A. The sins forbidden in the seventh commandment, besides the neglect of the duties required, are, adultery, fornication, rape, incest, sodomy, and all unnatural lusts; all unclean imaginations, thoughts, purposes, and affections; all corrupt or filthy communications, or listening thereunto; wanton looks, impudent or light behavior, immodest apparel; prohibiting of lawful, and dispensing with unlawful marriages; allowing, tolerating, keeping of stews, and resorting to them; entangling vows of single life, undue delay of marriage; having more wives or husbands than one at the same time; unjust divorce, or desertion; idleness, gluttony, drunkenness, unchaste company; lascivious songs, books, pictures, dancings, stage plays; and all other provocations to, or acts of uncleanness, either in ourselves or others.

Prayer:

Preserve me, O Holy One, from impurity in thought, in word, and in action. Grant that a sense of thy holiness and thine omniscience may so rest upon me, that I may walk in the Spirit, and not fulfil the lusts of the flesh. May I set a watch upon my lips, that no double meaning nor corrupt communication may proceed out of my mouth; and suffer me not to take pleasure in, but to abhor and turn away from, the language of indelicacy and lasciviousness on the tongues of others. Help me to make a covenant with my eyes, that they may not dwell on unlawful objects, nor pamper forbidden wishes. Throw a guard round my heart, that it may not devise wicked imaginations. Teach me to loathe and flee from these beginnings of evil, which debase the spirit, enfeeble the mind, and drown the soul in perdition. Enable me to put away uncleanness, and to glorify thee in my body and spirit, which are thine.

God of Justice, enter not into judgment with our land for the foul impurity which covers it. If thou wert strict to mark its iniquity, thou wouldst bring over it the besom of desolation, and make it a monument of reproach. O lead us, in thy mercy, to the use of such measures as shall subvert the dominion of licentiousness, and establish purity of heart, speech, and conduct. Lord, thou knowest whether the means which have been employed, by social and open action, for the suppression of that destroying vice, are according to thy holy will. If they are, O give them abundant success. But if they are not, cause them to be laid aside, and teach thy people what they may do that will secure thy blessing. Correct, elevate, and inform public opinion in relation to the destroying evils of lewdness. Put under the ban of universal condemnation the unchaste word, the licentious song, the impure page, the lascivious dance, and the dissolute play-house. Make the libertine a scorn and reproach in every society. O preserve those who are still pure; and let them not go down the pathways of disgrace and destruction. Convince and alarm those whose

name is clean in the eyes of the world, but whose thoughts cherish unholy emotions, and whose hearts work uncleanness greedily. Recover those who have listened to the song of the syren, and who go as a bird hasteth to the snare, and knoweth not that it is for his life: who think not that many strong men have been slain by her, and that her house is the chambers of death, and that her guests are in the depths of hell. Cleanse our land and the world from this vile leprosy which destroys health, and happiness, and virtue: and bring over it a reformation that shall be total abstinence from impurity of every name.

The Promise of God:

“Marriage *is* honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge.”

Hebrews 13:4

May 21

Call to Worship: Psalm 59:16-17

“But I will sing of Your power; Yes, I will sing aloud of Your mercy in the morning; for You have been my defense and refuge in the day of my trouble. To You, O my Strength, I will sing praises; for God is my defense, my God of mercy.”

Psalm 119:169-176

Scripture Reading:

Nehemiah 10-12
HCO: Jeremiah 19-21

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 140. *Which is the eighth commandment?*

A. The eighth commandment is, *Thou shalt not steal.*

Prayer:

Gracious God, I would bless thee that thou carest for the wants of this perishing body; and that thou permittest me to ask thee for my daily bread. Herein thou hast shown both thy condescension and thy love; and hast taught me my dependence on thee, and warned me against undue anxiety respecting the future. I confess before thee, that I am prone to neglect the duty of desiring and seeking, as the gifts of thy hands, my food, and all my temporal comforts. And in receiving them, how often do I fail to acknowledge thy providing and nourishing goodness! O lead me constantly to look to thee, as willing to give to all their meat in due season; and dispose me to receive always thy benefits with humility and thanksgiving.

Lord, suffer not my appetite to crave luxury. May I seek such provision as will recruit and strengthen my body. Let my steadfast desire be, that I may be fitted by thy sustaining mercies, for thy service: so that whether I eat or drink, I may do all to the glory of God.

Teach me, for Jesus' sake, that man liveth not by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. Let me esteem thy words more than my necessary food. Let me not take thought what I shall eat or drink, or wherewithal I shall be clothed; but cause me to seek first thy righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto me. Lord, feed me with heavenly manna. Give me the Bread of Life; that I may eat and live forever.

The Promise of God:

“But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”

Matthew 6:33

May 22

Call to Worship: Psalm 63:3-5

“Because Your lovingkindness *is* better than life, my lips shall praise You. Thus I will bless You while I live; I will lift up my hands in Your name. My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness, and my mouth shall praise You with joyful lips.”

Psalm 120

Scripture Reading:

Nehemiah 13
Esther 1-2
HCO: Jeremiah 22-24

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 141. *What are the duties required in the eighth commandment?*

A. The duties required in the eighth commandment are, truth, faithfulness, and justice in contracts and commerce between man and man; rendering to every one his due; restitution of goods unlawfully detained from the right owners thereof; giving and lending freely, according to our abilities, and the necessities of others; moderation of our judgments, wills, and affections concerning worldly goods; a provident care and study to get, keep, use, and dispose these things which are necessary and convenient for the sustentation of our nature, and suitable to our condition; a lawful calling, and diligence in it; frugality; avoiding unnecessary lawsuits, and suretiship, or other like engagements; and an endeavor, by all just and lawful means, to procure, preserve, and further the wealth and outward estate of others, as well as our own.

Prayer:

Lord, dispose me to render to all their dues. Implant such a sense of justice in my bosom, that I shall willingly give to my fellow-creatures, of every rank, all their lawful and moral rights. Let not selfishness exalt itself against the dictates of integrity; nor covetousness violate the duties of uprightness. Rebuke in me that love of lucre, whether it be in small things or in great, which would lead me to forego the demands of rectitude for the desires of dishonesty. Grant me, if it seem good to thee, that moderate competence, and contentment with it, which will raise me above the temptations of poverty. But do thou assure me, that the wealth, which I sometimes covet, neither satisfies the soul, nor elevates its sense of justice, but begets raging desire and clamorous injustice.

Heavenly Father, make me prompt in the discharge of my obligations; especially to the poor. Let me owe no man any thing, without his cheerful consent. Or if misfortune or disappointment deny me the present ability to discharge the claims of creditors, let no evasive plea nor legal subterfuge release me from the conviction of indebtedness, and the purpose of recompense. Great God, may I remember the wo of him that buildeth his house by unrighteousness, and his chambers by wrong; and the reward of him that walketh righteously, and despiseth the gain of oppressions, and shaketh his hand from holding bribes—he shall dwell on high; his defence shall be the munitions of rocks; bread shall be given him; his water shall be sure; his name shall be as ointment poured forth, and his memory shall be blessed.

The Promise of God:

“I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”

Acts 20:35

May 23

Call to Worship: Psalm 68:4

“Sing to God, sing praises to His name; extol Him who rides on the clouds, by His name YAH, and rejoice before Him.”

Psalm 121

Scripture Reading:

Esther 3-5
HCO: Jeremiah 25-27

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 142. *What are the sins forbidden in the eighth commandment?*

A. The sins forbidden in the eighth commandment, besides the neglect of the duties required, are, theft, robbery, man-stealing, and receiving anything that is stolen; fraudulent dealing, false weights and measures, removing landmarks, injustice and unfaithfulness in contracts between man and man, or in matters of trust; oppression, extortion, usury, bribery, vexatious lawsuits, unjust enclosures and depredation; engrossing commodities to enhance the price; unlawful callings, and all other unjust or sinful ways of taking or withholding from our neighbor what belongs to him, or of enriching ourselves; covetousness; inordinate prizing and affecting worldly goods; distrustful and distracting cares and studies in getting, keeping, and using them; envying at the prosperity of others; as likewise idleness, prodigality, wasteful gaming; and all other ways whereby we do unduly prejudice our own outward estate, and defrauding ourselves of the due use and comfort of that estate which God hath given us.

Prayer:

Blessed God, cause all dishonesty to cease from the face of the earth. Let men no longer unjustly hinder their neighbour's wealth or outward estate. Destroy that spirit of covetousness which urges mankind to fraud, robbery, and oppression, and to be partakers of unholy gain. Do thou cause the principles of strict and impartial honesty to govern the relations of commerce, and of master and servant. Give currency and influence, I pray thee, to that blessed rule, of doing unto others as we would they should do unto us.

Lord keep me from indulging in any form of dishonesty. Make me just to all the lawful interests of my fellows. Let me never desire to increase my own substance at their expense; nor to withhold from any, however humble or unworthy, the debts of justice and humanity. Incline me always to rejoice in the good of my neighbour, and to walk uprightly and work righteousness.

The Promise of God:

“And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”
Philippians 4:19

May 24

Call to Worship: Psalm 69:16, 30

“Here me, O LORD, for Your lovingkindness *is* good; turn to me according to the multitude of Your tender mercies....I will praise the name of God with a song, and will magnify Him with thanksgiving.”

Psalm 122

Scripture Reading:

Esther 6-8
HCO: Jeremiah 28-30

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 143. *Which is the ninth commandment?*

A. The ninth commandment is, *Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.*

Prayer:

Lord, preserve me from falsehood. Teach me that it degrades character, injures peace of conscience, subverts the welfare of society, and incurs thy hot displeasure. O make my conscience tender with regard to every violation of truth. Let me not utter falsehood in jest; for thou hast said that for every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account in the day of judgment. Let me not depart from truth, for the love of gain; for the wages of sin is death. Let me not practice deceit, through the fear or favour of man; for his breath is in his nostrils. And, O Lord, let me not be false, with the plea of doing good; for we may not do evil that good may come. Keep me, I pray thee, from every thing which is prejudicial to truth, or injurious to my own or my neighbour's good name. Suffer me not to think, nor act, nor speak deceitfully in any thing.

O Lord, make me, above all, sincere towards thee. Let me not attempt to draw nigh to thee with a lip-service, while my heart is far from thee. Thou searchest the heart, and triest the reins: thou art not deceived, and thou canst not be mocked. May all my homage before thee, spring from a controlling desire to do thy will, which requires truth in the inward parts. O renew my spirit in the likeness of thy Son; who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth.

The Promise of God:

“Through Your precepts I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way. Your word *is* a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”

Psalm 119:104-105

May 25

Call to Worship: Psalm 71:8, 15, 23

“Let my mouth be filled *with* Your praise *and with* Your glory all the day....My mouth shall tell of Your righteousness *and* Your salvation all the day....My lips shall greatly rejoice when I sing to You, and my soul, which You have redeemed.”

Psalm 123

Scripture Reading:

Esther 9-10
Job 1
HCO: Jeremiah 31-33

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 144. *What are the duties required in the ninth commandment?*

A. The duties required in the ninth commandment are, the preserving and promoting of truth between man and man, and the good name of our neighbor, as well as our own; appearing and standing for the truth; and from the heart, sincerely, freely, clearly, and fully, speaking the truth, and only the truth, in matters of judgment and justice, and in all other things whatsoever; a charitable esteem of our neighbors; loving, desiring, and rejoicing in their good name; sorrowing for and covering of their infirmities; freely acknowledging of their gifts and graces, defending their innocency; a ready receiving of a good report, and unwillingness to admit of an evil report, concerning them; discouraging talebearers, flatterers, and slanderers; love and care of our own good name, and defending it when need requireth; keeping of lawful promises; studying and practicing of whatsoever things are true, honest, lovely, and of good report.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, dispel every form of error by the power of uncorrupted truth. Lord, thy word is truth. Give it, therefore, free course that it may be glorified in redeeming the corrupt and wandering minds of men from the deceptions of prejudice and error. Bring all mankind to a knowledge of it, and especially of the truth as it is in Jesus, which only is able to make them wise unto salvation. Instruct them in that mystery which was hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to the saints; which is Christ, in them, the hope of glory.

Lord, assist me to love thy truth and to seek its promotion, even though it may cover me with rebuke and shame. May it turn me from every refuge of lies, and bring me to trust in thee with all my heart. May sincerity dwell in my soul, and truth have its image in my heart, and verity be found on my lips. Teach me to abhor deceit in every possible form. May I remember that nothing can enter the holy city that maketh or loveth a lie; and that the lip of truth shall be established forever.

Great God, thou art the fountain of untarnished truth, and with thee there is no variableness, nor shadow of turning. No form of deceit has ever cast a stain on the purity of thy purposes and dealings. Though the mountains depart and the hills be removed, thy kindness doth not depart from thee; neither is the covenant of thy peace removed. Thy word is the counsels of faithfulness; thy promises are all Yea and Amen; and thy threatenings, though they be not speedily executed, shall be fulfilled in righteousness. O Lord, give me such a persuasion of thy

faithfulness as shall encourage and strengthen my heart in every endurance of trial, and in every performance of duty. Help me to commit the keeping of my soul unto thee, in well-doing, as unto a faithful Creator.

The Promise of God:

“He shall cover you with His feathers, and under His wings you shall take refuge; His truth *shall be your* shield and buckler....”

Psalm 91:4

May 26

Call to Worship: Psalm 72:18-19b

“Blessed *be* the LORD God, the God of Israel, Who only does wondrous things! And blessed *be* His glorious name forever! And let the whole earth be filled *with* His glory....”

Psalm 124

Scripture Reading:

Job 2-4

HCO: Jeremiah 34-36

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 145. *What are the sins forbidden in the ninth commandment?*

A. The sins forbidden in the ninth commandment are, all prejudicing the truth, and the good name of our neighbors, as well as our own, especially in public judicature; giving false evidence, suborning false witnesses, wittingly appearing and pleading for an evil cause, outfacing and overbearing the truth; passing unjust sentence, calling evil good, and good evil; rewarding the wicked according to the work of the righteous, and the righteous according to the work of the wicked; forgery, concealing the truth, undue silence in a just cause, and holding our peace when iniquity calleth for either a reproof from ourselves, or complaint to others; speaking the truth unseasonably, or maliciously to a wrong end, or perverting it to a wrong meaning, or in doubtful or equivocal expressions, to the prejudice of the truth or justice; speaking untruth, lying, slandering, backbiting, detracting, talebearing, whispering, scoffing, reviling, rash, harsh, and partial censuring; misconstruing intentions, words, and actions; flattering, vainglorious boasting, thinking or speaking too highly or too meanly of ourselves or others; denying the gifts and graces of God; aggravating smaller faults; hiding, excusing, or extenuating of sins, when called to a free confession; unnecessary discovering of infirmities; raising false rumors, receiving and countenancing evil reports, and stopping our ears against just defense; evil suspicion; envying or grieving at the deserved credit of any; endeavoring or desiring to impair it, rejoicing in their disgrace and infamy; scornful contempt, fond admiration; breach of lawful promises; neglecting such things as are of good report, and practicing, or not avoiding ourselves, or not hindering what we can in others, such things as procure an ill name.

Prayer:

Lord, suffer me not to be guilty of the vice of slander. Let me not through either mistake or prejudice, rashness or ill-will, charge evil falsely on my fellows. Make me tender of the reputation of all men; and especially of the household of faith.—O how has this sin impaired or destroyed individual comfort and usefulness, domestic and social bliss, and public peace! How has even the character of piety been soiled, and its means of doing good frustrated, by the words of suspicion, and talebearing and falsehood! Let the lying lips be put to silence, which speak grievous things proudly and contemptuously, against the righteous. O that all evil speaking would cease out of the world, and that all men would judge the motives, and state the conduct of others, in righteousness and truth.

Lord, keep my mouth from slander, and my lips from speaking guile. Incline me to take heed to my ways, that I sin not with my tongue. May my speech be always with grace; for if any man

offend not in word, the same is perfect, and is able also to bridle the whole body.

The Promise of God:

“The truthful lip shall be established forever, but a lying tongue *is* but for a moment.”

Proverbs 12:19

May 27

Call to Worship: Psalm 73:25, 26, 28

“Whom have I in heaven *but You*? And *there is* none upon earth *that* I desire besides You. My flesh and my heart fail; *but God is* the strength of my heart and my portion forever. But *it is* good for me to draw near to God; I have put my trust in the LORD GOD, that I may declare all Your works.”

Psalm 125

Scripture Reading:

Job 5-7
HCO: Jeremiah 37-39

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 146. *Which is the tenth commandment?*

A. The tenth commandment is, *Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor anything that is thy neighbour's.*

Prayer:

Blessed Lord, keep my heart from idolatry. Thou art God; and beside thee there is none other. Suffer me not to idolize the world, nor any thing that is in the world. Let no created good supplant thy dominion over my heart. Let no object of affection divert from thee that supreme love which I owe thee, as my Creator, Preserver, and Redeemer. What concord hath Christ with Belial? What agreement should the temple of God have with idols? Be thou to me my all, and in all. Persuade and control my soul to acknowledge thee as the only true God, and my God; and to worship and glorify thee accordingly.

The Promise of God:

“The statutes of the LORD *are* right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD *is* pure, enlightening the eyes....”

Psalm 19:8

May 28

Call to Worship: Psalm 77:11-12, 14a

“I will remember the works of the LORD; surely I will remember Your wonders of old. I will also meditate on all your work, and talk of Your deeds....You *are* the God who does wonders....”

Psalm 126

Scripture Reading:

Job 8-10
HCO: Jeremiah 40-42

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 147. *What are the duties required in the tenth commandment?*

A. The duties required in the tenth commandment are, such a full contentment with our own condition, and such a charitable frame of the whole soul toward our neighbor, as that all our inward motions and affections touching him, tend unto, and further all that good which is his.

Prayer:

Great Sovereign of heaven and earth, thou art infinitely wise and good, in all the allotments of thy providence. I pray thee, teach me in whatever state I am, therewith to be content. Keep me, O Lord, from envy, from avarice, from ambition, from anxiety, and from murmuring. May I remember it was discontent that brought death into the world, and all its woes. Make me content with such things as I have; for thou hast said thou wilt never leave nor forsake me, if I put my trust in thee. May mine be the prayer of Agur—"Give me neither poverty nor riches; lest I be full, and deny thee; or be poor, and steal, and take thy name in vain." Let me not forget that the love of money is the root of evil. They who will be rich fall into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. Make my soul satisfied in the midst of losses and afflictions. May I be ever ready to say—"The Lord gave, and the Lord taketh away: blessed be the name of the Lord."

Heavenly Father, discipline me so by thy grace, that I shall be careful for nothing, but in all things, by prayer and supplication, make known my requests unto thee. Let me not trust in uncertain riches; but in the living God, who giveth me all things richly to enjoy. Show me that human happiness consists not in the abundance of worldly treasure; but in godliness, which with contentment is great gain. I am not worthy of the least of thy mercies; wherefore then should I complain? I brought nothing into the world, and I can carry nothing out; let me therefore look not at things which are seen and temporal; but at things which are not seen, and that are eternal. May thy great and precious promises give me more comfort than the wicked have, when their corn and wine do most abound. Induce me, O Lord, to seek my portion where the righteous obtain joy and gladness, and where murmuring and sorrow shall flee away forever.

The Promise of God:

“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”

Philippians 4:6-7

May 29

Call to Worship: Psalm 84:1-2

“How lovely *is* Your tabernacle, O LORD of hosts! My soul longs, yes, even faints for the courts of the LORD; my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God.”

Psalm 127

Scripture Reading:

Job 11-13
HCO: Jeremiah 43-45

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 148. *What are the sins forbidden in the tenth commandment?*

A. The sins forbidden in the tenth commandment are, discontentment with our own estate; envying and grieving at the good of our neighbor, together with all inordinate motions and affections to anything that is his.

Prayer:

Preserve me, Great Helper, from the vice of covetousness, which is idolatry. O let me not worship filthy lucre, instead of the living God. May I remember the judgment of the Valley of Achor, on him who coveted forbidden spoil; and the swift destruction of them that kept back part of the price, and agreed together to tempt the Spirit of the Lord. Let me not dishonour my faith in thee, nor blight my spiritual comfort, nor bring disgrace on thy cause, in the eyes of the world, by indulging in this wickedness. Give me full contentment with my own condition, and a right and charitable frame of spirit towards my neighbour and all that is his. Banish from my mind all discontentment with my own estate; all envying and grieving at the good of my neighbour, and all inordinate emotions and affections to any thing that is his.

Help me, O Lord, to overcome the love of the world. May I seek thy favour as the chief good of life, and say in my heart—“There is none on earth I desire beside thee.” Lead me to look with the eye of benevolence on the wants of my fellow creatures; and in supplying them, as thou hast prospered me, to find that it is more blessed to give than to receive. Let me not seek to lay up treasures on earth, but in heaven; where moth and rust do not corrupt, and where thieves cannot break through and steal.

Lord, redeem thy church from this vice, which has spotted her garments, and tainted her blood, and crippled her energies. How long, Blessed Saviour, shall they, who have covenanted to be thine, bow the knee at the golden shrine of mammon? Show them that covetousness degrades their immortal nature, breaks thy holy law, and is the fruitful source of manifold iniquity. Keep them from those graspings of avarice, those daring speculations and greedy monopolies, which are the offspring of pride, and the fountains of misery. May they thus judge, that if Christ has bought them by his own precious blood, they should not live for themselves, but for him. Excite thy people, O Lord, to active and unwearying benevolence. As thou hast made them the stewards of thy multiplied mercies, let none forget to do good, and to communicate; for with such sacrifices thou art well pleased. May they cease to do evil and learn to do well; and labour not for the meat that perisheth, but for that which endureth unto everlasting life.

The Promise of God:

“The wicked covet the catch of evil *men*, but the root of the righteous yields *fruit*.”
Proverbs 12:12

May 30

Call to Worship: Psalm 85:8a,b

“I will hear what God the LORD will speak, for He will speak peace to His people and to His saints....”

Psalm 128

Scripture Reading:

Job 14-16
HCO: Jeremiah 46-48

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 149. *Is any man able perfectly to keep the commandments of God?*

A. No man is able, either of himself, or by any grace received in this life, perfectly to keep the commandments of God; but doth daily break them in thought, word, and deed.

Prayer:

Great Source of Wisdom, give me a habit of honest and searching self-examination, that I may prove myself, and know whether I am in the faith. Make me ever anxious to know the state of my heart, and the working of my motives. Guide and strengthen me, while I inquire of my soul and of thee, whether I acknowledge and mourn over my transgressions, and receive Christ as my wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption. Have I indeed been born again—am I a new creature in Christ Jesus—and are the evidences of my new estate clear and increasing? Is the Lord my master to serve, and my portion to enjoy; and is the welfare of his kingdom the desire of my heart? Am I daily dying unto sin, and living unto righteousness? Am I thankful for mercies, and prayerful for blessings; pursuing the glory of God; doing to others as I would have them do unto me; and diligently seeking that city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God?

Teach me, O Lord, all my errors, weaknesses, and sins. Cleanse me from them by the enlightening, strengthening, and sanctifying influences of thy Spirit. And O, may I remember that if I should be wilfully or heedlessly blind to my transgressions, thou, Lord, knowest them altogether. Let not self-love nor pride, hinder me from an impartial knowledge of myself. Preserve me from a false estimate of any part of my character. May I look at my principles as well as my conduct—and at my motives as well as my actions. Let me never mistake the excitement of feeling for the renewing of the Holy Ghost; nor the outward activities of religion for its inward spirit. Let me not judge of my religion by occasional impressions and impulses, but by my habit of life. Lord, make it worthy of the vocation wherewith I am called, and such as becometh the gospel of Christ.

The Promise of God:

“My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.”

1 John 2:1

May 31

Call to Worship: Psalm 86:11-12

“Teach me Your way, O LORD; I will walk in Your truth; unite my heart to fear Your name. I will praise You, O LORD my God, with all my heart, and I will glorify Your name forevermore.”

Psalm 129

Scripture Reading:

Job 17-19
HCO: Jeremiah 49-52

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 150. *Are all transgressions of the law of God equally heinous in themselves, and in the sight of God?*

A. All transgressions of the law are not equally heinous; but some sins in themselves, and by reason of several aggravations, are more heinous in the sight of God than others.

Prayer:

Great God, thou hast appointed unto men once to die, and after this the judgment, when every one of us shall give account of himself to God; and when thou wilt display to an assembled universe, the righteousness of thy justice, and the glory of thy holiness. Of that day and that hour knoweth no man; but it shall be the end of the world, when all the works therein shall be burnt up, the heavens pass away with a great noise, and the elements melt with fervent heat. Lord, make me mindful of that awful day, and of the solemn truths thou hast revealed concerning it. Then the Lord Jesus will come with his holy angels, and sit on his great white throne, and open the books of remembrance—the testimonies of creation, of providence, of scripture, and of conscience. The quick and dead shall stand before him, to be judged out of those things that are written in the books, according to their works, with every secret thing, whether it be good or evil; and also for every thing which thou didst command to be done, but which they left undone. Lord, make me realize that men will then be judged also for the privileges they have enjoyed; for of them unto whom much has been given, much will be required. O, even the best of thy saints will then need the atonement of Christ: they could not stand before thee, if thou shouldst mark their iniquities. But, blessed be thy name, there will be no condemnation to them that are in Christ Jesus: they shall receive the promise of a new heaven and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness. But then the judge will say to them on his left hand—“Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:” and the wicked shall be turned into hell, with all the nations that forget God. O God of infinite compassion, grant that in that fearful day of trial, my name may be found written in the Lamb's book of life, and that my unworthy, hell-deserving spirit may be received, through the merits of Christ, into the habitations of eternal life.

The Promise of God:

“Come now, and let us reason together,’ says the LORD, ‘though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool.’”

Isaiah 1:18

June 1

Call to Worship: Psalm 89:1

“I will sing of the mercies of the LORD forever; with my mouth will I make known Your faithfulness to all generations.”

Psalm 130

Scripture Reading:

Job 20-22
HCO: Ezekiel 1-3

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 151. *What are those aggravations that make some sins more heinous than others?*

A. Sins receive their aggravations,

1. From the persons offending; if they be of riper age, greater experience or grace, eminent for profession, gifts, place, office, guides to others, and whose example is likely to be followed by others.
2. From the parties offended: if immediately against God, his attributes, and worship; against Christ, and his grace; the Holy Spirit, his witness, and workings; against superiors, men of eminency, and such as we stand especially related and engaged unto; against any of the saints, particularly weak brethren, the souls of them, or any other, and the common good of all or many.
3. From the nature and quality of the offence: if it be against the express letter of the law, break many commandments, contain in it many sins: if not only conceived in the heart, but breaks forth in words and actions, scandalize others, and admit of no reparation: if against means, mercies, judgments, light of nature, conviction of conscience, public or private admonition, censures of the church, civil punishments; and our prayers, purposes, promises, vows, covenants, and engagements to God or men: if done deliberately, willfully, presumptuously, impudently, boastingly, maliciously, frequently, obstinately, with delight, continuance, or relapsing after repentance.
4. From circumstances of time, and place: if on the Lord's day, or other times of divine worship; or immediately before or after these, or other helps to prevent or remedy such miscarriages: if in public, or in the presence of others, who are thereby likely to be provoked or defiled.

Prayer:

Lord, instruct me in the nature of the spiritual dangers by which I am beset, and make me ever watchful against their open or secret influences. Make me vigilant against the corruptions of my own heart—its love of indulgence, of riches, and of display. Inspire me with carefulness in my intercourse with the world, lest it draw me aside into the paths of vanity and sin. Enable me to watch against the temptations of Satan, who is the adversary of the soul, and seeks its destruction by countless stratagems. Let the memory of my past falls and backslidings, make me heedful lest I become entangled in like snares. May my loins be girt about, and my light be burning; and may I receive the blessing of those servants, whom, when the Lord Cometh, he shall find watching.

The Promise of God:

“Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts. And do not present your members *as* instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members *as* instruments of righteousness to God.

For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.”

Romans 6:12-14

June 2

Call to Worship: Psalm 91:2

“I will say of the LORD, ‘*He is my refuge and my fortress; my God, in Him I will trust.*’”

Psalm 131

Scripture Reading:

Job 23-25

HCO: Ezekiel 4-6

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 152. *What doth every sin deserve at the hands of God?*

A. Every sin, even the least, being against the sovereignty, goodness, and holiness of God, and against his righteous law, deserveth his wrath and curse, both in this life, and that which is to come; and cannot be expiated but by the blood of Christ.

Prayer:

Holy One of Israel, teach me the evil nature and fearful consequences of iniquity. It is the transgression of thy law, in doing what thou hast forbidden, and failing to do what thou hast commanded. Lord, every sin deserves thy wrath and curse, both in this life, and in that which is to come.

Assist me, I beseech thee, to feel that it is an evil and bitter thing to sin against the Lord. Thy law, which I and all mankind break, is holy, just, and good. Thy goodness against which we have transgressed has been over us every hour of our lives. Thou hast nourished and brought us up as children; but we have rebelled against thee. Every sin which we commit includes as many acts of ingratitude as the whole number of thy past mercies to us. Our iniquity has blinded our minds towards truth and has made us the prey of error. It has been the snare that has corrupted and debased our souls and left them increasingly open to temptation and guilt. O make us feel that all the sickness, misery, remorse, and death in the world are the fruits of transgression; and that if sin had not entered into the world this earth would have been, in all its generations, a paradise of happy and holy obedience. Lord, increase our sense of the exceeding sinfulness of sin by heartfelt views of the humiliation, agony, and death of thy Son; and by the revelation thou hast given of that blackness of darkness, and anguish of despair, which it has brought on the finally impenitent, the smoke of whose torment ascendeth forever and ever.

Great God, it becomes me to take shame and confusion of face upon myself; to cry, "Guilty, and unclean;" and to implore thee to be merciful to me, a sinner. Thou art spotless holiness; and thou canst not look upon sin but with abhorrence. If thou shouldst lay judgment to the line and righteousness to the plummet; or if even thou shouldst deal with me for one of a thousand of my transgressions, I would be driven from thy presence in utter despair. But, thanks be to thy name, the blood of Christ cleanseth from all sin. Though I should be condemned without hope, if I dared to stand before thee in my own strength, yet in the righteousness of my Surety I may approach thee and receive remission of sins. Lord, preserve me from the dominion of unholiness, whether it spring from the world, the flesh, or the devil. May the grace that bringeth salvation so teach me to deny ungodliness and to fear and loathe iniquity, that I shall constantly die unto sin and live unto righteousness.

The Promise of God:

“For the wages of sin *is* death, but the gift of God *is* eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”
Romans 6:23

June 3

Call to Worship: Psalm 92:1-2

“*It is good to give thanks to the LORD, and to sing praises to Your name, O Most High; to declare Your lovingkindness in the morning, and Your faithfulness every night...*”

Psalm 132

Scripture Reading:

Job 26-28
HCO: Ezekiel 7-9

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 153. *What doth God require of us, that we may escape his wrath and curse due to us by reason of the transgression of the law?*

A. That we may escape the wrath and curse of God due to us by reason of the transgression of the law, he requireth of us repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ, and the diligent use of the outward means whereby Christ communicates to us the benefits of his mediation.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, grant me repentance unto life, through the merits of the Saviour. Give me, I beseech thee, a true sense of my sin. It is against thee, O Lord, I have sinned. I have broken thy holy, wise, and benevolent law, ways and times beyond number. I have sinned against the teachings of thy word, against the testimonies of conscience, against the drawings of thy love, and against the strivings of thy Spirit. My transgressions may have led others into the paths of evil, and thus have been instrumental in loading their souls with guilt. Mine iniquities have cast reproach on thy cause in the world; and they have shut out the precious light of thy countenance from my soul. O God, make me feel how hateful my sin is in thy sight, and that the perfections of thy nature are pledged for its punishment. O thou hast spread wide and deep, the lake of unquenchable fire—thou hast built, with everlasting strength, the prison-walls of hell—where the unrepenting sinner will dwell in torment forever.

Lord, I implore thee to give me deep convictions of the atrocious guilt and soul-destroying danger of sin. Grant me feelings of strong abhorrence towards it. Incline me to mourn, with bitterness of heart, over my transgressions. Imbue me with courage, to resolve to forsake them, and with strength, to turn from them unto thee, with earnest endeavours after new obedience. Teach me, that he who turns not away from every sin, turns not aright from any sin. O let not mine be the sorrow of the world, that worketh death; but a godly sorrow, that worketh repentance to salvation, not to be repented of. Bring me to thee, crying, " Lord, save me, or I perish." And say to me in thy mercy, "Son, be of good cheer; thy sins be forgiven thee."

O God, kindle a fire in the consciences of the impenitent, that shall cleanse them from the love of sin, and purify them unto thee, in holiness of heart and life. Convince them of the evil nature, and fearful consequences of their iniquity. Show them that thou art waiting to be gracious, and that thou hast no pleasure in the death of them that die, but that they turn and live. Turn them from the error of their ways, and lead them into the path of the just. Induce them to forsake their sins, and to bring forth fruits meet for repentance. Incline them to obey thy will from the heart,

not that they may seek, by the deeds of the law, to be justified in thy sight; but that he who was delivered for their offences, may be made their justification and complete salvation.

The Promise of God:

“Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Romans 5:1

June 4

Call to Worship: Psalm 93:1ab, 2, 5b

“The LORD reigns, He is clothed with majesty; the LORD is clothed, He has girded Himself with strength...Your throne *is* established from of old; You *are* from everlasting...holiness adorns Your house, O LORD, forever.”

Psalm 133

Scripture Reading:

Job 29-31
HCO: Ezekiel 10-12

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 154. *What are the outward means whereby Christ communicates to us the benefits of his mediation?*

A. The outward and ordinary means whereby Christ communicates to his church the benefits of his mediation, are all his ordinances; especially the word, sacraments, and prayer; all which are made effectual to the elect for their salvation.

Prayer:

Lord, I thank thee for those means of grace which thou hast appointed for the instruction and conviction, conversion and sanctification of mankind. O bless me, I pray thee, in the enjoyment of them. Make the Holy Scriptures profitable to me for doctrine, reproof, correction, and instruction in righteousness. Let thy preached gospel bring me glad tidings of good things. May I hallow thy Sabbaths, and make them my delight. Make thy sacraments times of refreshing from thy presence. O cause the exercises of public, social, and private prayer to make me feel my wants, and thine infinite fulness and willingness to supply them. May I sing thy praises with melody of heart. Give me grace to keep the season of fasting or of thanksgiving, so that it may be a time of refreshing from thy presence. Grant me the sanctified use of meditation and self-examination; and lead me to such fellowship with thy saints, as will strengthen my heart and encourage my zeal in the Christian race.

Blessed God, I humbly pray thee, that I may use these privileges only as the means, and not as the end, of religion. Make me regard them as the channels through which thou dost vouchsafe to pour the refreshing streams of thy grace. It is the Spirit which gives efficacy to all the appointments of thy mercy. O Lord, make me understand that while I work out my salvation with fear and trembling, it is thou who workest in me, both to will and to do, of thine own good pleasure.

The Promise of God:

“Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.”

2 Peter 2-4

June 5

Call to Worship: Psalm 96:1-6

“Oh, sing to the LORD a new song! Sing to the LORD, all the earth. Sing to the LORD, bless His name; proclaim the good news of His salvation from day to day. Declare His glory among the nations, His wonders among all peoples. For the LORD *is* great and greatly to be praised; He *is* to be feared above all gods. For all the gods of the peoples *are* idols, but the LORD made the heavens. Honor and majesty *are* before Him; strength and beauty *are* in His sanctuary.”

Psalm 134

Scripture Reading:

Job 32-34
HCO: Ezekiel 13-15

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 155. *How is the Word made effectual to salvation?*

A. The Spirit of God maketh the reading, but especially the preaching of the word, an effectual means of enlightening, convincing, and humbling sinners; of driving them out of themselves, and drawing them unto Christ; of conforming them to his image, and subduing them to his will; of strengthening them against temptations and corruptions; of building them up in grace, and establishing their hearts in holiness and comfort through faith unto salvation.

Prayer:

God of Truth, I praise thy mercy, in Jesus Christ, that thou hast not left the human race to the blind gropings of unaided reason, in seeking a knowledge of thy will; but that thou hast given us the Scriptures of truth, which holy men of old spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost. I would thank thee for their precepts, which are incentives to good — for their examples, which are monitors of duty — for their threatenings, which are merciful warnings against evil — and for their promises, which are the beacons of hope. Thy testimonies are sure, making wise the simple; and thy law is perfect, converting the soul.

Lord, grant me an affecting sense of thy condescending goodness in the gift of the volume of revelation. Give me the teachings of thy Spirit, that I may understand and love the things of thy word. Incline me, I pray thee, to keep thy statutes; since he only that doth thy will, shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God: while he is cursed, who continueth not in all things written in the book of the law, to do them. O make the Scriptures profitable to me for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, and for instruction in righteousness; that I may be thoroughly furnished unto every good work. Incline me to search them for the truth as it is in Jesus; and may I find there that pearl of great price, which is the only passport to heaven. When my soul cleaveth to the dust, quicken thou me according to thy word; and cause it to dwell in me richly, in all wisdom. Enable me to draw lessons of wisdom and holiness from its blessed pages, wherewith to guide my judgment, and direct my steps, in all the ways of life. Sanctify me by thy truth; thy word is truth.

Giver of Mercies, I thank thee for that bright cluster of evidences of the truth of the Bible, which the researches of the wise and good have gathered over its sacred leaves. O that every skeptic, and every infidel, would learn from them the folly and wickedness of their unbelief, and

come with broken hearts and submissive minds, to the throne of thy mercy, crying, "Lord, we would believe; help thou our unbelief."

Lord, bring thy truth with convincing, and persuading, and controlling power, to the hearts and consciences of the ungodly. O make it an effectual means of converting sinners, and of building them up, in holiness and comfort, through faith, unto salvation.—May thy saints attend thereunto, with diligence, preparation, and prayer; receiving it with faith and love, laying it up in their hearts, and practicing it in their lives.

The Promise of God:

“For the word of God *is* living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”

Hebrews 4:12

June 6

Call to Worship: Psalm 98:1-2

“Oh, sing to the LORD a new song! For He has done marvelous things; His right hand and His holy arm have gained Him the victory. The LORD has made known His salvation; His righteousness He has revealed in the sight of the nations.”

Psalm 135

Scripture Reading:

Job 35-37
HCO: Ezekiel 16-18

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 156. *Is the Word of God to be read by all?*

A. Although all are not to be permitted to read the word publicly to the congregation, yet all sorts of people are bound to read it apart by themselves, and with their families: to which end, the holy Scriptures are to be translated out of the original into vulgar languages.

Prayer:

God of Truth, prosper with thy blessing, the efforts which have been made, and are now making, to give the word of life to those who, in our own, and in other countries, are perishing for lack of knowledge. I would extol thy mercy, that the sacred volume has been transmitted through so many generations, without corruption; and that it has been translated, and published, and multiplied, in so many tongues and nations of the earth. O reanimate, and strengthen, and extend these labours, until thy word shall have free course in every family throughout the world, and be glorified in bringing multitudes of souls into the kingdom of God. And to thee, O Lord, shall be ascribed the power, and dominion, and glory, forever.

The Promise of God:

“Your word *is* a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”

Psalm 119:105

June 7

Call to Worship: Psalm 101:1

“I will sing of mercy and justice; to You, O LORD, I will sing praises.”

Psalm 136

Scripture Reading:

Job 38-40

HCO: Ezekiel 19-21

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 157. *How is the Word of God to be read?*

A. The holy Scriptures are to be read with an high and reverent esteem of them; with a firm persuasion that they are the very Word of God, and that he only can enable us to understand them; with desire to know, believe, and obey the will of God revealed in them; with diligence, and attention to the matter and scope of them; with meditation, application, self-denial, and prayer.

Prayer:

Blessed Jehovah, enable me to withdraw my thoughts and desires, at frequent seasons, from the things that are seen and temporal, and to fix them on those that are unseen and eternal. O may thy character, in all its variety and fulness, be a rich topic of my meditation. Grant me holy and exalted converse with thine attributes, as they are revealed in thy word, and in thy works of creation, providence, and redemption.—May Jesus be to my soul, the chief among ten thousand, and one altogether lovely.—Draw out my thoughts, sweetly and confidingly, to that Holy Spirit, whose work is quietness and assurance forever.—May I love to dwell upon the law of thy mouth; and do thou make it better to me than thousands of gold and silver.—Teach me in these hours of reflection, my weakness and sinfulness, and the means by which I may grow in grace, and advance the various interests of thy kingdom.—Help me, O Lord, to fix my thoughts on the shortness of time, the certainty of death, and the undying worth of the soul.

Lord, grant me the presence and blessing of thy Spirit, in these solemn meditations. May the peace of God, which passeth understanding, fill my heart and make it a fountain of love to God, and of goodwill to man. May my knowledge be refreshed and enlarged. While I muse on holy things, cause the fire to burn within me, until the dross of sin be consumed, and my soul be as gold that has been tried in the furnace. O vouchsafe unto me, rich foretastes of those heavenly contemplations, where no cloud of sense, nor of sin, shall shut out the light of thy presence, and where there are pleasures for evermore.

The Promise of God:

“Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby....”

1 Peter 2:1-2

June 8

Call to Worship: Psalm 103:1

“Bless the LORD, O my soul; and all that is within me, *bless* His holy name!”

Psalm 137

Scripture Reading:

Job 41-42

Proverbs 1

HCO: Ezekiel 22-24

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 158. *By whom is the Word of God to be preached?*

A. The Word of God is to be preached only by such as are sufficiently gifted, and also duly approved and called to that office.

Prayer:

Great Author and Dispenser of Truth, bless those whom thou hast set to preach the everlasting gospel, and to bring glad tidings of good things. Thou hast not sent us the ministry of angels, but of men; and hast given us this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power might be of God. It has pleased thee, by that which the world calls the foolishness of preaching, to save them that believe.

Lord of the Vineyard, let none take upon them this holy office, who are unfit for its sacred duties, in body, mind, or spirit. Yet do thou call out and prepare many, very many, for the divine work of saving souls. Qualify those who are now ambassadors for Christ, and enable them to persuade sinners to be reconciled to God. Make them men of strong and cultivated judgment; of diligent and persevering study; of zealous and faithful labour; and of prayerful, fervent, and consistent piety. Make them as the voice of him that cried in the wilderness, "Prepare ye the way of the Lord; make his paths straight." May they be themselves instructed unto the kingdom of heaven, and bring forth out of their treasure, things new and old. Cause them to exemplify their doctrine by a holy walk. Preserve them from the desire of applause, and the love of lucre. Let them not confer with flesh and blood. Bestow on them a mouth and wisdom which their enemies shall not be able to gainsay nor resist. Give them grace to speak thy word with all boldness; keeping back nothing that is profitable; shunning not to declare all the counsel of God; and having this record, that they are pure from the blood of all men.

Lord, give to every destitute flock, a pastor after thine own heart, who shall go in and out before his people in righteousness and zeal. Send thy messengers of mercy to those who are perishing for lack of knowledge. O raise up, and qualify, and send forth those who shall teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost: and be thou with them always, even unto the end of the world.

The Promise of God:

“Then He said to His disciples, “The harvest truly *is* plentiful, but the laborers *are* few. Therefore, pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.”

Matthew 9:37-38

June 9

Call to Worship: Psalm 104:1,33-34

“Bless the LORD, O my soul! O LORD my God, You are very great; You are clothed with honor and majesty....I will sing to the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have my being. May my meditation be sweet to Him; I will be glad in the LORD.”

Psalm 138

Scripture Reading:

Proverbs 2-4
HCO: Ezekiel 25-27

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 159. *How is the Word of God to be preached by those that are called thereunto?*

A. They that are called to labor in the ministry of the word, are to preach sound doctrine, diligently, in season and out of season; plainly, not in the enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit, and of power; faithfully, making known the whole counsel of God; wisely, applying themselves to the necessities and capacities of the hearers; zealously, with fervent love to God and the souls of his people; sincerely, aiming at his glory, and their conversion, edification, and salvation.

Prayer:

O Lord, bring Your shepherds before their flocks in the fulness of the blessing of the gospel of Christ. Dispose them to give themselves continually to prayer, and the ministry of the word. Lead them to proclaim the gospel, not only in the sanctuary, but from house to house. May their preaching be in demonstration of the Spirit, and of power. Let thy pleasure prosper in their hands, and thy word have free course, and be glorified. May they seek diligently to bring the religion of their people up to the standard of the Bible - to the measure of the faith once delivered to the saints. Give them power to alarm the guilty consciences, and to persuade the stubborn wills of the impenitent. Constrain them to watch as those who must give an account of their stewardship. Let them not be compelled to say, “All day long, we have stretched forth our hands unto a disobedient and gainsaying people :” nor to ask in despair, "Who hath believed our report, and to whom is the arm of the Lord revealed?" O make them guides of the blind, and lights of them which are in darkness. Grant that by their efforts, revivals of pure and undefiled religion shall prevail, to cleanse thy church, and to save perishing sinners.

The Promise of God:

“So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper *in the thing* for which I sent it.”

Isaiah 55:11

June 10

Call to Worship: Psalm 105:1-5

“Oh, give thanks to the LORD! Call upon His name; make known His deeds among the peoples! Sing to Him, sing psalms to Him; talk of all His wondrous works! Glory in His holy name; let the hearts of those rejoice who seek the LORD! Seek the LORD and His strength; seek His face evermore! Remember His marvelous works which He has done, His wonders, and the judgments of His mouth....”

Psalm 139

Scripture Reading:

Proverbs 5-7
HCO: Ezekiel 28-30

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 160. *What is required of those that hear the Word preached?*

A. It is required of those that hear the word preached, that they attend upon it with diligence, preparation, and prayer; examine what they hear by the Scriptures; receive the truth with faith, love, meekness, and readiness of mind, as the Word of God; meditate, and confer of it; hide it in their hearts, and bring forth the fruit of it in their lives.

Prayer:

Shepherd of Israel, incline thy people to discharge the duties they owe to the messengers of thy word. May they remember that the labourer is worthy of his hire, and that they who preach the gospel, should live of the gospel. May they properly appreciate the office of those that are over them in the Lord, and esteem such very highly, in love, for their works' sake. Make them careful to maintain all the institutions of thy word. May they listen to the preached message with the preparation of heart, the culture of prayer, the hearing of faith, and the purpose of obedience: receiving with meekness the engrafted word, as that which ministers grace to the hearers. Blessed Lord, excite them to sustain thy ministering servants by their intercessory prayers, that thou wouldst make them wise as serpents, and harmless as doves—that thou wouldst enable them to turn many to righteousness, who shall be as stars in the crowns of their rejoicing, at the last day.

The Promise of God:

“Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.”

James 1:21

June 11

Call to Worship: Psalm 106:1

“Praise the LORD! Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for *He is good!* For His mercy *endures* forever!”

Psalm 140

Scripture Reading:

Proverbs 8-10
HCO: Ezekiel 31-33

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 161. *How do the sacraments become effectual means of salvation?*

A. The sacraments become effectual means of salvation, not by any power in themselves, or any virtue derived from the piety or intention of him by whom they are administered, but only by the working of the Holy Ghost, and the blessing of Christ, by whom they are instituted.

Prayer:

Blessed Spirit, show me my sinfulness, apply to me the redemption purchased by Christ, mortify the deeds of the body, and renew me day by day in thy holy image. O do thou lead me into the knowledge of truth, make intercession within me in prayer, bear witness with my spirit that I am a child of God, and seal me with that promise, which is an earnest until the redemption of the purchased possession. Be thou my comforter in sorrow, my strength in weakness, my shield in temptation, my teacher in ignorance, my security in joy, my leader in the labyrinths of life, and my consolation in the hour of death.

Lord, pour out thy Spirit on all thy servants. May they enjoy, in the fullest measure, those fruits which are love, joy, peace, long-suffering, goodness, meekness, gentleness, temperance, faith. Persuade them to set a high value on these things, and to seek them by fervent and believing prayer. Cause them to live in continual dependence on divine influence, and to walk worthy of the character of that Holy Agent. Make them his living temples, where there shall be the incense of prayer, praise, and holy obedience. May he sanctify their hearts, bind them closer by faith to Christ, make them wise unto salvation, and prepare them for their eternal weight of glory.

The Promise of God:

“The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with *Him*, that we may also be glorified together.”

Romans 8:16-17

June 12

Call to Worship: Psalm 107:1

“Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for *He is* good! For His mercy *endures* forever.”

Psalm 141

Scripture Reading:

Proverbs 11-13
HCO: Ezekiel 34-36

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 162. *What is a sacrament?*

A. A sacrament is an holy ordinance instituted by Christ in his church, to signify, seal, and exhibit unto those that are within the covenant of grace, the benefits of his mediation; to strengthen and increase their faith, and all other graces; to oblige them to obedience; to testify and cherish their love and communion one with another; and to distinguish them from those that are without.

Prayer:

Lord, what is man, that thou art mindful of him; or the son of man, that thou visitest him? Thou art infinite in all thy perfections, and needest not our praises nor services to increase thy happiness and glory. If our guilty race had continued even as thou didst create it, (but a little lower than the angels,) we must have praised thee for thy condescension in nourishing and governing us; but now, that we have lifted the arm of rebellion against thee, and have steeped our souls in transgression, how greatly is thy condescension magnified, in pursuing us with thy mercies, in providing for our wants, in protecting and delivering us from evil; and above all, in offering to redeem us from our lost estate by the sacrifice of thy Son. He, who knew no sin, was made sin for us, that we might be made the righteousness of God in him. He, who was rich, yet for our sakes became poor, that we through his poverty might be made rich. He, who from eternity knew no pain, sweat great drops of blood, and suffered unspeakable agony, that we might escape the wrath to come—the worm that never dieth, and the fire that is never quenched. O help me, God of Grace, to acknowledge thine undeserved and astonishing mercy. May it draw me closer to thee in the bonds of love and confidence, and seal me for thy service, in a covenant never to be forsaken.

The Promise of God:

“And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which *he had while still* uncircumcised, that he might be the father of all those who believe, though they are uncircumcised, that righteousness might be imputed to them also....”

Romans 4:11

June 13

Call to Worship: Psalm 108:1-5

“O God, my heart is steadfast; I will sing and give praise, even with my glory. Awake, lute and harp! I will awaken the dawn. I will praise You, O LORD, among the peoples, and I will sing praises to You among the nations. For Your mercy *is* great above the heavens, and Your truth *reaches* to the clouds. Be exalted, O God, above the heavens, and Your glory above all the earth....”

Psalm 142

Scripture Reading:

Proverbs 14-16
HCO: Ezekiel 37-39

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 163. *What are the parts of a sacrament?*

A. The parts of a sacrament are two; the one an outward and sensible sign, used according to Christ’s own appointment; the other an inward and spiritual grace thereby signified.

Prayer:

Great Fountain of Blessing, I thank thee that thou hast strengthened the faith, and established the hopes, of thy chosen people, throughout all generations, by many precious promises. Even in that day when our first parents forfeited, by iniquity, their birthright to Paradise, thou didst give the pledge of thy truth, that the seed of the woman should bruise the serpent's head, and thus recover our race from the ruins of the apostasy. And ever since, in all thy revelations to men, thou hast been pleased to declare, abundantly, thy rich purposes of mercy. They are scattered over every page of thy word; they are suited to every variety of Christian experience and trial; and they are so plain, that he who runs may read. The history of thy heritage, in all ages, has borne witness that they are steadfast and true; for they are established on the faithfulness of the God of Truth. Lord, I desire to magnify and extol thee for those assurances of comfort in this life, and of bliss in that to come, which gather in countless profusion around the cross of Christ. Blessed be thy name, thy promises are Yea and Amen in him, unto the glory of God.

O that they might be embalmed in my memory, and be cherished in my confidence; for they are more precious than rubies, and more enduring than the foundations of the earth. Make them, I beseech thee, the means of dispelling my sorrows, of scattering my doubts, and of exciting my zeal. May I regard them with overflowing gratitude to thee, as the pledges of thine eternal truth and goodness; as the beacons which thou hast set to light up the gloomy pathways of life, and to throw over the pillow of death, the dawning beams of an unclouded immortality.

O God, fulfil speedily thy promises to the Daughter of Zion. Let not her ways mourn, nor her gates be desolate, nor her priests sigh, nor her people be in bitterness. Put off her sackcloth, and gird her with gladness. Give her the garments of praise for the spirit of heaviness. Cause her righteousness to go forth as brightness, and her salvation as a lamp that burneth. O create her a rejoicing, and thy people a joy, throughout the whole earth.

The Promise of God:

“For all the promises of God in Him *are* Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us.”
2 Corinthians 1:20

June 14

Call to Worship: Psalm 111:3-5

“The works of the LORD *are* great, studied by all who have pleasure in them. His work *is* honorable and glorious, and His righteousness endures forever. He has made His wonderful works to be remembered; the LORD *is* gracious and full of compassion, He has given food to those who fear Him; He will ever be mindful of His covenant.”

Psalm 143

Scripture Reading:

Proverbs 17-19
HCO: Ezekiel 40-42

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 164. *How many sacraments hath Christ instituted in his church under the New Testament?*

A. Under the New Testament Christ hath instituted in his church only two sacraments, Baptism and the Lord’s Supper.

Prayer:

Great Shepherd of Israel, I thank thee that thou hast established thy church on the earth, and hast put the seal of thy redeeming grace on it, and hast promised that the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. I would praise thee that he who is thy fulness, has been made head over all things to his church, which is his body, and which he has redeemed by his blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation.

Lord, cause all thy people to strive for the welfare of Zion. May they mourn over her desolations, and rejoice when her righteousness goes forth as brightness, and her salvation as a lamp that burneth. Baptize them by one spirit, into one body; and make them all one in Christ Jesus. May they feel deeply humbled at their want of personal holiness, and at their neglect in extending the blessings of salvation to a perishing world. Let every one that nameth the name of Christ, depart from iniquity. May the sons of God be blameless, and harmless, and without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation; among whom may they shine, as lights in the world, holding forth the word of life. Make them a peculiar people, zealous of good works. Let utterance be given to them, that they may open their mouths boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel. Let not the ingratitude nor hostility of sinners discourage their efforts to win them to thy service. May they have the pleasure of seeing thy work prospering in their hands, and multitudes added to their number, of such as shall be saved.

Arise, and have mercy on Zion: let the time to favour her, yea, the set time come. Bring her up from the wilderness, leaning on her Beloved; and make her the perfection of beauty. When her enemy comes in like a flood, do thou lift up a standard against him. Be thou as a wall of fire round about her, and a glory in the midst of her. Hast thou not purchased her with thy blood; and wilt thou not grave her on the palms of thy hands, and set her walls continually before thee? O, King of Kings, do thou marshal, and discipline, and strengthen, and multiply the sacramental host, and lead it on conquering and to conquer, until the kingdoms of this world shall become the kingdoms of our Lord and his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever.

The Promise of God:

“And He put all *things* under His feet, and gave Him *to be* head over all *things* to the church,
which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.”

Ephesians 1:22-23

June 15

Call to Worship: Psalm 113:2-3

“Blessed be the name of the LORD from this time forth and forevermore! From the rising of the sun to its going down the LORD’s name *is* to be praised.”

Psalm 144

Scripture Reading:

Proverbs 20-22
HCO: Ezekiel 43-45

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 165. *What is Baptism?*

A. Baptism is a sacrament of the New Testament, wherein Christ hath ordained the washing with water in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, to be a sign and seal of ingrafting into himself, of remission of sins by his blood, and regeneration by his Spirit; of adoption, and resurrection unto everlasting life; and whereby the parties baptized are solemnly admitted into the visible church, and enter into an open and professed engagement to be wholly and only the Lord's.

Prayer:

Gracious God, help me to consecrate myself to thee, with full purpose of soul, and with endeavours after new obedience. Make me feel that if I could offer thee a world, and yet hold back the gift of my heart, my oblation would be but a worthless and odious thing in thy sight. Lord, I am thine by creation, and by constant benefaction. O has not Christ died for me, that I should be thine, in the purchase of his atoning blood? Let me, therefore, not live unto myself, but unto him. Enable me to say from my heart, "Here, Lord, I give myself to thee; it is all that I can do." Accept, I pray thee, that offering, in the name of Jesus, the Ransom of sinners.

I would take thee, O Lord, as my portion—thy law as my rule—thy service as my meat and drink—and thy purposes as the ground of my faith and hope. Bring all my expectations, wishes, and intentions into conformity with thy will; and let me live, and move, and have my being in a covenant of full-hearted and never-failing devotion to thee, and the interests of thy kingdom.

The Promise of God:

“But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.”

Titus 3:4-7

June 16

Call to Worship: Psalm 118:1,14, 28

“Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for *He is* good! For His mercy endures forever....The LORD *is* my strength and song, and He has become my salvation....You *are* my God, and I will praise You; *You are* my God, I will exalt You.”

Psalm 145

Scripture Reading:

Proverbs 23-25
HCO: Ezekiel 46-48

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 166. *Unto whom is Baptism to be administered?*

A. Baptism is not to be administered to any that are out of the visible church, and so strangers from the covenant of promise, till they profess their faith in Christ, and obedience to him, but infants descending from parents, either both, or but one of them, professing faith in Christ, and obedience to him, are in that respect within the covenant, and to be baptized.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, I thank thee for the evidence which thy word and the history of thy church give us, that children and youth may be taught to love thy name, and do thy will. Whilst thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, thou hast revealed them unto babes. Thou hast told the young to remember thee; and hast given thy promise that those who seek thee early shall find thee. Our blessed Saviour said, "Suffer little children to come unto me:" and he took them in his arms and blessed them, saying, "Of such is the kingdom of heaven." Lord, thy church, in every age, but especially in our own, has raised up many witnesses, that thou canst satisfy the children of men early with thy mercy, that they may rejoice and be glad all their days.

Lord, increase and multiply greatly the instances of early piety. May multitudes of children feel and act from the motives which should lead them to do that which is well pleasing in the sight of the Lord. Convince them that they are sinners, exposed to thy wrath, walking in rebellion against their heavenly Father, and yet receiving the most tender offers of mercy through Christ the Saviour. Make them understand something of the worth of the soul; of death and judgment; of heaven and hell. O lead them, through repentance and faith in Jesus, to remember and serve thee in the days of their youth.

Shepherd of Israel, rebuke the unbelief of thy church respecting the conversion of children, even as thou didst rebuke thy disciples when they would have hindered such from coming to thee. Let none despise these little ones; for thou hast warned us that their angels do always behold the face of their Father in heaven. O may thy saints on earth be instruments of leading them to Christ, and training them as plants of righteousness, whose leaf shall not wither, and who will bring forth the fruits of grace. Bless, I beseech thee, the various means which are now used to fill the minds of children with religious truth. Let not this condemnation come upon them, that they knew thy will, but did it not. O may their privileges be to them as the small rain upon the tender herb, and as showers that water the earth; and which cause it to bring forth beauty, and verdure, and fruit.

The Promise of God:

“Then Peter said to them, ‘Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.’”

Acts 2:38-39

June 17

Call to Worship: Psalm 119:7, 10, 12, 108

“I will praise You with uprightness of heart, when I learn Your righteous judgments....With my whole heart I have sought You; oh, let me not wander from Your commandments....Blessed *are* You, O LORD! Teach me Your statutes....Accept, I pray, the freewill offerings of my mouth, O LORD, and teach me Your judgments.”

Psalm 146

Scripture Reading:

Proverbs 26-28
HCO: Hosea 1-3

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 167. *How is our Baptism to be improved by us?*

A. The needful but much neglected duty of improving our baptism, is to be performed by us all our life long, especially in the time of temptation, and when we are present at the administration of it to others; by serious and thankful consideration of the nature of it, and of the ends for which Christ instituted it, the privileges and benefits conferred and sealed thereby, and our solemn vow made therein; by being humbled for our sinful defilement, our falling short of, and walking contrary to, the grace of baptism, and our engagements; by growing up to assurance of pardon of sin, and of all other blessings sealed to us in that sacrament; by drawing strength from the death and resurrection of Christ, into whom we are baptized, for the mortifying of sin, and quickening of grace; and by endeavoring to live by faith, to have our conversation in holiness and righteousness, as those that have therein given up their names to Christ; and to walk in brotherly love, as being baptized by the same Spirit into one body.

Prayer:

Lord, grant me that work of thy free grace, by which I shall be enabled, more and more, to die unto sin, and to live unto righteousness. May I remember that thou art holy; and that this is thy will, even our sanctification. May I look upon Jesus, in his character as a Saviour from sin. Show me in his sufferings and death, the guilt of man's sinfulness. Teach me by the rebellion of my own heart, its stubbornness and deformity. Convince me of its demerit, by vivid views of the unending punishment of the lost. O make me loathe transgression. Paralyze its power over my judgment, conscience, and affections; that the body of sin being destroyed, henceforth I may not serve sin, but be the servant of righteousness.

Great God, preserve the hearts of thy chosen generation from sinful thoughts, words, and actions; and do thou cause them to abound in the fruits of holiness. May thy grace sanctify them by a hope that purifieth, even as Christ is pure; by a love which seeks conformity to thine own image; and by a faith which looks at things that are not seen, and that are eternal.—Make them living epistles, seen and read of all men. Make them the salt of the earth—the means of leading a wicked and perverse generation, by the power of a good example, to glorify their Father in heaven. Gracious Sovereign, enable them to adorn the doctrine of God, their Saviour, in all things. Imbue them with that holiness without which no man can see the Lord.

The Promise of God:

“For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.”
Galatians 3:27

June 18

Call to Worship: Psalm 136:1-4, 26

“Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for *He* is good! For His mercy *endures* forever. Oh, give thanks to the God of gods! For His mercy *endures* forever. Oh, give thanks to the Lord of lords! For His mercy *endures* forever: to Him who alone does great wonders, for His mercy *endures* forever....Oh, give thanks to the God of heaven! For His mercy *endures* forever.”

Psalm 147

Scripture Reading:

Proverbs 29-31
HCO: Hosea 4-6

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 168. *What is the Lord's Supper?*

A. The Lord's supper is a sacrament of the New Testament, wherein, by giving and receiving bread and wine according to the appointment of Jesus Christ, his death is showed forth; and they that worthily communicate feed upon his body and blood, to their spiritual nourishment and growth in grace; have their union and communion with him confirmed; testify and renew their thankfulness, and engagement to God, and their mutual love and fellowship each with other, as members of the same mystical body.

Prayer:

Compassionate Jehovah, give me lively perceptions of the nature and uses of that holy Supper, which thou hast instituted in memory of the dying Saviour. May it always be to the eye of my faith, a token and pledge of a covenant of mercy, in the blood of Christ. Let it ever be my Eucharist—my giving of thanks to thee, from a heart overflowing with gratitude, that thou didst recover man from his condition of sin and misery, by the gift of a Redeemer. Make it my Passover, in which my soul shall be made joyful, in being exempted from the wrath which abideth on the ungodly. O let it be the Sacrament of that allegiance to thy cause, which will lead me to rejoice when I am counted worthy to suffer shame for thy name's sake; and to glory in nothing, save in the cross of Christ. Make it a Feast, at which he shall sup with me, and I with him; and in which my heart shall be refreshed by his spiritual presence. And O do thou make it a precious season of Communion, wherein I shall hold fellowship with the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost; and be knit, with closer bands of unity, to them that are of the household of faith.

Lord Jesus, help me to keep this ordinance in remembrance of thee. Give me knowledge to discern thy body, and faith to feed upon thee. Grant me repentance, love, and new obedience; lest coming unworthily, I eat and drink judgment to myself. Make me a partaker of thy body and blood, not after a corporal and carnal manner, but by faith; with all thy benefits, to my spiritual nourishment and growth in grace. Grant me comfort from this feast, when I am wounded by a sense of sin; for thou wast revealed to take away sin: give me patience in trials and afflictions, by looking at thee, enduring the contradiction of sinners, and the hidings of thy Father's love: and O grant that I may imbibe a holy hatred for transgression, when I look at thy body broken and thy blood shed, because I have sinned.—Blessed Jesus, crowned in light and glory, dost thou indeed desire us sinners to remember thee? O that we should ever forget thy matchless, unspeakable

claims to our love! O help me to remember the glory thou didst leave, the flesh thou didst adopt, the reproach thou didst meet, and the sufferings thou didst endure, that I might be redeemed from the curse of the law, and be made a partner of thine inheritance in glory! I would learn of thee, as my Prophet; I would rely on thee, as my Priest; I would follow thee, as my Example; I would obey thee, as my King!

Heavenly Father, make thy people feel their obligation to celebrate the Supper of the Lord. Thou hast commanded it. Thou hast set it forth to be the memorial of a Saviour's love, in which they show forth his death, before heaven and earth. And thou hast made it a special season of communion with thee, in thy banqueting-house, where thy banner over them is love.—O may they always be prepared for this service, by self-examination, by meditation, and by prayer: and so let them eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. May they resolve, upon that sacred altar, that they will renounce every transgression, and live only for that which is good in thy sight. Give them an affectionate and confiding trust in thy covenant of grace; and build them up, by means of this ordinance, through faith, unto salvation.—God forbid that there should be any hand on the table which will betray the Son of man. Let none who thus profess thy name, be cast forth as a branch that is withered, and cast into the fire, and burned; but make them all branches, that shall abide in thee, bringing forth much fruit, that thy name may be glorified.

Lord, grant that the impenitent may reflect, that if they eat not the flesh of the Son of man, and drink not his blood, they shall have no part nor lot in his salvation. May thy Spirit reveal Christ to them in the breaking of bread, in all his fulness and willingness as a Saviour. O may they be persuaded to make with him a covenant of mercy and obedience, which shall never be revoked nor forsaken.

These petitions I offer thee, Gracious Father, through him whose blood speaketh better things than that of Abel; and who sitteth at thy right hand, to make intercession, and receive the service and adoration of saints and angels, forever.

The Promise of God:

“Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.”

John 6:54

June 19

Call to Worship: Psalm 138:1a, 2c

“I will praise You with my whole heart...for Your lovingkindness and Your truth....”

Psalm 148

Scripture Reading:

Ecclesiastes 1-3
HCO: Hosea 7-9

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 169. *How hath Christ appointed bread and wine to be given and received in the sacrament of the Lord's Supper?*

A. Christ hath appointed the ministers of his word, in the administration of this sacrament of the Lord's supper, to set apart the bread and wine from common use, by the word of institution, thanksgiving, and prayer; to take and break the bread, and to give both the bread and the wine to the communicants: who are, by the same appointment, to take and eat the bread, and to drink the wine, in thankful remembrance that the body of Christ was broken and given, and his blood shed, for them.

Prayer:

O my dear Redeemer, how much didst Thou suffer—how awfully was thy sacred body torn and mangled, and thy precious blood shed! This was all done, not only for, but also through my great and grievous sins;—they pressed too heavily upon thy soul, which caused thy sweat to fall like great drops of blood, to the ground. My sins were the thorns, the scourge, the nails, the spear, by which thy precious body was so inhumanly broken and mangled, and thy precious blood was made to flow. O Lord Jesus, may thy crucified body and shed blood, be applied to heal my wounded soul from all manner of sin.³

The Promise of God:

“For My flesh is food indeed, and My blood is drink indeed. He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him. As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who feeds on Me will live because of Me.”

John 6:55-57

³ Johannes Zollikofer, *A Newly Opened Treasury of Heavenly Incense; or Christian's Companion* (New York: Martin, Lambert, and Company, 1839), 439.

June 20

Call to Worship: Psalm 144:1a, 2abc

“Blessed *be* the LORD my Rock...my lovingkindness and my fortress, my high tower and my deliverer, my shield and *the One* in whom I take refuge....”

Psalm 149

Scripture Reading:

Ecclesiastes 4-6
HCO: Hosea 10-12

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 170. *How do they that worthily communicate in the Lord's Supper feed upon the body and blood of Christ therein?*

A. As the body and blood of Christ are not corporally or carnally present in, with, or under the bread and wine in the Lord's Supper, and yet are spiritually present to the faith of the receiver, no less truly and really than the elements themselves are to their outward senses; so they that worthily communicate in the sacrament of the Lord's Supper, do therein feed upon the body and blood of Christ, not after a corporal and carnal, but in a spiritual manner; yet truly and really, while by faith they receive and apply unto themselves Christ crucified, and all the benefits of his death.

Prayer:

God of Salvation, I thank and adore thee that in the counsels of eternity thou didst devise a plan by which rebellious, guilty, and hell-deserving man might receive thy forgiveness, be reconciled to thee, and enjoy thy favour; and that in the fulness of time thou didst finish thy decree of mercy, by sending thine only-begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on him, should not perish, but have everlasting life. O it was matchless compassion that made the ruins of our apostasy the theatre on which to display the wonders of redeeming love! When we lay in the open field, and were polluted in our own blood, thou didst bid us live: yea, thou didst bid us live! Scarcely for a righteous man would one die; peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die: but thou hast commended thy love to us, in that while we were sinners, Christ died for us. Thou didst set him forth to be a propitiation, through faith in his blood, for the remission of sins, in order that thou mightest be just, and be the justifier of him that believeth in Jesus. Make me understand that it was his divinity that made this offering a perfect work: for Lebanon was not sufficient to burn; nor the beasts thereof sufficient for a burnt offering; nor could the fruit of the body atone for the sin of the soul: but lo! the blood of Christ cleanseth from all sin!

Lord, may I have an ever-present conviction that there is no other name by which I can be saved. May I seek redemption only through his blood, the remission of sins, according to the riches of his grace. Purge thou my conscience from dead works to serve the living God; and may I thus judge, that if Christ has died for me, I should henceforth live not unto myself, but unto him. Let the blessings of this atonement rest on me, in sins pardoned, in punishment averted, in fear pacified, in the soul reconciled, in the heart sanctified, and in the spirit made joyful in an endless hope. O Lord, grant that at last I may be found among those that have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

O may there be many, who shall go into all the world, and preach this blessed gospel to every creature. May men every where learn their guilt and danger, and see the fitness of the Saviour thou hast provided for them. May multitudes thirst after righteousness, and be led to that fountain which has been opened in the house of David, where whosoever will, may take of the waters of life freely. Grant, in thy mercy, that all the ends of the earth may look unto Christ, and be saved.

The Promise of God:

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”

John 3:16

June 21

Call to Worship: Psalm 145:1-3

“I will extol You, my God, O King; and I will bless Your name forever and ever. Every day I will bless You, and I will praise Your name forever and ever. Great *is* the LORD, and greatly to be praised; and His greatness *is* unsearchable.”

Psalm 150

Scripture Reading:

Ecclesiastes 7-9
HCO: Hosea 13-14
Joel 1

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 171. *How are they that receive the sacrament of the Lord's Supper to prepare themselves before they come unto it?*

A. They that receive the sacrament of the Lord's Supper are, before they come, to prepare themselves thereunto, by examining themselves of their being in Christ, of their sins and wants; of the truth and measure of their knowledge, faith, repentance; love to God and the brethren, charity to all men, forgiving those that have done them wrong; of their desires after Christ, and of their new obedience; and by renewing the exercise of these graces, by serious meditation, and fervent prayer.

Prayer:

Great Source of Wisdom, give me a habit of honest and searching self-examination, that I may prove myself, and know whether I am in the faith. Make me ever anxious to know the state of my heart, and the working of my motives. Guide and strengthen me, while I inquire of my soul and of thee, whether I acknowledge and mourn over my transgressions, and receive Christ as my wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption. Have I indeed been born again—am I a new creature in Christ Jesus—and are the evidences of my new estate clear and increasing? Is the Lord my master to serve, and my portion to enjoy; and is the welfare of his kingdom the desire of my heart? Am I daily dying unto sin, and living unto righteousness? Am I thankful for mercies, and prayerful for blessings; pursuing the glory of God; doing to others as I would have them do unto me; and diligently seeking that city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God?

Teach me, O Lord, all my errors, weaknesses, and sins. Cleanse me from them by the enlightening, strengthening, and sanctifying influences of thy Spirit. And O, may I remember that if I should be wilfully or heedlessly blind to my transgressions, thou, Lord, knowest them altogether. Let not self-love nor pride, hinder me from an impartial knowledge of myself. Preserve me from a false estimate of any part of my character. May I look at my principles as well as my conduct—and at my motives as well as my actions. Let me never mistake the excitement of feeling for the renewing of the Holy Ghost; nor the outward activities of religion for its inward spirit. Let me not judge of my religion by occasional impressions and impulses, but by my habit of life. Lord, make it worthy of the vocation wherewith I am called, and such as becometh the gospel of Christ.

The Promise of God:

“Blessed *is* the man whose strength *is* in You, whose heart *is* set on pilgrimage.”

Psalm 84:5

June 22

Call to Worship: Psalm 146:1-2

“Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD, O my soul! While I live I will praise the LORD; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.”

Psalm 1

Scripture Reading:

Ecclesiastes 10-12
HCO: Joel 2-3

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 172. May one who doubteth of his being in Christ, or of his due preparation, come to the Lord's Supper?

A. One who doubteth of his being in Christ, or of his due preparation to the sacrament of the Lord's supper, may have true interest in Christ, though he be not yet assured thereof; and in God's account hath it, if he be duly affected with the apprehension of the want of it, and unfeignedly desires to be found in Christ, and to depart from iniquity: in which case (because promises are made, and this sacrament is appointed, for the relief even of weak and doubting Christians) he is to bewail his unbelief, and labor to have his doubts resolved; and, so doing, he may and ought to come to the Lord's supper, that he may be further strengthened.

Prayer:

Lord, grant me a well-grounded assurance of a personal interest in thy favour. Comfort me by the persuasion, that my many offences have been remitted. Enable me to gather satisfactory evidence from my feelings and conduct, that I have passed from death unto life; and may thy Spirit bear witness with mine, that I am numbered with thy children. Give me the spirit of wisdom and revelation, in the knowledge of Christ, that I may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints. Cause me to feel that it is my duty to aim at the attainment of this grace, and my privilege to enjoy it, in the exercise of faith, prayer, and zeal. Enable me to say—"Though thou wast angry with me, thine anger is turned away; and thou comfortest me."

Blessed God, grant me the full assurance of hope unto the end:—a hope that I am accepted before thee, for the merits of Christ; that through his grace I shall be saved; and that though worms may devour this body, yet in my flesh I shall see thee, and be satisfied when I awake in thy likeness.

The Promise of God:

“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me has everlasting life....I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world.”

John 6:47,51

June 23

Call to Worship: Psalm 150:1a, 2

“Praise the LORD!...Praise Him for His mighty acts; praise Him according to His excellent greatness!”

Psalm 2

Scripture Reading:

Song of Solomon 1-3
HCO: Amos 1-3

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 173. *May any who profess the faith, and desire to come to the Lord's Supper, be kept from it?*

A. Such as are found to be ignorant or scandalous, notwithstanding their profession of the faith, and desire to come to the Lord's Supper, may and ought to be kept from that sacrament, by the power which Christ hath left in his church, until they receive instruction, and manifest their reformation.

Prayer:

Merciful God, dispose many to ask the fearfully solemn and important question, "What must I do to be saved?" Fasten in the minds of such a thorough conviction of the exceeding guilt of sin. May thy Spirit show them its enormity, as committed against the Author of their being, and the Giver of their mercies. Make them feel their wretched condition, in being without hope and without God in the world, with thy wrath abiding on them. Show them their own inability to save themselves, and that their every effort, that is not seconded and sanctified by the Spirit, sinks them deeper in their condemnation. Set clearly before their minds the necessity and value of salvation through the blood of Jesus: for they that reject it, shall perish with an everlasting destruction, while they who accept it, shall be redeemed from the dominion and penalty of sin, and be blessed with the favour of a reconciled God forever. O give them earnest desires for that redemption; desires that spring from convictions of the worth of the soul—the wrath of an offended Judge—the tender love of a dying and interceding Saviour—the bliss that shall be revealed to the saints above—and the glory of the Most High, who will cause their salvation to praise him. Lord, make them fearful of grieving away the strivings of thy Spirit. Let them not be deluded by the vain hope of a more convenient season. Impress, with a living freshness, upon their hearts, that now is the accepted time, and this the day of salvation. Say to them that thirst, “Come ye to the waters: yea, come, buy wine and milk, without money and without price: eat ye that which is good, and let your souls delight themselves in fatness.” Let none of them draw back to perdition. Enable them at once, and forever, to renounce their transgressions, and to receive and rest upon Jesus alone for salvation. Let the Holy Ghost lead them into the knowledge of truth—preserve them from the power of error—give them peace in believing—and fill them with a holy zeal to advance thy cause and fulfil thy will, in all the duties of religion.

The Promise of God:

“And the Spirit and the bride say, ‘Come!’ And let him who hears say, ‘Come!’ And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.”

Revelation 22:17

June 24

Call to Worship: Psalm 5:1-2

“Give ear to my words, O LORD, consider my meditation. Give heed to the voice of my cry, my King and my God, for to You I will pray.”

Psalm 3

Scripture Reading:

Song of Solomon 4-6
HCO: Amos 4-6

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 174. *What is required of them that receive the sacrament of the Lord's Supper in the time of the administration of it?*

A. It is required of them that receive the sacrament of the Lord's Supper, that, during the time of the administration of it, with all holy reverence and attention they wait upon God in that ordinance, diligently observe the sacramental elements and actions, heedfully discern the Lord's body, and affectionately meditate on his death and sufferings, and thereby stir up themselves to a vigorous exercise of their graces; in judging themselves, and sorrowing for sin; in earnest hungering and thirsting after Christ, feeding on him by faith, receiving of his fullness, trusting in his merits, rejoicing in his love, giving thanks for his grace; in renewing of their covenant with God, and love to all the saints.

Prayer:

Blessed Father, teach me thy truth as it is in Jesus. Grant that I may love it, and feed upon it; and that I may teach it by my lips, and manifest it by my conduct to others.—Alas, our race, which thou didst make but a little lower than the angels, fell from the noble and happy condition in which it was created, by sinning against thee: and when thou didst look from heaven, upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, or seek after God; behold! They were altogether become filthy: there was none that did good; no not one. Yet thou didst not cast them off; but in the counsels of thy mercy, didst enter into a covenant of grace, to bring them into an estate of salvation by a Redeemer; even the Lord Jesus Christ, who, being the eternal Son of God, became man, that he might redeem us from the curse of the law, in being made a curse for us; and that we might have salvation through his blood.—O Lord, we exercised no penitence of heart that could have prompted thee to this display of compassion; and there was nothing in our character which could give thee any delight. It was sovereign, unsearchable, unmerited grace that formed and perfected the plan of redemption. Thou didst indeed commend thy love to us, in that while we were sinners, Christ died for us!

Help me, I pray thee, to receive Jesus as the High-Priest of my profession. May I look on him as offering up himself a sacrifice, to satisfy divine justice, and reconcile us to God; and as ever living to make intercession for his chosen people. He who was the brightness of the Father's glory, and who thought it not robbery to be equal with God, took upon himself the form of a servant, that he might put away sin, by the sacrifice of himself, in his own body, on the tree. Yea, it pleased thee to bruise him, to put him to grief, to make his soul an offering for sin, that he

might justify many, and that the pleasure of the Lord might prosper in his hand. In due time, when we were without strength, Christ died for the ungodly; taking away the handwriting of ordinances that was against us; suffering the just for the unjust; that he might bring us to God.—Lord, I would praise thee that by him we have received the atonement. Thou hast set him forth to be a propitiation, through faith in his blood, for the remission of sins. He has given his life a ransom for many. He who knew no sin, was made sin for us, that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

O Lord, convince me that forgiveness is granted only for his sake: there being no other name given among men whereby they can be saved. Teach me that his costly sacrifice was not needed to make thee willing to be reconciled to us; for it was the fruit of thy love: but because thou wouldst maintain thy justice, and still be the justifier of him that believeth in Jesus, and his deliverer from the wrath to come. Heavenly Father, show me by this office of Christ's mission, the lost condition of human nature, and the wonders of thy justice and love. May it be the most cherished object of my contemplation, and fill my spirit with adoration and thanksgiving, love and obedience. May I thus judge, that if Christ has died for me, I should henceforth live, not unto myself, but unto him; and that both living and dying I should be the Lord's.

The Promise of God:

“For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit....who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, angels and authorities and powers having been made subject to Him.”

1 Peter 3:18,22

June 25

Call to Worship: Psalm 7:17

“I will praise the LORD according to His righteousness, and will sing praise to the name of the LORD Most High.”

Psalm 4

Scripture Reading:

Song of Solomon 7-8
Isaiah 1
HCO: Amos 7-9

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 175. *What is the duty of Christians, after they have received the sacrament of the Lord's Supper?*

A. The duty of Christians, after they have received the sacrament of the Lord's Supper, is seriously to consider how they have behaved themselves therein, and with what success; if they find quickening and comfort, to bless God for it, beg the continuance of it, watch against relapses, fulfill their vows, and encourage themselves to a frequent attendance on that ordinance: but if they find no present benefit, more exactly to review their preparation to, and carriage at, the sacrament; in both which, if they can approve themselves to God and their own consciences, they are to wait for the fruit of it in due time: but, if they see they have failed in either, they are to be humbled, and to attend upon it afterwards with more care and diligence.

Prayer:

O my God—my Father—my Saviour—my Helper, and the Author of all my comfort! In what exalted strains of gratitude, shall I praise, laud, magnify, and adore Thee, for all the manifestations of thy wondrous grace towards me - a poor unworthy sinner. It was not enough for Thee to create me originally, after thy glorious image, when I was brought into existence, but Thou hast also created me anew in Christ Jesus, by thy Spirit, after I had apostatized from Thee, and lost thine image.

It was not enough for Thee, O Lord, to provide for and protect me as to my body, from evil and danger, but Thou hast also blessed me, as to my soul, with spiritual benefits, and provided for me a better, nay, an eternal life beyond the grave. Of this, Thou hast given me the most solemn pledges at thy table.

O blessed, thrice blessed be thy holy name, O Jesus, my Saviour, that it has pleased Thee, to condescend to come in unto me, and sup with me according to thy promise. How could I, as a sinful creature, anticipate such distinguished blessings? Is it possible, that Thou wilt hold communion with such a sinner as I am, nay, even permit me to feed by faith, on thy sacred body and blood? Well may I be astonished at thy great condescension and incomprehensible love towards me. O Lord, grant that I may ever remember this, and evince most fervent gratitude towards Thee. As Thou hast come in unto me, O Thou Blessed of the Lord, be ever zealous for thine house, and the place where Thou dwellest. Permit no unclean guest of impure thoughts or desires to intrude into this temple of thine. But O Lord, ever preserve me from polluting thy holy garment, with which Thou hast clothed me, or from violating the covenant, which Thou

ratified and sealed, or the vows which I have made unto Thee, so that I may not forfeit my birth-right to a mansion in my Father's house in heaven.

May I be continually willing and ready for every good word and work, so that my life may ever be conformed unto thy sufferings and death, and that I may abound more and more in thy love and favour, and be found in the great day of the Lord, clothed with the wedding garment, having on my body and soul, the seal of Jesus my Saviour, and receive the soul-thrilling welcome: come ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you, from the foundation of the world; and thus may I be forever with the Lord!

Treasury of Heavenly Incense, 442-444

The Promise of God:

“Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.”

Revelation 3:20

June 26

Call to Worship: Psalm 9:1-2

“I will praise *You*, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will tell of all Your marvelous works. I will be glad and rejoice in You; I will sing praise to Your name, O Most High.”

Psalm 5

Scripture Reading:

Isaiah 2-4
HCO: Obadiah
Jonah 1-2

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 176. *Wherein do the sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper agree?*

A. The sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper agree, in that the author of both is God; the spiritual part of both is Christ and his benefits; both are seals of the same covenant, are to be dispensed by ministers of the gospel, and by none other; and to be continued in the church of Christ until his second coming.

Prayer:

Adorable Jehovah, I would praise thee that, in thy sovereign mercy, thou didst from eternity enter into a covenant of grace, to deliver men out of their estate of sin and misery, and to bring them into an estate of salvation by a Redeemer. Lord, make with me this everlasting covenant, even the sure mercies of David. Call me with a holy calling, not according to works, but according to thy purpose, which was given in Christ Jesus before the world began; but has now been made manifest by his appearing, who hath brought life and immortality to light through thy gospel: and in whom we have redemption, through his blood. O bind me to thee in the adoption of thy children, wherein thou makest them accepted in the Beloved.

Lord, assist me to remember and keep all my engagements to thee. In the silence of retirement and communion with thee—in the acts of social and public prayer—in the hearing of thy word and the singing of thy praise—and in the solemn sacrament, where thy saints subscribe with the hand unto the Lord—I have again and again pledged myself unto thee. My vows are written in my conscience, and in the book of thy remembrance. Help me, I beseech thee, to shun all that I promised to forsake: help me, I pray thee, to perform all that I promised to do. Put thy law into my mind, and write it in my heart; and be my God, that I may be of thy people, chosen according to thy covenant of grace. Make my heart and life abundant in the fruits of that holy relation. Let me not forsake thy love, nor turn from thy ways, but press on towards the mark for the prize of that high calling which is in Christ Jesus. Merciful God, regard with compassion those who are aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise. Make them feel the deep and radical depravity of their hearts. Convince them of sin, as committed against a holy God. Show them the danger to which they are exposed while they refuse to forsake their transgressions. Exhibit to them Christ crucified, as him by whom alone they can escape from the dominion, the guilt, and the retribution of their sins. O may thy Spirit give them grace to receive and rest upon him for pardon and acceptance. And grant that they may enjoy a union with him as close and fruitful as the branch which abideth in the vine.

The Promise of God:

“Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ...”

Ephesians 1:3

June 27

Call to Worship: Psalm 13:6

“I will sing to the LORD, because He has dealt bountifully with me.”

Psalm 6

Scripture Reading:

Isaiah 5-7
HCO: Jonah 3-4
Micah 1

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 177. *Wherein do the sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper differ?*

A. The sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper differ, in that baptism is to be administered but once, with water, to be a sign and seal of our regeneration and ingrafting into Christ, and that even to infants; whereas the Lord's Supper is to be administered often, in the elements of bread and wine, to represent and exhibit Christ as spiritual nourishment to the soul, and to confirm our continuance and growth in him, and that only to such as are of years and ability to examine themselves.

Prayer:

Great God, who hath been thy counsellor, or who hath directed thy judgment? Lo, thou workest all things according to the counsels of thine own will. O Lord, how manifold are thy works; in wisdom thou hast made them all. Thy discerning and directing mind is seen everywhere in the works of thy hands, in the ways of thy providence, and in the government of thy creatures. Thou chooseth thine ends, and framest all thy means according to knowledge. Thy counsels are steadfast, thy thoughts are deep, and thine understanding is infinite.

O Lord, thou hast gathered, as into a radiant focus, the power and glory of thy wisdom, in the work of redemption. Into this the angels desire to look; but they cannot measure its matchless strength and fulness. Herein are those mysteries of thy grace—*God manifest in the flesh—he who knew no sin was made sin for us—while we were sinners Christ died for us—thou canst be just and still be the justifier of him that believeth in Jesus!* O, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God: how unsearchable are his judgments and his ways past finding out!

Omniscient Jehovah, I desire to put all my trust in thee; for thou knowest both how to provide and to deliver. I would acknowledge thee with prayer in all my ways; for thou only canst direct my steps. I would submit to thy will, which is the perfection of reason. And I would adore thee, because thou art infinite, eternal, and unchangeable in thy wisdom!

The Promise of God:

“But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God-and righteousness and sanctification and redemption-that, as it is written, ‘*He who glories, let him glory in the LORD.*’”

1 Corinthians 1:30-31

June 28

Call to Worship: Psalm 16:5-6

“O LORD, *You* are the portion of my inheritance and my cup; You maintain my lot. The lines have fallen to me in pleasant *places*; Yes, I have a good inheritance.”

Psalm 7

Scripture Reading:

Isaiah 8-10
HCO: Micah 2-4

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 178. *What is prayer?*

A. Prayer is an offering up of our desires unto God, in the name of Christ, by the help of his Spirit; with confession of our sins, and thankful acknowledgement of his mercies.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, teach me to pray, and quicken me by thy Spirit, that I may worship thee in spirit and in truth. Give me clear and abiding views of the nature of this solemn act of worship. Grant me a proper estimate of thy character, as infinitely able and willing to bless all who would approach the throne of grace, according to thy will. Enable me to make thy glory the ruling object of my desires; and to present them only in the name of the heavenly Mediator; whom thou always hearest, for in him thou art ever well-pleased. May every supplication be offered in the wish and hope that Jesus will present it, with his prevailing intercession, at the throne of grace. Lord, make me feel my entire and continual dependance on thee for all the blessings I possess, or hope to enjoy. O do thou give me such a craving sense of want, such a conviction that there is no other source of relief, and such confidence in thy promises, that supplication shall be the language of my tongue, the thought of my heart, and the food of my soul.

Great God, thou art, indeed, not worshipped as though thou needest any thing; for thou givest to all, life, and breath, and all things. It is in mercy to us that thou art willing to hear and answer the prayer of penitence and faith. Thou hast moreover commanded it, as our imperative duty—thus making our privilege and our obligation one and inseparable.

Infinite Fountain of Blessing, grant me the influences of thy Spirit, to show me what I should pray for, and the way in which I should draw nigh to the mercy-seat.—Teach me, I pray thee, the various and numerous wants of my dependent nature, until my thoughts shall grow familiar with them, in all their number, and my heart shall be absorbed by convictions of their importance. Lord, dispose me to submit every object of hope and every pursuit of desire, by prayer, to the control of thy will: and do thou turn me away from continuing or completing any thing, which has not the sanction of thy favour, and upon which I cannot invoke thy blessing. O Lord, suffer me not to confine my supplications to my own wants; but do thou give me a spirit of prayer on behalf of others. Make me feelingly alive to all the interests of thy church, and abundant in intercession for her knowledge, purity, and increase. O burden my heart with anxious solicitude for the impenitent; and lead my feelings out in earnest and importunate pleadings for their salvation.—Lord, suffer me not to approach thee, on any subject, with thoughtlessness or

insincerity. Restrain me from a wandering and corrupted mind. May every petition be the expression of true and anxious feeling. Suffer me not to forget my supplications, with the passing breath that utters them; but do thou cause my memory to retain them, and my hope to pursue them; and if I receive not, may I be assured that it is because I ask amiss.

Father of Mercy, assist me to bring my desires into conformity to thy will. Let me not ask thee for any thing inconsistent with thy holy and sovereign pleasure.—Help me to come in the humble boldness of faith to thy throne, that I may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need. Thou art indeed more ready to hear than I am to pray; and more willing to give than I am to ask. Enable me, I pray thee, to come to thee in the confidence with which I would approach an earthly parent: for if such an one knows how to give good gifts to his children, much more will our heavenly Father give his Holy Spirit to them that ask him. Lord, help thou mine unbelief, and enable me to believe that thou art the rewarder of them that diligently seek thee.—Teach me that if I regard iniquity in my heart, thou wilt not hear me. Do thou therefore cleanse my heart, that my desires may go forth unspotted by sin, and find acceptance in thy sight. Lord, lead me to the thankful acknowledgment of past mercies; and dispose me to hope from them for the bestowment of future good.—Bring me to thee, O Searcher of hearts, with humble confession of sins; for it becomes me to say, that instead of having any claim to thine audience and favour, I have only deserved thy displeasure. It is of thy grace that I am even permitted to plead for mercy.

Heavenly Father, dispose me to fulfil every suitable occasion of devotional duty. May I love the public and social supplications of thy saints. Let me not withhold the incense from the family altar. May I delight to hold converse with thee, where there is no other eye to watch, and no other ear to hear, and where I shall feel that I am alone with God. And give me. Blessed Master, that spirit of ejaculatory prayer, which will purify every current of my thoughts, and sanctify every business of my life.— Lord, enable me, in all the vicissitudes of life, to watch unto prayer, and to find that it is good for me to draw nigh to God. May I wrestle, as did thy servant of old, who had power with thee, and prevailed. And may my soul ascribe, in sincerity and love, the praise of all the mercies I derive from thee, to thy matchless grace in the Redeemer, both now and forever.

The Promise of God:

“And whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive.”

Matthew 21:22

June 29

Call to Worship: Psalm 18:1-3a

“I will love You, O LORD, my strength. The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. I will call upon the LORD, *who is worthy* to be praised....”

Psalm 8

Scripture Reading:

Isaiah 11-13
HCO: Micah 5-7

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 179. *Are we to pray unto God only?*

A. God only being able to search the hearts, hear the requests, pardon the sins, and fulfill the desires of all; and only to be believed in, and worshiped with religious worship; prayer, which is a special part thereof, is to be made by all to him alone, and to none other.

Prayer:

Great Fountain of Knowledge, thine understanding is infinite. Thou knowest all things; even the end from the beginning. There is no creature that is not manifest in thy sight. Thou rememberest every thing that has occurred in the history of the wide universe: thou knowest all the open and secret workings of matter and mind, throughout thine unmeasured dominion: even a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without thy notice, and the very hairs of our heads are all numbered: and there is nothing in the countless revolutions of eternity, that is not as visible to thine eye as the light of day!

Lord, thou knowest my down-sitting and mine up-rising; thou art acquainted with all my ways; and thou understandest even my thoughts afar off. If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me"—even the night shall be light about me. O grant me the solemn influence of the truth, that thou knowest the hearts of all men: thou hast indeed searched and known me. May it lead me to worship thee in spirit and in truth; for thou art not deceived, and canst not be mocked. May it restrain me from sin; because there is no darkness nor shadow of death, where the workers of iniquity may hide themselves. And, O, may it be a source of comfort and blessing to me; for thou knowest all my wants, and canst supply them out of thine abundant fulness.

The Promise of God:

“Thus says the LORD of hosts: “Peoples shall yet come, inhabitants of many cities; the inhabitants of one *city* shall go to another, saying ‘Let us continue to go and pray before the LORD, and seek the LORD of hosts. I myself will go also.’ Yes, many peoples and strong nations shall come to seek the LORD of hosts in Jerusalem, and to pray before the LORD.”

Zechariah 8:20-22

June 30

Call to Worship: Psalm 19:14

“Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my strength and my Redeemer.”

Psalm 9

Scripture Reading:

Isaiah 14-16
HCO: Nahum 1-3

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 180. *What is it to pray in the name of Christ?*

A. To pray in the name of Christ is, in obedience to his command, and in confidence on his promises, to ask mercy for his sake; not by bare mentioning of his name, but by drawing our encouragement to pray, and our boldness, strength, and hope of acceptance in prayer, from Christ and his mediation.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, I would praise and magnify thy name, that thou hast laid help upon One, who is mighty to save, unto the uttermost, all who come unto thee by him. Though the human race was at enmity with thee, and lay exposed to thy curse, thou didst, in infinite mercy, appoint an Interposer between thee and us, that we, who were alienated and enemies by wicked works, might be reconciled in the body of his flesh, through death. We thank thee that we are not called to that mountain which burned with fire, and was clouded with darkness and tempest; but to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to that blood of sprinkling, which speaketh better things than that of Abel. O, it was needful that he should be the Son of God; for no other sacrifice could satisfy the demands of infinite justice—and he must needs be the Son of man; since without the shedding of blood, there is no remission of sins. He who is our eternal Daysman, has infinite fitness for his high and holy office: for in him dwells the fulness of power, wisdom, and mercy!

Blessed Jesus, be thou the propitiation for my sins; and not for mine only, but also for the whole world. O thou who didst become the High-Priest of thine own sacrifice, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people, do thou blot out the handwriting of ordinances that was recorded against me, for my transgressions—procure for me, by thine intercession, the loving kindness of Jehovah—and bind all my affections to the throne of grace, by that new, and better, and everlasting covenant, which is the fruit of thy wisdom and mercy, and the work of thy power and grace, unto salvation.—Heavenly Father, make the words of my mouth, and the meditations of my heart, and the service of my life, acceptable to thee, through him who is my Strength and my Redeemer.

The Promise of God:

“To Him all the prophets witness that, through His name, whoever believes in Him will receive remissions of sins.”

Acts 10:43

July 1

Call to Worship: Psalm 25:1, 4-5b

“To You, O LORD, I lift up my soul....Show me Your ways, O LORD; teach me Your paths. Lead me in Your truth and teach me, for You *are* the God of my salvation....”

Psalm 10

Scripture Reading:

Isaiah 17-19
HCO: Habakkuk 1-3

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 181. *Why are we to pray in the name of Christ?*

A. The sinfulness of man, and his distance from God by reason thereof, being so great, as that we can have no access into his presence without a mediator; and there being none in heaven or earth appointed to, or fit for, that glorious work but Christ alone, we are to pray in no other name but his only.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, I thank thee that we have an advocate at the right hand of the Majesty on high, even Jesus Christ, the righteous. He hath not entered into the holy place made with hands; but into heaven itself, to appear in the presence of God for us; where he ever liveth to make intercession for his chosen generation. Blessed Jesus, I rejoice that thou wilt not break the bruised reed, nor quench the smoking flax; that though Satan hath desired to have thy people, that he might sift them as wheat, yet thou prayest for them, that their faith fail not: and that thou art their Mediator, to present their believing prayers, and secure their acceptance, at the throne of the heavenly mercy.

Lord, lead me, in the faith of that intercession, to the sceptre of thy grace, persuaded that thou art able by thy power, and willing in thy mercy, to supply me with all that I need. Assist me to draw nigh, with a true heart, in the full assurance of faith: for we have not an high-priest who cannot be touched with a feeling of our infirmities; but one who was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin; and who is able to save, unto the uttermost, all who come unto thee by him. O Jesus, Blessed Mediator, take my cause into thine own hands. Plead my interests for me, by thy spotless life, thy bleeding wounds, thy cruel death, and thy purchased glory; and enable me to rejoice in thy success, and to bless thy holy name forever.

Lord, grant me, for Christ's sake, a strong and an abiding spirit of intercessory prayer. Dispose me to make supplication for all men. Make it my privilege to commend to thee all that are near and dear to me; that thou wouldst guide them by thy counsel, protect them by thy power, and save them by thy grace. Lead me to pray for my enemies, for the needy, the afflicted, the sick, and the dying. Incline me to lift up earnest supplication on behalf of thy church. Especially, O Lord, may the yearnings of my heart go forth for the impenitent. Make me feel that the triumphs of thy church will depend on the importunity of thy people for mercy on the ungodly. O may I understand their awful condition, and be induced to plead with thee, in the name of Christ, and through the intercessions of thy Spirit, that they may be saved. Give me that

degree of confidence in thee, and regard for thy glory, and such earnest longings after their conversion, as thou wilt own and bless, by the redemption of souls.

The Promise of God:

“Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

Acts 4:12

July 2

Call to Worship: Psalm 27:4

“One *thing* I have desired of the LORD, that will I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in His temple.”

Psalm 11

Scripture Reading:

Isaiah 20-22
HCO: Zephaniah 1-3

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 182. *How doth the Spirit help us to pray?*

A. We not knowing what to pray for as we ought, the Spirit helpeth our infirmities, by enabling us to understand both for whom, and what, and how prayer is to be made; and by working and quickening in our hearts (although not in all persons, nor at all times, in the same measure) those apprehensions, affections, and graces which are requisite for the right performance of that duty.

Prayer:

Blessed and Triune God, enable me to understand the character and offices of the Holy Ghost. Thou hast revealed him to us as a partner of the Deity, who exercises the attributes of the Most High, and does the works of the Almighty. O may my thoughts of him be such as become me when I meditate on the name of God. I thank thee that thou hast sent that Spirit to convince the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment. Grant, O Lord, that I may share in all his blessed influences, and that they may be in me as a well of water, springing up into everlasting life. May they be as showers that water the earth, imparting to my soul growth, beauty, and fruitfulness, and giving me favour in the sight of God and man.

Blessed Spirit, show me my sinfulness, apply to me the redemption purchased by Christ, mortify the deeds of the body, and renew me day by day in thy holy image. O do thou lead me into the knowledge of truth, make intercession within me in prayer, bear witness with my spirit that I am a child of God, and seal me with that promise, which is an earnest until the redemption of the purchased possession. Be thou my comforter in sorrow, my strength in weakness, my shield in temptation, my teacher in ignorance, my security in joy, my leader in the labyrinths of life, and my consolation in the hour of death.

Lord, pour out thy Spirit on all thy servants. May they enjoy, in the fullest measure, those fruits which are love, joy, peace, long-suffering, goodness, meekness, gentleness, temperance, faith. Persuade them to set a high value on these things, and to seek them by fervent and believing prayer. Cause them to live in continual dependence on divine influence, and to walk worthy of the character of that Holy Agent. Make them his living temples, where there shall be the incense of prayer, praise, and holy obedience. May he sanctify their hearts, bind them closer by faith to Christ, make them wise unto salvation, and prepare them for their eternal weight of glory.

The Promise of God:

“Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groaning which cannot be uttered. Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit *is*, because He makes intercession for the saints according to *the will of God*.”

Romans 8:26-27

July 3

Call to Worship: Psalm 28:6-7

“Blessed *be* the LORD, because He has heard the voice of my supplications! The LORD *is* my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in Him, and I am helped; therefore my heart greatly rejoices, and with my song I will praise Him.”

Psalm 12

Scripture Reading:

Isaiah 23-25
HCO: Haggai 1-2
Zechariah 1

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 183. *For whom are we to pray?*

A. We are to pray for the whole church of Christ upon earth; for magistrates, and ministers; for ourselves, our brethren, yea, our enemies; and for all sorts of men living, or that shall live hereafter; but not for the dead, nor for those that are known to have sinned the sin unto death.

Prayer:

Great God, cause my heart to give a ready and fervent response to the appeals that are made to it, to send the gospel to every kindred and nation under heaven: but O let it not forget, in the excitement of foreign enterprises, the equally urgent, but less stimulating, claims of the destitute in our own borders. I thank thee that institutions have been organized to send the heralds of the cross over the length and breadth of our land, to seek out and build its waste places, and to gather and feed those that are scattered as sheep without a shepherd. But, Lord, show us that this work is but just begun; and that our increasing population greatly outruns the supply of the means of grace: that in many places thy precious word, thy holy day, and thy sanctifying worship, are not known, or are but little regarded; while infidelity and lewdness, profanity and intemperance, Sabbath-breaking and fraud, are spreading, like infection, throughout communities.

O let the work of domestic missions commend itself to the patronage and prayers of the wise and good of all classes. May the patriot regard it as the prosperity of the country; the philanthropist further it as the welfare of humanity; and the Christian prosecute it as the temporal and eternal wellbeing of the people. Let those who are supplied with the institutions of the gospel, gladly send them to the destitute; and let those who are without them, be excited to seek, and welcome, and help to sustain them in their midst.

God of Missions, give increased success to the efforts already made in this glorious cause. Bring many other labourers up to the help of the Lord, in the contest with ignorance, error, and vice. Establish a pastor in every destitute neighbourhood. Let the Bible, the Sabbath, the Sunday-school, and the sanctuary, dispense their riches wherever there is a people in want of them. And let thine enduring favour rest upon every such labour of love. Lord, grant, for Jesus' sake, that the voice of instruction, of praise, and of prayer, may abide in every city, and village, and hamlet, and household, in our wide and flourishing country.

The Promise of God:

“But I say to you who hear: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, and pray for those who spitefully use you.... But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your rewards will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for He is kind to the unthankful and evil. Therefore be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful.”

Luke 6:27-28, 35-36

July 4

Call to Worship: Psalm 29:2

“Give unto the LORD the glory due to His name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.”

Psalm 13

Scripture Reading:

Isaiah 26-28
HCO: Zechariah 2-4

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 184. *For what things are we to pray?*

A. We are to pray for all things tending to the glory of God, the welfare of the church, our own or others' good; but not for anything that is unlawful.

Prayer:

Lord, the kingdom is thine, and thou art the Governor among the nations. Imbue my heart with a Christian patriotism, which will take pleasure in every token of my country's real welfare. May I love it as the place of my home, my sustenance, my protection, and my civil and religious privileges. I would rejoice in its length and breadth, fitting it for the ample support of a teeming population—in its plenteous products, crowning the year with goodness—in its works of art, binding it in unity, and facilitating its commerce, and increasing its opulence. I would praise thee for its schools of knowledge, scattering instruction through every class of its inhabitants. But, above all, I thank thee that it is a land of Bibles, of sabbaths, of sanctuaries, and of gospel light.

But, O Lord, if guilt be measured by the number and value of abused mercies, then has this nation a most fearful reckoning with thee. Reprove this people, and set their sins in order before them. Lo! thy Sabbaths, which thou hast given to be a sign between thee and us, are polluted. Because of swearing the land mourneth. This people have loved the gain of oppression and treachery; and have spoiled both the stranger and the native. When thou hast fed them to the full, then they committed adultery, and assembled themselves by troops in the harlots' houses. Multitudes have loved the cup of drunkenness; until our name has been a reproach among the nations. Our transgressions, O Lord, are multiplied before thee; and our sins testify against us: and thou hast a controversy with this nation.

Yet, Gracious One, take not the weapons of thine indignation, to destroy us. Make us not as Admah: set us not as Zeboim. For the sake of its righteous, let thy repentings be kindled together; for there is a remnant who have not bowed the knee to Baal; and who sigh and cry for the abominations that are done in the midst of us. May thy Church be our safety. Thou hast said, that if the wicked repent, and turn themselves from all their transgressions, iniquity shall not be their ruin. O may we loose all our bands of wickedness; and then shall our light break forth as the morning; and our health spring forth speedily: our righteousness shall go before us; and the glory of the Lord shall be our rere-ward.

Lord, bless this country. Cover it with plenty. Secure to all its inhabitants just and equal laws. Let them that rule over us, rule in the fear of the Lord; justifying the righteous and condemning the wicked. Let peace dwell in all our borders. Put the keys of knowledge into every hand.

Sanctify all our prosperity. Let the blessings of religion reach every household and every heart. Honour this people by employing them as chief instruments in giving to every nation the grace that bringeth salvation. Be thou our God, and we will be thy people!

The Promise of God:

“Then the LORD appeared to Solomon by night, and said to him, ‘I have heard your prayer, and have chosen this place for Myself as a house of sacrifice. When I shut up heaven and there is no rain, or command the locusts to devour the land, or send pestilence among My people, if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.’”

2 Chronicles 7:12-14

July 5

Call to Worship: Psalm 33:1-3

“Rejoice in the LORD, O you righteous! *For* praise from the upright is beautiful. Praise the LORD with the harp; make melody to Him with an instrument of ten strings. Sing to Him a new song; play skillfully with a shout of joy.”

Psalm 14

Scripture Reading:

Isaiah 29-31
HCO: Zechariah 5-7

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 185. *How are we to pray?*

A. We are to pray with an awful apprehension of the majesty of God, and deep sense of our own unworthiness, necessities, and sins; with penitent, thankful, and enlarged hearts; with understanding, faith, sincerity, fervency, love, and perseverance, waiting upon him, with humble submission to his will.

Prayer:

Lord, I would draw nigh, in the prevailing name of Jesus, to ask thee to cause patience to have its perfect work in my heart, in all the various trials of life. May it possess my soul, and suffer no intrusion there of fretful complaint, nor anxious fear. In sickness, in bereavement, in crosses, in provocations, in persecutions, in every thing that clashes with my desires, grant, I beseech thee, that I may secure and preserve serenity of mind. Instruct me that every discontented and peevish feeling is rebellion against thee; and that I may glorify thy name by the meek endurance of trial, as well as by the active performance of duty.—What is man, that he should complain? Lo! thou Jehovah art longsuffering, even towards the contradiction of sinners. May I remember that there is One who was tempted in all points as I am; and yet never incurred the sin of an impatient spirit—who when he was reviled, reviled not again; who when he suffered, threatened not, but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously. Teach me that this grace will protect me from much that is evil, and strengthen me in all that is good; and that it will secure thy favour—for thou hast said that when we do well, and suffer for it, yet take it patiently, this is acceptable with God. Enable me to run with patience the race that is set before me. Put my heart at rest in thee; for he who hath delivered, will yet deliver. May the thought that the Lord will provide, quell every restless and fearful emotion. O God, make me a steadfast follower of them that through faith and patience, inherit the promises.

The Promise of God:

“But let patience have *its* perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.”
James 1:4

July 6

Call to Worship: Psalm 34:1

“I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise *shall* continually *be* in my mouth.”

Psalm 15

Scripture Reading:

Isaiah 32-34
HCO: Zechariah 8-10

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 186. *What rule hath God given for our direction in the duty of prayer?*

A. The whole Word of God is of use to direct us in the duty of prayer; but the special rule of direction is that form of prayer which our Savior Christ taught his disciples, commonly called the *Lord's Prayer*.

Prayer:

O thou that hearest prayer, grant that I may hold communion of spirit with thee, the Father of Spirits. As the hart panteth after the water-brooks, so may my soul pant after thee: and as the parched land drinketh in the rain of heaven, so let my soul receive the gifts of thy presence. Dispose me to be faithful and to delight in the observance of stated seasons of private devotion, and in the frequent exercises of occasional prayer. May I love to seek thee in the tabernacles of the righteous. Let my thoughts and desires hold intercourse with thee in thy word, and in thy works, and in thy ways. Let my walk be close with thee; and do thou fix my affections on thee, as the highest and noblest object of love. Teach me thy will, that I may acquaint myself with thee, and be at peace.

Lord, lift up the light of thy countenance upon me. Draw near to me in all my attempts to approach thee; and manifest thyself unto me as thou dost not unto the world. Sprinkle reconciling blood on the altar where I meet thee. Kindle with heavenly fire the incense I bring thee, and let it rise up as a sweet-smelling savour before thee. Make thine abode with me; and let my heart be a temple of the Holy Ghost. Give me that Spirit of adoption by which I may cry, "Abba, Father." May I be persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate me from thy love, which is in Christ Jesus. Give me such a sense of pardoned sin, as shall fill me with holy joys, and strong purposes of new obedience to thy will. Grant me, in these seasons of sweet converse with thee, those blessings which are spiritual in their nature, satisfying in their possession, and eternal in their continuance. Cause me, in the enjoyment of them, to commiserate the destitution of those who are without God in the world, and the woe of them who are shut out from thy presence forever. O let me cling closer to this precious privilege, and be pervaded with deeper pity, and animated with stronger zeal, for those who know not the delights of thy communion.

Lord, vouchsafe that my fellowship with thee may be sought only through him who is the way, the truth, and the life; for no man cometh unto the Father but by him. Let the communion of thy Holy Spirit rest upon me, and abide within me, now, henceforth and forever.

The Promise of God:

“If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.”

John 15:7

July 7

Call to Worship: Psalm 42:1-2a

“As the deer pants for the water brooks, so pants my soul for You, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God....”

Psalm 16

Scripture Reading:

Isaiah 35-37
HCO: Zechariah 11-14

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 187. *How is the Lord's Prayer to be used?*

A. The Lord's prayer is not only for direction, as a pattern, according to which we are to make other prayers; but may also be used as a prayer, so that it be done with understanding, faith, reverence, and other graces necessary to the right performance of the duty of prayer.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, teach me to pray, and quicken me by thy Spirit, that I may worship thee in spirit and in truth. Give me clear and abiding views of the nature of this solemn act of worship. Grant me a proper estimate of thy character, as infinitely able and willing to bless all who would approach the throne of grace, according to thy will. Enable me to make thy glory the ruling object of my desires; and to present them only in the name of the heavenly Mediator; whom thou always hearest, for in him thou art ever well-pleased. May every supplication be offered in the wish and hope that Jesus will present it, with his prevailing intercession, at the throne of grace. Lord, make me feel my entire and continual dependance on thee for all the blessings I possess, or hope to enjoy. O do thou give me such a craving sense of want, such a conviction that there is no other source of relief, and such confidence in thy promises, that supplication shall be the language of my tongue, the thought of my heart, and the food of my soul.

Great God, thou art, indeed, not worshipped as though thou needest any thing; for thou givest to all, life, and breath, and all things. It is in mercy to us that thou art willing to hear and answer the prayer of penitence and faith. Thou hast moreover commanded it, as our imperative duty—thus making our privilege and our obligation one and inseparable.

Infinite Fountain of Blessing, grant me the influences of thy Spirit, to show me what I should pray for, and the way in which I should draw nigh to the mercy-seat.—Teach me, I pray thee, the various and numerous wants of my dependent nature, until my thoughts shall grow familiar with them, in all their number, and my heart shall be absorbed by convictions of their importance. Lord, dispose me to submit every object of hope and every pursuit of desire, by prayer, to the control of thy will: and do thou turn me away from continuing or completing any thing, which has not the sanction of thy favour, and upon which I cannot invoke thy blessing. O Lord, suffer me not to confine my supplications to my own wants; but do thou give me a spirit of prayer on behalf of others. Make me feelingly alive to all the interests of thy church, and abundant in intercession for her knowledge, purity, and increase. O burden my heart with anxious solicitude

for the impenitent; and lead my feelings out in earnest and importunate pleadings for their salvation.—Lord, suffer me not to approach thee, on any subject, with thoughtlessness or insincerity. Restrain me from a wandering and corrupted mind. May every petition be the expression of true and anxious feeling. Suffer me not to forget my supplications, with the passing breath that utters them; but do thou cause my memory to retain them, and my hope to pursue them; and if I receive not, may I be assured that it is because I ask amiss.

Father of Mercy, assist me to bring my desires into conformity to thy will. Let me not ask thee for any thing inconsistent with thy holy and sovereign pleasure.—Help me to come in the humble boldness of faith to thy throne, that I may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need. Thou art indeed more ready to hear than I am to pray; and more willing to give than I am to ask. Enable me, I pray thee, to come to thee in the confidence with which I would approach an earthly parent: for if such an one knows how to give good gifts to his children, much more will our heavenly Father give his Holy Spirit to them that ask him. Lord, help thou mine unbelief, and enable me to believe that thou art the rewarder of them that diligently seek thee.—Teach me that if I regard iniquity in my heart, thou wilt not hear me. Do thou therefore cleanse my heart, that my desires may go forth unspotted by sin, and find acceptance in thy sight. Lord, lead me to the thankful acknowledgment of past mercies; and dispose me to hope from them for the bestowment of future good.—Bring me to thee, O Searcher of hearts, with humble confession of sins; for it becomes me to say, that instead of having any claim to thine audience and favour, I have only deserved thy displeasure. It is of thy grace that I am even permitted to plead for mercy.

Heavenly Father, dispose me to fulfil every suitable occasion of devotional duty. May I love the public and social supplications of thy saints. Let me not withhold the incense from the family altar. May I delight to hold converse with thee, where there is no other eye to watch, and no other ear to hear, and where I shall feel that I am alone with God. And give me, Blessed Master, that spirit of ejaculatory prayer, which will purify every current of my thoughts, and sanctify every business of my life.— Lord, enable me, in all the vicissitudes of life, to watch unto prayer, and to find that it is good for me to draw nigh to God. May I wrestle, as did thy servant of old, who had power with thee, and prevailed. And may my soul ascribe, in sincerity and love, the praise of all the mercies I derive from thee, to thy matchless grace in the Redeemer, both now and forever.

The Promise of God:

“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.”

Matthew 7:7-8

July 8

Call to Worship: Psalm 43:3-4b

“Oh, send out Your light and Your truth! Let them lead me; let them bring me to Your holy hill and to Your tabernacle. Then I will go to the altar of God, to God my exceeding joy....”

Psalm 17

Scripture Reading:

Isaiah 38-40
HCO: Malachi 1-4

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 188. *Of how many parts doth the Lord's Prayer consist?*

A. The Lord's Prayer consists of three parts; a preface, petitions, and a conclusion.

Prayer:

Omniscient Jehovah, I thank thee for the gift of my understanding, by which I may acquire knowledge, and without which I should be ignorant of thy law, and should live as the brutes that perish. I pray thee, in the name of the Heavenly Advocate, that thou wouldst make me feel the solemn responsibilities which belong to the noble faculty of reason. Let not ignorance, nor prejudice, nor depravity control its exercises. Preserve it from error, and guide it into the knowledge of truth. Make it a storehouse of useful knowledge. Direct its energies chiefly towards that wisdom which is from above. Grant me enlarged and discriminating views of thy character, works, and will. Dispose me, great God, to submit my judgment to the tokens of thy mind, in all things; for thine understanding is infinite.

The Promise of God:

“And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight.”

1 John 3:22

July 9

Call to Worship: Psalm 57:11

“Be exalted, O God, above the heavens; *let Your glory be above all the earth.*”

Psalm 18

Scripture Reading:

Isaiah 41-43
HCO: Job 1-3

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 189. *What doth the preface of the Lord's Prayer teach us?*

A. The preface of the Lord's prayer (contained in these words, *Our Father which art in heaven*) teacheth us, when we pray, to draw near to God with confidence of his fatherly goodness, and our interest therein; with reverence, and all other childlike dispositions, heavenly affections, and due apprehensions of his sovereign power, majesty, and gracious condescension: as also, to pray with and for others.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, I thank thee that we have an advocate at the right hand of the Majesty on high, even Jesus Christ, the righteous. He hath not entered into the holy place made with hands; but into heaven itself, to appear in the presence of God for us; where he ever liveth to make intercession for his chosen generation. Blessed Jesus, I rejoice that thou wilt not break the bruised reed, nor quench the smoking flax; that though Satan hath desired to have thy people, that he might sift them as wheat, yet thou prayest for them, that their faith fail not: and that thou art their Mediator, to present their believing prayers, and secure their acceptance, at the throne of the heavenly mercy.

Lord, lead me, in the faith of that intercession, to the sceptre of thy grace, persuaded that thou art able by thy power, and willing in thy mercy, to supply me with all that I need. Assist me to draw nigh, with a true heart, in the full assurance of faith: for we have not an high-priest who cannot be touched with a feeling of our infirmities; but one who was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin; and who is able to save, unto the uttermost, all who come unto thee by him. O Jesus, Blessed Mediator, take my cause into thine own hands. Plead my interests for me, by thy spotless life, thy bleeding wounds, thy cruel death, and thy purchased glory; and enable me to rejoice in thy success, and to bless thy holy name forever.

Lord, grant me, for Christ's sake, a strong and an abiding spirit of intercessory prayer. Dispose me to make supplication for all men. Make it my privilege to commend to thee all that are near and dear to me; that thou wouldst guide them by thy counsel, protect them by thy power, and save them by thy grace. Lead me to pray for my enemies, for the needy, the afflicted, the sick, and the dying. Incline me to lift up earnest supplication on behalf of thy church. Especially, O Lord, may the yearnings of my heart go forth for the impenitent. Make me feel that the triumphs of thy church will depend on the importunity of thy people for mercy on the ungodly. O may I understand their awful condition, and be induced to plead with thee, in the name of Christ, and through the intercessions of thy Spirit, that they may be saved. Give me that

degree of confidence in thee, and regard for thy glory, and such earnest longings after their conversion, as thou wilt own and bless, by the redemption of souls.

The Promise of God:

“If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!”

Matthew 7:11

July 10

Call to Worship: Psalm 59:16-17

“But I will sing of Your power; Yes, I will sing aloud of Your mercy in the morning; for You have been my defense and refuge in the day of my trouble. To You, O my Strength, I will sing praises; for God is my defense, my God of mercy.”

Psalm 19

Scripture Reading:

Isaiah 44-46
HCO: Job 4-6

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 190. *What do we pray for in the first petition?*

A. In the first petition (which is, *Hallowed be thy name*), acknowledging the utter inability and indisposition that is in ourselves and all men to honor God aright, we pray, that God would by his grace enable and incline us and others to know, to acknowledge, and highly to esteem him, his titles, attributes, ordinances, word, works, and whatsoever he is pleased to make himself known by; and to glorify him in thought, word, and deed: that he would prevent and remove atheism, ignorance, idolatry, profaneness, and whatsoever is dishonorable to him; and, by his overruling providence, direct and dispose of all things to his own glory.

Prayer:

Adorable Jehovah, I would praise thee for thine excellent greatness. Thou dwellest in light that is inaccessible and full of glory: thou coverest thyself with it as with a garment; and thou art clothed with honour and majesty! Thou dwellest on high, and humblest thyself to behold the things that are done in heaven and earth. Thou art infinite, eternal, and unchangeable in thy being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth. Thou art not worshipped as though thou needest any thing; for thou givest unto all, life, and breath, and all things. Yet thou art exalted above principalities and powers, that at thy name every knee should bow, and every tongue confess.

O, thou art infinitely worthy of the everlasting adoration of all thy rational creatures. Thou art glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders. In thee I live, and move, and have my being. From thee I derive every good and perfect gift. It was thy power which created me; it is thy wisdom that governs me; thy goodness that provides for me; and thy grace that saves me. O help me, adorable Jehovah, to feel and express the infinite excellencies of thy character, and to bow before thee as over all, God, blessed forever!

The Promise of God:

“In the fear of the LORD *there is* strong confidence, and His children will have a place of refuge.”

Proverbs 14:26

July 11

Call to Worship: Psalm 63:3-5

“Because Your lovingkindness *is* better than life, my lips shall praise You. Thus I will bless You while I live; I will lift up my hands in Your name. My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness, and my mouth shall praise You with joyful lips.”

Psalm 20

Scripture Reading:

Isaiah 47-49
HCO: Job 7-9

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 191. *What do we pray for in the second petition?*

A. In the second petition (which is, *Thy kingdom come*), acknowledging ourselves and all mankind to be by nature under the dominion of sin and Satan, we pray, that the kingdom of sin and Satan may be destroyed, the gospel propagated throughout the world, the Jews called, the fullness of the Gentiles brought in; the church furnished with all gospel officers and ordinances, purged from corruption, countenanced and maintained by the civil magistrate; that the ordinances of Christ may be purely dispensed, and made effectual to the converting of those that are yet in their sins, and the confirming, comforting, and building up of those that are already converted: that Christ would rule in our hearts here, and hasten the time of his second coming, and our reigning with him forever: and that he would be pleased so to exercise the kingdom of his power in all the world, as may best conduce to these ends.

Prayer:

O God of all grace, who hast called out of this present evil world, a chosen generation to know thy will, to seek thy face, to follow thy ways, and to inherit thy glory, pour out thy blessings upon those who are yet in darkness and the shadow of death: make bare thine arm, and exert thy power, that all the ends of the earth may remember themselves, and turn to the Lord, and that all flesh may see the salvation of God. Call home to thee again thy once-favoured people, the Jews: and take the veil from their hearts, that they may see and own their Messiah. Let the blood of Christ, which they so profanely imprecated upon their own heads, cleanse them from the guilt of shedding it; yea, let it cleanse them from all their sins. Bring in, O God, the fulness of the Gentiles; and give thy Son the heathen for his inheritance, and the utmost parts of the earth for his possession. O give thy gospel a free course throughout the world; let it be propagated where it has not yet reached; and let the joyful sound be heard, even where Christ is not yet named. Give success to it, where it shines already; let all who have received it sincerely obey it: cause every one that names the name of Christ, to depart from iniquity; and grant that all who make a profession of godliness may be constrained by the love of Christ to live unto thee, and to adorn the doctrine of God the Saviour in all things.

Convince and convert both the avowed enemies of Christ, and also the enemies of his own house. Beat down all antichristian powers, both in the false church, where Christianity is so foully corrupted, and also beyond the borders of Christendom, where it is openly opposed. Show

unto all of them the light of thy truth, that they may know it, as it is in Jesus: dispel their prejudices together with their darkness, and bring them to receive thy truth in the love of it, that they may be saved. O that the true religion of Jesus Christ may prevail powerfully, and gain more proselytes daily throughout the world. O thou Father of lights, grant that all errors in doctrine, and all ungodliness in practice, may be more and more exposed and suppressed, till they be utterly abolished! Let the wickedness of the wicked come to an end; but let truth and holiness increase in credit and authority, till they reign and flourish even to the ends of the earth: grant this, I most humbly beseech thee, through the abundant grace of Jesus Christ my Saviour.⁴

Alternate Prayer:

Gracious Jehovah, assist me to understand, and love, and obey the gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. I would magnify the riches of thy mercy, which devised these glad tidings of great joy for all people. I would praise thee that thou didst send it in due time, in all its fulness of grace and truth, life and immortality. It was not because we deserved thy favour, or sought thy mercy; but because thou didst pity our lost condition, and didst enter into a covenant of grace, to bring us out of an estate of sin and misery, into an estate of salvation, by a Redeemer. Lord, I would praise thee that this word is offered without money and without price; and that whosoever will, may take of the waters of life freely. Thou hast made the plan of redemption commensurate with the wants and sins of our ruined race, and with the claims of thy holy and inflexible justice. I bless thy name that it has brought light for the benighted; joy for the mourner; liberty for the captive; rest for the heavy-laden; plenty for the destitute: pardon for the condemned; purity for the unholy; life for the dead; and the hope of salvation for the heirs of perdition!

Lord, help me to lay hold upon the hope set before me in the gospel. May I receive it as the only savour of life unto life. Let me not be ashamed of the gospel of Jesus Christ; but may I glory in it, as the power of God, unto salvation, to every one that believeth. May it teach me to deny ungodliness, and to live righteously in thy sight. Make it the instrument of building me up in saving knowledge, holy love, and willing obedience, to the praise of Jesus Christ.

O God, make the impenitent feel that they cannot escape thy wrath, if they neglect this great salvation. May it bring them, from being strangers and foreigners, to be fellow-citizens of the household of faith. May it turn their carnal minds from their enmity unto peace with God, and release them, being justified by faith, from that wrath of God which now abideth on them. Blessed Saviour, call them from darkness into marvellous light: free them from the bondage of sin, and cause them to stand fast in the liberty wherewith thou makest thy servants free. Lord, may the kingdom of thy gospel come, and thy will be done on earth as in heaven. Multiply the number of those who shall run to and fro, increasing knowledge. Make the reading, but especially the preaching of thy word, an effectual means of convincing and converting sinners.—Strengthen the minds, and sanctify the wills, and increase the zeal of thy people. Send the rod of thy strength out of Zion, and make thy people willing in the day of thy power: and may converts be multiplied to them as drops of dew in the morning. O God, redeem thy promise, that at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow, and every tongue confess that he is Lord, to the praise of God, the Father.

⁴ James W. Alexander, *A Manual of Devotion for Soldiers and Sailors* (Philadelphia: Presbyterian Board of Publication, 1847), 121-123. This prayer has been adapted for personal use.

The Promise of God:

“Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, ‘Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down.’”

Revelation 12:10

July 12

Call to Worship: Psalm 68:4

“Sing to God, sing praises to His name; extol Him who rides on the clouds, by His name YAH, and rejoice before Him.”

Psalm 21

Scripture Reading:

Isaiah 50-52
HCO: Job 10-12

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 192. *What do we pray for in the third petition?*

A. In the third petition (which is, *Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven*), acknowledging that by nature we and all men are not only utterly unable and unwilling to know and to do the will of God, but prone to rebel against his word, to repine and murmur against his providence, and wholly inclined to do the will of the flesh, and of the devil: we pray, that God would by his Spirit take away from ourselves and others all blindness, weakness, indisposedness, and perverseness of heart; and by his grace make us able and willing to know, do, and submit to his will in all things, with the like humility, cheerfulness, faithfulness, diligence, zeal, sincerity, and constancy, as the angels do in heaven.

Prayer:

Sovereign of the Universe, sanctify my will. Give it grace always to choose that which is good, and to reject that which is evil. I would lament before thee its proneness to forsake thy holy law, and to follow after selfish pleasure. That faculty which thou didst put within me, to guide me to righteous obedience, alas! How often does it urge me on to unholy rebellion. Lord, restore it to that strength and purity, which it enjoyed when thou didst first send forth man from thy creating power, in thine own blessed image. O let me not choose any thing that is opposed to thy holy will. Cleanse thou the fountain of my desires, and make it as a well of living water, springing up into everlasting life.

The Promise of God:

“Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, ‘The kingdoms of this world have become *the kingdoms* of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!’”

Revelation 11:15

July 13

Call to Worship: Psalm 69:16, 30

“Here me, O LORD, for Your lovingkindness *is* good; turn to me according to the multitude of Your tender mercies....I will praise the name of God with a song, and will magnify Him with thanksgiving.”

Psalm 22

Scripture Reading:

Isaiah 53-55
HCO: Job 13-15

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 193. *What do we pray for in the fourth petition?*

A. In the fourth petition (which is, *Give us this day our daily bread*), acknowledging that in Adam, and by our own sin, we have forfeited our right to all the outward blessings of this life, and deserve to be wholly deprived of them by God, and to have them cursed to us in the use of them; and that neither they of themselves are able to sustain us, nor we to merit, or by our own industry to procure them; but prone to desire, get, and use them unlawfully: we pray for ourselves and others, that both they and we, waiting upon the providence of God from day to day in the use of lawful means, may, of his free gift, and as to his fatherly wisdom shall seem best, enjoy a competent portion of them; and have the same continued and blessed unto us in our holy and comfortable use of them, and contentment in them; and be kept from all things that are contrary to our temporal support and comfort.

Prayer:

Gracious God, I would bless thee that thou carest for the wants of this perishing body; and that thou permittest me to ask thee for my daily bread. Herein thou hast shown both thy condescension and thy love; and hast taught me my dependence on thee, and warned me against undue anxiety respecting the future. I confess before thee, that I am prone to neglect the duty of desiring and seeking, as the gifts of thy hands, my food, and all my temporal comforts. And in receiving them, how often do I fail to acknowledge thy providing and nourishing goodness! O lead me constantly to look to thee, as willing to give to all their meat in due season; and dispose me to receive always thy benefits with humility and thanksgiving.

Lord, suffer not my appetite to crave luxury. May I seek such provision as will recruit and strengthen my body. Let my steadfast desire be, that I may be fitted by thy sustaining mercies, for thy service: so that whether I eat or drink, I may do all to the glory of God.

Teach me, for Jesus' sake, that man liveth not by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. Let me esteem thy words more than my necessary food. Let me not take thought what I shall eat or drink, or wherewithal I shall be clothed; but cause me to seek first thy righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto me. Lord, feed me with heavenly manna. Give me the Bread of Life; that I may eat and live forever.

The Promise of God:

“The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.”

Psalm 23:1

July 14

Call to Worship: Psalm 71:8, 15, 23

“Let my mouth be filled *with* Your praise *and with* Your glory all the day....My mouth shall tell of Your righteousness *and* Your salvation all the day....My lips shall greatly rejoice when I sing to You, and my soul, which You have redeemed.”

Psalm 23

Scripture Reading:

Isaiah 56-58
HCO: Job 16-18

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 194. *What do we pray for in the fifth petition?*

A. In the fifth petition (which is, *Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors*), acknowledging that we and all others are guilty both of original and actual sin, and thereby become debtors to the justice of God; and that neither we, nor any other creature, can make the least satisfaction for that debt: we pray for ourselves and others, that God of his free grace would, through the obedience and satisfaction of Christ, apprehended and applied by faith, acquit us both from the guilt and punishment of sin, accept us in his Beloved; continue his favor and grace to us, pardon our daily failings, and fill us with peace and joy, in giving us daily more and more assurance of forgiveness; which we are the rather emboldened to ask, and encouraged to expect, when we have this testimony in ourselves, that we from the heart forgive others their offenses.

Prayer:

Almighty God, do thou so control and discipline my heart, that I shall be ever ready to exercise the virtue of forgiveness. Though my motives and character be slandered, and my property and person be injured, let me not return railing for railing, nor injury for injury. May I remember thine example of long-suffering and great mercy, in which thou dost not avenge thyself of thine adversaries; and art not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. May I consider how long thou didst bear with my own disregard of thy rights, and disobedience to thy law; until thou didst at last move me to repentance and faith, and didst crown me, as I trust, with undeserved forgiveness of my sins.

Lord, make me realize the condition of that prayer, "Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors." O let me not, by a vindictive spirit, seal up the fountains of thy pardon; for thou hast said that if we do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will our Father in heaven forgive us our trespasses.—Lord, incline me, moreover, to a merciful spirit, by the reflection that I often commit offences against the rights of others. May I therefore do unto them as I would have them do unto me.—Make me willing to seek forgiveness of any whom I may offend or injure. Permit not false shame nor pride to keep me from acknowledging my errors and transgressions. May I feel that there is more honour in confessing and repairing a sin against my neighbour, than in covering it up, and refusing to render him justice.—Lord, dispose me to love my enemies, to

bless them that curse me, and to do good to them that hate me. Make me willing, under every injury, to pray—"Lord, lay not this sin to their charge."

The Promise of God:

“And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses.”

Colossians 2:13

July 15

Call to Worship: Psalm 72:18-19b

“Blessed *be* the LORD God, the God of Israel, Who only does wondrous things! And blessed *be* His glorious name forever! And let the whole earth be filled *with* His glory....”

Psalm 24

Scripture Reading:

Isaiah 59-61
HCO: Job 19-21

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 195. *What do we pray for in the sixth petition?*

A. In the sixth petition (which is, *And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil*), acknowledging that the most wise, righteous, and gracious God, for divers holy and just ends, may so order things, that we may be assaulted, foiled, and for a time led captive by temptations; that Satan, the world, and the flesh, are ready powerfully to draw us aside, and ensnare us; and that we, even after the pardon of our sins, by reason of our corruption, weakness, and want of watchfulness, are not only subject to be tempted, and forward to expose ourselves unto temptations, but also of ourselves unable and unwilling to resist them, to recover out of them, and to improve them; and worthy to be left under the power of them; we pray, that God would so overrule the world and all in it, subdue the flesh, and restrain Satan, order all things, bestow and bless all means of grace, and quicken us to watchfulness in the use of them, that we and all his people may by his providence be kept from being tempted to sin; or, if tempted, that by his Spirit we may be powerfully supported and enabled to stand in the hour of temptation; or when fallen, raised again and recovered out of it, and have a sanctified use and improvement thereof: that our sanctification and salvation may be perfected, Satan trodden under our feet, and we fully freed from sin, temptation, and all evil, forever.

Prayer:

Great God, make me realize that I live in constant danger of temptations from foes without and enemies within. Satan, with his countless wiles—my own heart, with its self-deceit and sensuality—the world, with its many lures—each seeks to draw me from the paths of duty, and to lead me in the ways of unrighteousness. Lord, thou hast, indeed, purposes of wisdom, in suffering me to be thus subject to temptation. Thou canst overrule it for my conformity to Christ, who was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. It is in such seasons, O Most High, that thy strength is made perfect in our weakness; and that we are enabled to glory in our infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest on us. And thou often givest us, in mercy, the messengers of Satan, to buffet us, lest we be exalted above measure. They that are tried, and found faithful, shall receive a crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.

Heavenly Father, make thy grace sufficient for me in every season of trial—in the hour of adversity—in the day of prosperity—in the period when exemption from temptation has left me open to seduction—and when the abounding consolations of thy Spirit have been perverted into heedlessness towards the spiritual dangers which beset me. Give me wisdom to discover, and

strength to resist, the approach of evil. Let me say at every enticement, "How can I do this wickedness, and sin against God?" May I watch unto prayer, knowing that thou art a very present help in every hour of need; and that thou wilt, with the temptation, also make a way of escape, for all that are of thy heritage.—Lord, carry me safely through every danger, and in thine own time, give me an inheritance among those who have come out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white, in the blood of the Lamb!

The Promise of God:

“No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God *is* faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear *it*.”

1 Corinthians 10:13

July 16

Call to Worship: Psalm 84:1-2

“How lovely *is* Your tabernacle, O LORD of hosts! My soul longs, yes, even faints for the courts of the LORD; my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God.”

Psalm 25

Scripture Reading:

Isaiah 62-64
HCO: Job 22-24

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 196. *What doth the conclusion of the Lord's Prayer teach us?*

A. The conclusion of the Lord's prayer (which is, *For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.*) teacheth us to enforce our petitions with arguments, which are to be taken, not from any worthiness in ourselves, or in any other creature, but from God; and with our prayers to join praises, ascribing to God alone eternal sovereignty, omnipotency, and glorious excellency; in regard whereof, as he is able and willing to help us, so we by faith are emboldened to plead with him that he would, and quietly to rely upon him, that he will fulfill our requests. And, to testify this our desire and assurance, we say, *Amen*.

Prayer:

O Lord, Jehovah, thou art the strength of all that put their trust in thee. Thou art boundless in wisdom, omnipotent in power, and infinite in goodness. Thou dost not withhold any good thing from him that walketh uprightly. Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on thee, because he trusteth in thee. He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water; that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither. Whatsoever he doth shall prosper; and the end of that man is peace.

Lord, if thou art my light and salvation, whom shall I fear? If thou art my strength, of whom shall I be afraid? Enable me, I pray thee, to trust in thee with all my heart; and keep me from leaning on my own understanding. May I cast all my cares upon thee, in perils, in wants, in losses, in griefs, in sickness, and in death. Cause me to hear thy voice, in every variety of tribulation, saying unto me, "What I do thou knowest not now, but thou shalt know hereafter." I would remember that oft when I said, "My foot slippeth," thy mercy, O Lord, held me up. In the day when I cried, thou didst answer and strengthen me. May the memory of thy past goodness, the possession of present joys, and the testimonies of thy promises persuade me, that though the mountains depart, and the hills be removed, thy kindness doth not depart from thee; neither is the covenant of thy peace removed.

Heavenly Father, give me confidence towards thee in the duty of prayer. May I come to thee as to a forgiving, a bountiful, a compassionate, a wise, and a powerful God—for thou only hast an eye of pardon, a hand of plenty, a heart of pity, a judgment of knowledge, and an arm of might. Assure me that whosoever cometh unto thee, thou wilt in no wise cast out. Help me to ask in faith, nothing wavering.

God of Israel, inspire thy people with unlimited and unwavering reliance on thy character, dealings, and purposes. May they learn that the word of the Lord endureth for ever. Let them not cast away their confidence, which hath great recompense of reward. As thou didst not withhold thine own Son, but didst deliver him up for them, O cause them to hope that, with him, thou wilt freely give them all things. Lord, let them never forget that thou makest all things work together for good to them that love thee. Although the fig-tree may not blossom, neither fruit be in the vines; the labour of the olive fail, and the fields yield no meat; the flock be cut off from the fold, and there be no herd in the stalls—yet may they rejoice in the Lord, and joy in the God of their salvation. Thou canst make even the bed of death a couch of down; and the gloomy grave the cradle of immortality.

The Promise of God:

“The LORD has heard my supplication; the LORD will receive my prayer.”

Psalm 6:9

July 17

Call to Worship: Psalm 73:25, 26, 28

“Whom have I in heaven *but You?* And *there is* none upon earth *that* I desire besides You. My flesh and my heart fail; *but God is* the strength of my heart and my portion forever. But *it is* good for me to draw near to God; I have put my trust in the LORD GOD, that I may declare all Your works.”

Psalm 26

Scripture Reading:

Isaiah 65-66
Jeremiah 1
HCO: Job 25-27

Confession of Faith: Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 1. *What is the chief end of man?*

A. Man’s chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever.

Prayer:

Lord God Almighty, thou art glorious in the infinite excellencies of thy character. Thou art everlasting in being, almighty in power, infinite in wisdom, inflexible in justice, eternal in truth, spotless in holiness, and boundless in mercy. Great and marvellous are thy works, just and true are thy ways, thou King of Saints. Who will not fear and glorify thy name? The heavens declare thy glory, and the firmament exhibiteth thy handiwork: day unto day uttereth speech concerning thee, and night unto night showeth knowledge of thee. All thy works praise thee. But it is in the person and work of our blessed Saviour, that thou hast chiefly shown the perfection of thy character, for the adoration and homage of thine intelligent creation. There thou didst make thy richest display of might and knowledge, righteousness and goodness. O, thou art worthy to be held in everlasting honour, that he who was the brightness of the Father's glory, and the express image of his person, was made flesh, and dwelt with us, being in all points tempted as we are; and when he had filled up the measure of his reproach and persecution, gave himself up to an ignominious death, that we might have redemption through his blood, even the remission of sins!

Father in Heaven, hallowed be thy name. O help me to honour thee whenever I contemplate thy works, or thy word, or thy providence. Make me willing to spend my substance, my reputation, my time, and my life itself, to promote the honour of thy name. May I praise thee in my thoughts, and with my lips, and by my life: and whether I eat or drink, or whatsoever I do, may I do all to the glory of God. And do thou shine into my heart to give me the knowledge of thy glory, in the face of Jesus Christ.

Lord, let all thy saints bless thee. Instruct them that their chief end is to glorify thee. Dispose them to show forth the praises of him who hath called them out of darkness into his marvellous light. May they meditate on thy greatness, and talk of thy wondrous works, and honour thy will by acts of holy obedience. Be thou admired in all that believe on thee. Make them the blessed instruments of leading multitudes, who now cast dishonour on thy mercy, to witness and magnify the riches of thy grace.

Father, glorify thy name in turning the wicked from the error of their ways unto the wisdom of the just. O fulfil in all their power and efficacy the messages of the gospel, which are glory to God in the highest; peace on earth, and good-will to men.

The Promise of God:

“Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: fear God and keep His commandments, for this is man’s all.”

Ecclesiastes 12:13

July 18

Call to Worship: Psalm 85:8a,b

“I will hear what God the LORD will speak, for He will speak peace to His people and to His saints...”

Psalm 27

Scripture Reading:

Jeremiah 2-4
HCO: Job 28-30

Confession of Faith: Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 2. *What rule hath God given to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy him?*

A. The Word of God, which is contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, is the only rule to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy him.

Prayer:

God of Truth, I praise thy mercy, in Jesus Christ, that thou hast not left the human race to the blind gropings of unaided reason, in seeking a knowledge of thy will; but that thou hast given us the Scriptures of truth, which holy men of old spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost. I would thank thee for their precepts, which are incentives to good — for their examples, which are monitors of duty — for their threatenings, which are merciful warnings against evil — and for their promises, which are the beacons of hope. Thy testimonies are sure, making wise the simple; and thy law is perfect, converting the soul.

Lord, grant me an affecting sense of thy condescending goodness in the gift of the volume of revelation. Give me the teachings of thy Spirit, that I may understand and love the things of thy word. Incline me, I pray thee, to keep thy statutes; since he only that doth thy will, shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God: while he is cursed, who continueth not in all things written in the book of the law, to do them. O make the Scriptures profitable to me for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, and for instruction in righteousness; that I may be thoroughly furnished unto every good work. Incline me to search them for the truth as it is in Jesus; and may I find there that pearl of great price, which is the only passport to heaven. When my soul cleaveth to the dust, quicken thou me according to thy word; and cause it to dwell in me richly, in all wisdom. Enable me to draw lessons of wisdom and holiness from its blessed pages, wherewith to guide my judgment, and direct my steps, in all the ways of life. Sanctify me by thy truth; thy word is truth.

Giver of Mercies, I thank thee for that bright cluster of evidences of the truth of the Bible, which the researches of the wise and good have gathered over its sacred leaves. O that every skeptic, and every infidel, would learn from them the folly and wickedness of their unbelief, and come with broken hearts and submissive minds, to the throne of thy mercy, crying, "Lord, we would believe; help thou our unbelief."

Lord, bring thy truth with convincing, and persuading, and controlling power, to the hearts and consciences of the ungodly. O make it an effectual means of converting sinners, and of building them up, in holiness and comfort, through faith, unto salvation.—May thy saints attend

thereunto, with diligence, preparation, and prayer; receiving it with faith and love, laying it up in their hearts, and practicing it in their lives.

Bestow, I pray thee, thy rich favour on Bible classes. Thou hast been pleased to make them, in many instances, the instruments of turning the hearts of the disobedient. Establish them in every community. Let them be conducted in wisdom and grace, and result in multiplying greatly the trophies of redeeming love.

God of Truth, prosper with thy blessing, the efforts which have been made, and are now making, to give the word of life to those who, in our own, and in other countries, are perishing for lack of knowledge. I would extol thy mercy, that the sacred volume has been transmitted through so many generations, without corruption; and that it has been translated, and published, and multiplied, in so many tongues and nations of the earth. O reanimate, and strengthen, and extend these labours, until thy word shall have free course in every family throughout the world, and be glorified in bringing multitudes of souls into the kingdom of God. And to thee, O Lord, shall be ascribed the power, and dominion, and glory, forever.

The Promise of God:

“All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

2 Timothy 3:16-17

July 19

Call to Worship: Psalm 86:11-12

“Teach me Your way, O LORD; I will walk in Your truth; unite my heart to fear Your name. I will praise You, O LORD my God, with all my heart, and I will glorify Your name forevermore.”

Psalm 28

Scripture Reading:

Jeremiah 5-7
HCO: Job 31-33

Confession of Faith: Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 3. *What do the Scriptures principally teach?*

A. The Scriptures principally teach, what man is to believe concerning God, and what duty God requires of man.

Prayer:

Eternal God, O may my daily and hourly inquiry be, "What wilt thou have me to do?" Instruct me that the duty which thou requirest of me, is obedience to thy revealed will. Help me, I pray thee, to discharge all my obligations to thee, to myself, and to my fellow-creatures.

May I love thee with all my soul, and mind, and strength, and heart. Dispose me to submit to thy will; to love thy character; to trust in thy name; and to fear thine excellent greatness. May I regard thee as, through Christ, the object of prayer, and the rewarder of them who diligently seek thee. Help me, I pray thee, to worship thee, who art a Spirit, in spirit and in truth.

Lord, enable me, by thy Spirit, to do my duty to myself. May I exercise faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and repentance unto life; and make a diligent use of all the outward and ordinary means whereby Christ communicates unto us the benefits of redemption. May I work out my salvation with fear and trembling, knowing that it is God that worketh in me, to will and to do of his own good pleasure.

Assist me, O Lord, to perform all the duties, social, civil, and religious, which I owe to my fellow-creatures. May my conduct to them be governed by that spirit of charity which excludes anger, revenge, censoriousness, prejudice, injury, and oppression. Make me averse to injure the feelings, persons, property and character of any. May I delight in the happiness of others. Make my heart a well-spring of sympathy, compassion, and liberality; and lead me to spend cheerfully my property, my time, and, if needs be, my life, in works of mercy and justice. Enable me to fulfil all my relations as a superior, an inferior, and an equal.

Lord, I thank thee for the encouragements thou art giving, in the course of thy providence, to religious effort, by making rich with thy blessing those who are diligent in thy cause. Yet, I would feel that while these things are to be remembered with thankfulness, they increase my obligation to labour, that I may return thine own to thee with abundant usury.—Strengthen me, I pray thee, to do thy will, while it is called to-day—to do it with my might, and with perseverance therein to the end—even as thine angels do it in heaven.

Lord, I would offer these and all other petitions through him who is the Prophet, Priest, and King of the whole Israel of God; and without whose merits and intercessions, all my services would be without hope or profit.

The Promise of God:

“But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned *them*, and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.”

2 Timothy 3:14-15

July 20

Call to Worship: Psalm 89:1

“I will sing of the mercies of the LORD forever; with my mouth will I make known Your faithfulness to all generations.”

Psalm 29

Scripture Reading:

Jeremiah 8-10
HCO: Job 34-36

Confession of Faith: Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 4. *What is God?*

A. God is a Spirit, infinite, eternal, and unchangeable, in his being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth.

Prayer:

Adorable Jehovah, I would praise thee for thine excellent greatness. Thou dwellest in light that is inaccessible and full of glory: thou coverest thyself with it as with a garment; and thou art clothed with honour and majesty! Thou dwellest on high, and humblest thyself to behold the things that are done in heaven and earth. Thou art infinite, eternal, and unchangeable in thy being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth. Thou art not worshipped as though thou needest any thing; for thou givest unto all, life, and breath, and all things. Yet thou art exalted above principalities and powers, that at thy name every knee should bow, and every tongue confess.

O, thou art infinitely worthy of the everlasting adoration of all thy rational creatures. Thou art glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders. In thee I live, and move, and have my being. From thee I derive every good and perfect gift. It was thy power which created me; it is thy wisdom that governs me; thy goodness that provides for me; and thy grace that saves me. O help me, adorable Jehovah, to feel and express the infinite excellencies of thy character, and to bow before thee as over all, God, blessed forever!

The Promise of God:

“No one is holy like the LORD, for *there* is none besides You, nor is *there* any rock like our God.”

1 Samuel 2:2

July 21

Call to Worship: Psalm 91:2

“I will say of the LORD, ‘*He is my refuge and my fortress; my God, in Him I will trust.*’”

Psalm 30

Scripture Reading:

Jeremiah 11-13
HCO: Job 37-39

Confession of Faith: Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 5. *Are there more Gods than one?*

A. There is but one only, the living and true God.

Prayer:

Thou art the uncreated, self-existent, independent Jehovah. Who hath been thy counsellor; who hath taught thee the path of judgment; or showed thee the way of understanding?—Thou hast stretched forth the heavens alone, and spread the earth by thyself: thou faintest not, neither art weary with labour: thou art everlasting strength.—Thou needest not the wisdom nor power of any, to help thee in the measures of thy government; for they are all thy creatures, and thy counsel standeth forever. Thou art not worshipped as though thou needest any thing; every beast of the forest being thine, with the cattle upon a thousand hills; and thou givest unto all, life, and breath, and all things: yea, thou art exalted above blessing and praise.

Lord, make me understand that I am dependent on thee for life, for hope, for blessing, for every thing. O dispose me to seek thee, as the source of every right feeling, and the fountain of every pure joy. Of thee, and through thee, and unto thee, are all things; to whom be glory forever.

The Promise of God:

“For You *are* great, and do wondrous things; You alone *are* God.”

Psalm 86:10

July 22

Call to Worship: Psalm 92:1-2

“*It is good to give thanks to the LORD, and to sing praises to Your name, O Most High; to declare Your lovingkindness in the morning, and Your faithfulness every night....*”

Psalm 31

Scripture Reading:

Jeremiah 14-16
HCO: Job 40-42

Confession of Faith: Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 6. *How many persons are there in the Godhead?*

A. There are three persons in the Godhead: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, and these three are one God, the same in substance, equal in power and glory.

Prayer:

Great God, cause my understanding to acknowledge, and my heart to adore, the mystery of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, who are the same in substance, equal in power and glory, and who constitute the infinite, eternal, and unchangeable Godhead. Lord, let not my feeble and erring judgment stagger at nor exalt itself against the testimony of thy word: but what thou hast revealed, that may I receive with a willing mind. O do thou enable me to receive the Father, in all the fulness of his love—the Son, in all the riches of his atonement—and the Spirit, in all the sanctifying power of his grace.

God of Truth, banish that heresy, which, in the pride of human reason, would vainly seek to pervert the doctrine of the Unity of the Godhead, so as to destroy the belief of the glorious Trinity. May all men learn that there are three that bear record in heaven, and that these three are one. May they honour the Son, even as they honour the Father; and worship that Spirit, whose ministrations are life because of righteousness!

The Promise of God:

“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have command you; and lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age.”

Matthew 28:19-20

July 23

Call to Worship: Psalm 93:1ab, 2, 5b

“The LORD reigns, He is clothed with majesty; the LORD is clothed, He has girded Himself with strength...Your throne *is* established from of old; You *are* from everlasting...holiness adorns Your house, O LORD, forever.”

Psalm 32

Scripture Reading:

Jeremiah 17-19
HCO: Proverbs 1-3

Confession of Faith: Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 7. *What are the decrees of God?*

A. The decrees of God are, his eternal purpose, according to the counsel of his will, whereby, for his own glory, he hath foreordained whatsoever comes to pass.

Prayer:

Lord, thou dost according to thy will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of earth; and none can stay thy hand, or say unto thee, “What dost thou?” Thou workest all things after the counsel of thine own will. A man's heart deviseth his way, hut thou directest his steps. Thou hast chosen our inheritance, and determined our changes, and fixed the number of our days. We are in thy hands, as clay in the hands of the potter. — Lord, I would adore the mystery of thy sovereignty in the works of grace. Thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and revealed them unto babes. Thou hast mercy on whom thou wilt have mercy; and whom thou wilt thou hardenest. Even so, Father; for so it seemed good in thy sight.

Great God, I rejoice that thy dominion is built on power and wisdom, righteousness and mercy. Thou alone mayest exercise it; for thou art the Maker, Governor, Benefactor, and Judge of all things. — O do thou work in me, to will and to do, of thy good pleasure. Let me not be the slave of sin, but the servant of Jesus; for his yoke is easy, and his burden is light, to all who put their trust in thee. Thy statutes are right, and thy law is perfect. Because the Lord reigneth, let the earth rejoice; let the multitude of isles be glad thereof. Though clouds and darkness are round about thee, justice and judgment are the habitation of thy throne.

Lord, do good in thy good pleasure unto Zion. Build thou the walls of Jerusalem. Be thou her king, to govern, to defend, and to lead her forward, conquering and to conquer. May that stone which was cut out without hands, become a great mountain, and fill the whole earth.

Sovereign of the Universe, teach all men that it is lawful for thee to do what thou wilt with thine own. Wo unto him that striveth with his Maker. Let the potsherd of the earth strive with the potsherd of the earth; but let not the thing formed say to him that formed it, "Why hast thou made me thus?"—Lord, bring the hearts of the ungodly to bow in quiet and confiding submission to thy will. Make them willing in the day of thy power. May they know that thy dominion will be an everlasting dominion, even though they may never become the subjects of thy heavenly kingdom. Thou makest the wrath of men to praise thee: and when the smoke of their torment ascendeth up forever and ever, then shall be heard the voice of a great multitude,

as the voice of many waters, and of mighty thunderings, saying, "Alleluia; for the Lord God, Omnipotent, reigneth."

The Promise of God:

“All the inhabitants of the earth *are* reputed as nothing; He does according to His will in the army of heaven and *among* the inhabitants of the earth. No one can restrain His hand or say to Him, “What have You done?”

Daniel 4:35

July 24

Call to Worship: Psalm 96:1-6

“Oh, sing to the LORD a new song! Sing to the LORD, all the earth. Sing to the LORD, bless His name; proclaim the good news of His salvation from day to day. Declare His glory among the nations, His wonders among all peoples. For the LORD *is* great and greatly to be praised; He *is* to be feared above all gods. For all the gods of the peoples *are* idols, but the LORD made the heavens. Honor and majesty *are* before Him; strength and beauty *are* in His sanctuary.”

Psalm 33

Scripture Reading:

Jeremiah 20-22
HCO: Proverbs 4-6

Confession of Faith: Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 8. *How doth God execute his decrees?*

A. God executeth his decrees in the works of creation and providence.

Prayer:

Lord, thou art God Almighty. The thunder of thy power, who can understand? Thou hast made, and controlled, and sustained the mighty fabric of nature, by the strength of thy word. The firmament, with all its shining garniture of countless worlds, showeth thy handiwork; the earth, with all its furniture of hills and valleys, rivers and seas proclaims thy greatness: and in thee all creatures live, and move, and have their being.

O Lord, give me a realizing sense of the greatness of thy power. Show it to me in the rich and varied works of nature; and unfold it to me in that creation in the soul of man, in which old things are passed away, and all things are become new. I would adore thee for the strength of thy grace, which breaks the stony heart, and bends the stubborn will, and quickens those that were dead in trespasses and sins, into newness of life. Thy gospel is the power of God unto salvation, to every one that believeth.—O God, I would bless thee that thou hast pledged thy might for the increase of thy kingdom in the world, and hast promised that the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. O help me to cry, "Alleluia; for the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth!"

Most High and Mighty, incline me to fear thee, who art able to destroy both body and soul in hell forever. Induce me to put my trust in thee; for if thou art with me, who can be against me? May I experience in my heart that working whereby thou art able to subdue all things unto thyself. Grant me the succour of him, who is mighty to save, unto the uttermost, those who come unto thee by him. Keep me by thy power, through faith, unto salvation, ready to be revealed in the last time.

The Promise of God:

“Come and see the works of God; *He is* awesome *in His* doing toward the sons of men....He rules by His power forever; His eyes observe the nations....”

Psalm 66:5,7ab

July 25

Call to Worship: Psalm 77:11-12, 14a

“I will remember the works of the LORD; surely I will remember Your wonders of old. I will also meditate on all your work, and talk of Your deeds....You *are* the God who does wonders....”

Psalm 34

Scripture Reading:

Jeremiah 23-25
HCO: Proverbs 7-9

Confession of Faith: Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 9. *What is the work of creation?*

A. The work of creation is, God’s making all things of nothing, by the word of his power, in the space of six days, and all very good.

Prayer:

Great Builder of the Universe, in the beginning thou didst make the heaven and the earth; and by thee were all things created, that are in heaven and earth, whether they be thrones or dominions, or principalities, or powers. Thou didst speak, and it was done: thou didst command, and it stood fast.—Lord, thou didst make man in thine own image, in knowledge, righteousness and holiness, with dominion over the creatures. But man being in honour abode not. He fell from that holy and happy estate, in which he was created, by sinning against God; and now all that dwell upon the face of the earth are by nature the children of wrath: yea, the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain, because of transgression. O God, redeem the works of thy power from their degeneracy. May this earth be renewed with the beauty of Eden. Breathe thou into man the breath of life, and make him a new creature in Christ Jesus.

Lord, assist me to acknowledge thy power, wisdom, and goodness, as they are shown in the works of thy hands. The heavens declare thy glory, and the firmament showeth thy handy-work. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night showeth knowledge. There is no speech nor language where their voice is not heard. Their line is gone out through all the earth; and their words to the end of the world! All thy works praise thee. O let my tongue and my soul join the chorus of creation; and praise thee in songs of rejoicing, and in newness of life.

Great God, make me thoughtful of the truth, that the heavens and earth, which are now, are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment, and perdition of ungodly men. Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of person ought I to be, in all holy conversation and godliness — looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God; wherein the heavens, being on fire, shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?—Nevertheless, may I, according to thy promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

The Promise of God:

“Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, neither faints nor is weary. His understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the weak, and to *those who have* no might He increases strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall, but those who wait on the LORD shall renew *their* strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.”

Isaiah 40:28-31

July 26

Call to Worship: Psalm 98:1-2

“Oh, sing to the LORD a new song! For He has done marvelous things; His right hand and His holy arm have gained Him the victory. The LORD has made known His salvation; His righteousness He has revealed in the sight of the nations.”

Psalm 35

Scripture Reading:

Jeremiah 26-28
HCO: Proverbs 10-12

Confession of Faith: Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 10. *How did God create man?*

A. God created man male and female, after his own image, in knowledge, righteousness, and holiness, with dominion over the creatures.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, grant me the spirit of holiness. O restore me to thy blessed image, and transform me by the renewing of my mind, that I may know thy will, and present myself a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable, which is my reasonable service. Mold my character by thy word, and lead me to obey that form of doctrine which thou hast delivered to me. Make me spiritually-minded, which is life and peace. O enable me to say, "Behold, old things are passed away; all things are become new."

Lord, make me a partaker of thy holiness, and lead me in the paths of righteousness, for thy name's sake. But let me not forget that this great work is not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. My heart is by nature desperately wicked; and unless thou give me the sanctifying power of thy Spirit, I shall remain dead in trespasses and sins. Renew me, I beseech thee, in the spirit of my mind, turn me from darkness unto light, and put on me the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

Blessed Lord, let me not regard iniquity in my heart, nor roll sin as a sweet morsel under my tongue. Make me feel all the motives that should deter me from transgression.—Teach me to be holy, because thou art holy.—Grant me such views of the cross of Christ, as shall lead me to hate and forsake sin. Thou didst choose thy saints in Christ, before the foundation of the world, that they should be holy and without blame before thee in love: and he gave himself for them that he might redeem them from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people.—O may the hope of his salvation, prompt me to purify myself, even as he is pure. Make me feel the guilt, misery, and danger of sin.—Assist me to mortify the flesh with the affections and lusts thereof, that I may live in thy favour.—May I remember that the eyes of men are upon me: let me not cause thy name to be blasphemed through my transgression.—Instruct me that thy glory requires me to hate evil; for thou hast made thy people a holy nation, to show forth the praises of him who has called them from darkness into light.—O God, make me pure in heart; for without holiness no man shall see the Lord and there shall in no wise enter into heaven, any thing that defileth.

Lord, assist me, I beseech thee, in this great duty of personal sanctification. Let thy grace be in me as a perpetual fountain of godliness. May I go from strength to strength, and may my path be as the shining light, which shineth more and more, unto the perfect day. O fill me with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God.

The Promise of God:

“But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, and have put on the new *man* who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of

Him who created him....”

Colossians 3:8-10

July 27

Call to Worship: Psalm 101:1

“I will sing of mercy and justice; to You, O LORD, I will sing praises.”

Psalm 36

Scripture Reading:

Jeremiah 29-31
HCO: Proverbs 13-15

Confession of Faith: Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 11. *What are God’s works of providence?*

A. God’s works of providence are, his most holy, wise, and powerful preserving and governing all his creatures, and all their actions.

Prayer:

Great Sovereign, thou hast prepared thy throne in the heavens, and thy kingdom ruleth over all. Thou dost thy will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of earth; and none can stay thy hand, nor say unto thee, "What dost thou?" Thou callest the stars by name, and numberest the hairs of our heads: thou upholdest the sparrow, and givest strength to the seraph. Lord, I would praise thee for thy most holy, wise, and powerful preserving and governing all thy creatures. If thou shouldst withdraw the energies of thy power from the works of thy hands, they would all fall back at once into non-existence. But blessed be thy name, thy dominion is an everlasting dominion, and thy kingdom is from generation to generation.

Great God, enable me to see and acknowledge thy hand in all the movements of thy providence. Make me realize my immediate and absolute dependence on thee, and my obligations to thy preserving and governing wisdom. Suffer me not to impeach any of thy ways: for though thy dealings may often seem to the eye of feeble sense to be confused or mysterious, yet in thy sight they stand in perfect order, and are clothed with unshadowed light. Make me submissive to every token of thy will. May I praise thee in joy and in grief: because it is the Lord that giveth, and that taketh away. Thou art indeed wonderful in counsel, and excellent in working. Thou givest the mercies of every day's life to the evil, as well as to the good. But it is only for them that love thee, that thou makest thy providence and grace work together for good. —Exalted Jehovah, may the solemn truth that thy kingdom ruleth over all, lead me to seek thy favour, as the chief blessing of life; and to do thy pleasure, as it is done in heaven.

The Promise of God:

“The LORD has established His throne in heaven, and His kingdom rules over all.”

Psalm 103:19

July 28

Call to Worship: Psalm 103:1

“Bless the LORD, O my soul; and all that is within me, *bless* His holy name!”

Psalm 37

Scripture Reading:

Jeremiah 32-34
HCO: Proverbs 16-18

Confession of Faith: Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 12. *What special act of providence did God exercise towards man in the estate wherein he was created?*

A. When God had created man, he entered into a covenant of life with him, upon condition of perfect obedience; forbidding him to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, upon pain of death.

Prayer:

Adorable Jehovah, bestow on me, for the merits of thy Son, the spirit of unreserved and fullhearted obedience to thy law. Thou art entitled to the service of all thy creatures. Thou didst form man out of the dust of the ground, and didst give him the breath of life, that he should honour and obey thee. Thou hast preserved his being, and gathered around him the comforts of life, that he should show forth thy praise. And he owes thee allegiance, because thou art the Governor of the universe, having a right to do thy pleasure among the army of heaven and the inhabitants of earth; none of whom can resist thy will, but at the risk of thy sore displeasure. But thou hast strengthened, infinitely, all these claims on his service, by the offer of salvation to a perishing world. Without this there had been no hope of escape from the fruits of disobedience, which had treasured up wrath against the day of wrath. Blessed be thy mercy, that with this precious gift, thou hast not only infinitely increased our obligations, but thou hast actually redeemed unto thyself, a peculiar people, who are zealous of good works. Though thy righteous claims of creation, preservation, and benefaction, have been disregarded, thou hast overcome the rebellion of many of thy creatures, by the controlling influence of a Saviour's love; so that they no longer live unto themselves, but unto him who died for them.

Lord, enable me to present myself to thee, a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable, which is my most reasonable service. Aid me to do thy will in the things which thou hast commanded, and in those which thou hast forbidden. May I fulfil thy commandment out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned. Teach me that whoso keepeth thy word, in him verily is the love of God perfected. O let me not confer with flesh and blood, in reference to the claims of duty. Give me courage to hold forth the word of life in evil report, and in good report. O let my obedience have that symmetry and that fulness, which are found in adding to faith virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly-kindness and charity. Give me patient continuance in well-doing; and cheer me by the hope, that in due season, if I faint not, I shall reap eternal blessedness.

Blessed Sovereign, may thy chosen generation adorn the doctrine of God, their Saviour, in all

things. Enable them, by a holy walk, to be the light of the world, and to put to silence the ignorance of foolish men. Make their consciences void of offence toward God and man. May they find that thy yoke is easy and thy burden light. Make them fruitful of every good work; for thou hast ordained them, that they should go and bring forth fruit; and herein is our Father glorified, that they should bear much fruit. Grant that they may walk worthy of thee, in holiness and righteousness before thee, all the days of their lives. Make them willing, if needs be, to lose life for thy sake and the gospel's; for then they shall find it in life everlasting. And the praise of their service, sanctified by Christ's merits, and accepted through his pleadings, shall be thine forever.

The Promise of God:

“So Samuel said: ‘Has the LORD *as great* delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, *and* to heed than the fat of rams.’”

1 Samuel 15:22

July 29

Call to Worship: Psalm 104:1,33-34

“Bless the LORD, O my soul! O LORD my God, You are very great; You are clothed with honor and majesty....I will sing to the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have my being. May my meditation be sweet to Him; I will be glad in the LORD.”

Psalm 38

Scripture Reading:

Jeremiah 35-37
HCO: Proverbs 19-21

Confession of Faith: Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 13. *Did our first parents continue in the estate wherein they were created?*

A. Our first parents, being left to the freedom of their own will, fell from the estate wherein they were created, by sinning against God.

Prayer:

Sovereign of the Universe, sanctify my will. Give it grace always to choose that which is good, and to reject that which is evil. I would lament before thee its proneness to forsake thy holy law, and to follow after selfish pleasure. That faculty which thou didst put within me, to guide me to righteous obedience, alas! How often does it urge me on to unholy rebellion. Lord, restore it to that strength and purity, which it enjoyed when thou didst first send forth man from thy creating power, in thine own blessed image. O let me not choose any thing that is opposed to thy holy will. Cleanse thou the fountain of my desires, and make it as a well of living water, springing up into everlasting life.

The Promise of God:

““At that time Jerusalem shall be called The Throne of the LORD, and all the nations shall be gathered to it, to the sname of the LORD, to Jerusalem. No more shall they follow the dictates of their evil hearts.””

Jeremiah 3:17

July 30

Call to Worship: Psalm 105:1-5

“Oh, give thanks to the LORD! Call upon His name; make known His deeds among the peoples! Sing to Him, sing psalms to Him; talk of all His wondrous works! Glory in His holy name; let the hearts of those rejoice who seek the LORD! Seek the LORD and His strength; seek His face evermore! Remember His marvelous works which He has done, His wonders, and the judgments of His mouth....”

Psalm 39

Scripture Reading:

Jeremiah 38-40
HCO: Proverbs 22-24

Confession of Faith: Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 14. *What is sin?*

A. Sin is any want of conformity unto, or transgression of, the law of God.

Prayer:

Holy One of Israel, teach me the evil nature and fearful consequences of iniquity. It is the transgression of thy law, in doing what thou hast forbidden, and failing to do what thou hast commanded. Lord, every sin deserves thy wrath and curse, both in this life, and in that which is to come.

Assist me, I beseech thee, to feel that it is, an evil and bitter thing to sin against the Lord. Thy law, which I and all mankind break, is holy, just, and good. Thy goodness against which we have transgressed, has been over us every hour of our lives. Thou hast nourished and brought us up as children; but we have rebelled against thee. Every sin which we commit, includes as many acts of ingratitude as the whole number of thy past mercies to us. Our iniquity has blinded our minds towards truth, and has made us the prey of error. It has been the snare that has corrupted and debased our souls, and left them increasingly open to temptation and guilt. O make us feel that all the sickness, misery, remorse, and death, in the world, are the fruits of transgression; and that if sin had not entered into the world, this earth would have been, in all its generations, a paradise of happy and holy obedience. Lord, increase our sense of the exceeding sinfulness of sin, by heartfelt views of the humiliation, agony, and death of thy Son; and by the revelation thou hast given of that blackness of darkness, and anguish of despair, which it has brought on the finally impenitent, the smoke of whose torment ascendeth forever and ever.

Great God, it becomes me to take shame and confusion of face upon myself; to cry, "Guilty, and unclean;" and to implore thee to be merciful to me, a sinner. Thou art spotless holiness; and thou canst not look upon sin but with abhorrence. If thou shouldst lay judgment to the line, and righteousness to the plummet; or if even thou shouldst deal with me for one of a thousand of my transgressions, I would be driven from thy presence, in utter despair. But, thanks be to thy name, the blood of Christ cleanseth from all sin. Though I should be condemned without hope, if I dared to stand before thee in my own strength, yet in the righteousness of my Surety, I may approach thee, and receive remission of sins. Lord, preserve me from the dominion of

unholiness, whether it spring from the world, the flesh, or the devil. May the grace that bringeth salvation, so teach me to deny ungodliness, and to fear and loathe iniquity, that I shall constantly die unto sin and live unto righteousness.

The Promise of God:

“Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares *us*, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of *our* faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”
Hebrews 12:1-2

July 31

Call to Worship: Psalm 106:1

“Praise the LORD! Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for *He is* good! For His mercy *endures* forever!”

Psalm 40

Scripture Reading:

Jeremiah 41-43
HCO: Proverbs 25-27

Confession of Faith: Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 15. *What was the sin whereby our first parents fell from the estate wherein they were created?*

A. The sin whereby our first parents fell from the estate wherein they were created, was their eating the forbidden fruit.

Prayer:

Great God, make me realize that I live in constant danger of temptations from foes without and enemies within. Satan, with his countless wiles—my own heart, with its self-deceit and sensuality—the world, with its many lures—each seeks to draw me from the paths of duty, and to lead me in the ways of unrighteousness. Lord, thou hast, indeed, purposes of wisdom, in suffering me to be thus subject to temptation. Thou canst overrule it for my conformity to Christ, who was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. It is in such seasons, O Most High, that thy strength is made perfect in our weakness; and that we are enabled to glory in our infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest on us. And thou often givest us, in mercy, the messengers of Satan, to buffet us, lest we be exalted above measure. They that are tried, and found faithful, shall receive a crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.

Heavenly Father, make thy grace sufficient for me in every season of trial—in the hour of adversity—in the day of prosperity—in the period when exemption from temptation has left me open to seduction—and when the abounding consolations of thy Spirit have been perverted into heedlessness towards the spiritual dangers which beset me. Give me wisdom to discover, and strength to resist, the approach of evil. Let me say at every enticement, "How can I do this wickedness, and sin against God?" May I watch unto prayer, knowing that thou art a very present help in every hour of need; and that thou wilt, with the temptation, also make a way of escape, for all that are of thy heritage.—Lord, carry me safely through every danger, and in thine own time, give me an inheritance among those who have come out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white, in the blood of the Lamb!

The Promise of God:

“Blessed *is* the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.”

James 1:12

August 1

Call to Worship: Psalm 107:1

“Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for *He is good!* For His mercy *endures* forever.”

Psalm 41

Scripture Reading:

Jeremiah 44-46
HCO: Proverbs 28-30

Confession of Faith: Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 16. *Did all mankind fall in Adam's first transgression?*

A. The covenant being made with Adam, not only for himself, but for his posterity; all mankind, descending from him by ordinary generation, sinned in him, and fell with him, in his first transgression.

Prayer:

Great God, affect my heart powerfully, by right views of the condition of sinners. O let not my soul be at ease in her possessions, while the earth is full of the workers of iniquity. Let not selfishness, nor unbelief, nor despondency, stupify my compassions for those who everywhere crowd the ways of destruction. May I look on them as rebels against thy law, over whom hang thy judgments, which may soon overwhelm them in remediless ruin. Give me deep yearnings over their awful guilt and danger. Dispose me to pray, in earnestness and faith, for their deliverance from sin; and lead me to strive to pluck them as brands from the burning. Lord, direct me in the choice and use of such measures as will promote the salvation of souls. O wilt thou give me the blessed privilege of turning some that were ready to perish, into the covert of redemption?

Compassionate Jehovah, kindle the love of souls in the breasts of all thy people. May deep concern for the spiritual wants of men, pervade their thoughts, direct their desires, and govern their conduct. O that all who call upon thy name for their own salvation, would earnestly ask what thou wilt have them to do, in saving the ungodly. Arm them, I pray thee, with those weapons of love which are mighty, through God, to the pulling down of strongholds. May they use the power of holy example, the wisdom of right knowledge, and the fervour of persevering zeal, to convince, and persuade, and win the unrighteous from their transgressions. Cause the remembrance of their own former impenitency and exposure to wrath, together with their gratitude for thy distinguishing grace, to excite their strong cryings to God, and their deep compassions and earnest efforts, for those who are living without hope and God in the world. Lord, set before the minds of believers, the weight of guilt and retribution which hangs over the impenitent; and cause them to feel and act upon the strong conviction, that in fulfilling their duty to such, they will enjoy peace of conscience, the joyful reward of faithful servants, and be the happy instruments of saving souls.

Lord, I would implore thy mercy on sinners themselves. Convince them of their deep-rooted depravity, and of the wrath they are treasuring up against the day of wrath. Let none deceive themselves with a vain admiration of their natural virtues; for these, instead of abating the

enormity of their guilt, only stamp upon it the additional reproach, that they have ungratefully refused to consecrate these virtues to the Lord that bestowed them. O that thy love to them, in the mercies of thy providence, in the pleadings of thy word, in the gift of thy Son, and in the strivings of thy grace, might fill them with that repentance which is unto life. Persuade them that thou hast no pleasure in their death; but that thou art waiting to be gracious. Though they have destroyed themselves, in thee is their help: whosoever will, may take of the waters of life freely. Let them not neglect so great salvation, lest they sin away the day of their merciful visitation; and then a great ransom will not deliver them. Lead them, I pray thee, to the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world. May they look to him and be saved. And thy name, Father, Son, and Spirit, shall have the glory of their redemption, through time and eternity.

The Promise of God:

“For as by one man’s disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man’s obedience many will be made righteous.”

Romans 5:19

August 2

Call to Worship: Psalm 108:1-5

“O God, my heart is steadfast; I will sing and give praise, even with my glory. Awake, lute and harp! I will awaken the dawn. I will praise You, O LORD, among the peoples, and I will sing praises to You among the nations. For Your mercy *is* great above the heavens, and Your truth *reaches* to the clouds. Be exalted, O God, above the heavens, and Your glory above all the earth....”

Psalm 42

Scripture Reading:

Jeremiah 47-49
HCO: Proverbs 31
Ruth 1-2

Confession of Faith: Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 17. *Into what estate did the fall bring mankind?*

A. The fall brought mankind into an estate of sin and misery.

Prayer:

Compassionate Jehovah, thou knowest all the sources of my griefs—the afflictions of my body—the weakness and ignorance of my mind—the loss of cherished objects—and the miseries of my sinfulness. When I look back upon my past life, how do slighted mercy, neglected grace, and sinful rebellion rise up to confound me with sorrow. When I look within me, and examine my present state, I find that when I would delight in the law of the Lord, after the inward man, there is a law in my members warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin; so that I am constrained to say, "O wretched man that I am; who shall deliver me from the body of this death?"—When my thoughts go forth into the unknown future, I have reason to pass the time of my sojourning here in fear, lest, being led away by the corruption of my heart, the error of the wicked, and the deceit of Satan, I may fall from my steadfastness.—When I look around me, I find sources of grief everywhere; for the ways of Zion mourn, and my heart is faint within me: I behold the transgressors, and am grieved: rivers of waters should run down mine eyes, because men keep not thy law.—O God, it behooves me also to mourn when thou dost, for any reason, hide thy face from me when the heavens above me are as brass, and my trembling heart would surmise that even God had forgotten to be gracious.

But, O Lord, thou knowest all my griefs; and thou canst sanctify them to me. I pray thee, soothe and bless my sorrows. Recompense me in all of them, by the light of thy countenance. Give me the blessedness of them that mourn with a godly sorrow; for they shall be comforted. Restore unto me the joys of thy salvation, and uphold me by thy free Spirit. Let not my soul be cast down, nor grow weary of life, nor rebel against thy will. Make me to hear joy and gladness, that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice. When thou hast wrought the purposes of thy sovereignty, O give me beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, and the garments of praise for the spirit of heaviness.

The Promise of God:

“For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy *to be compared* with the glory which shall be revealed in us.”

Romans 8:18

August 3

Call to Worship: Psalm 111:3-5

“The works of the LORD *are* great, studied by all who have pleasure in them. His work *is* honorable and glorious, and His righteousness endures forever. He has made His wonderful works to be remembered; the LORD *is* gracious and full of compassion, He has given food to those who fear Him; He will ever be mindful of His covenant.”

Psalm 43

Scripture Reading:

Jeremiah 50-52
HCO: Ruth 3-4
Song of Solomon 1

Confession of Faith: Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 18. *Wherein consists the sinfulness of that estate whereinto man fell?*

A. The sinfulness of that estate whereinto man fell consists in the guilt of Adam's first sin, the want of original righteousness, and the corruption of his whole nature, which is commonly called original sin; together with all actual transgressions which proceed from it.

Prayer:

Lord, thou didst create man, after thine own image, in knowledge and holiness; but he fell from the estate wherein he was created, by sinning against God; and now, by his fall, all mankind have lost communion with God, are under thy wrath and curse, and are made liable to all the miseries of this life, to death itself, and to the pains of hell forever. Thou didst indeed make man upright; but he has sought out many inventions. His gold has become dim, and his most fine gold is changed. And now the heart of the sons of men is full of evil: the carnal mind is enmity against God: they are all gone out of the way: there is none righteous; no, not one. O Lord, everywhere I behold the records of human depravity. The pages of history, the experience of my own heart, the witness of my eyes, and the news brought on every breeze, tell me that man is a sinner. And yet for every spark of sin in the outward life of every man, there has been a raging flame of transgression in his hidden nature. O let not my mind be swayed from this truth, because there are some, who in their natural and unredeemed state, seem to be not far from the kingdom of God: for if thou hadst not controlled their characters, and shaped their destinies, they also had been the vilest of the vile. Suffer me not, in my intercourse with children, to suppose, from their comparative innocence and docility, that they are not depraved: for O, thy testimony against them is, that they go astray from the womb; and that folly is bound up in their hearts.

Lord, give me an ever-present conviction of this solemn doctrine, that I may watch and pray against the evil tendencies of my own heart, and also look with earnest anxiety on the condition of those, who have not been brought to know and forsake their iniquities. Enable me to realize its nature and extent — to understand that the most unsanctified selfishness has usurped the sceptre which God should sway in the heart; and that all men are, in their natural character, utterly destitute of holiness, and entirely sinful. Lord, permit not my thoughts to impeach thy wisdom, or justice, or holiness, when I meditate on this truth; for thou hast laid no stern necessity on us that

we should sin: and we, we only, are guilty before thee in our transgressions. O God, take away this stony heart out of my flesh, and give me a heart of flesh. Subdue the corruption of my nature, and make me a new creature in Christ Jesus.

Blessed Lord, convince the wicked of their deep-rooted depravity; and that unless they are born again, they must be shut out of the kingdom of God. Show them that they have destroyed themselves; while in thee only is their help. Teach them that thou hast sought their repentance by the every-day mercies of life, by the offers of pardon, and by the threats of vengeance: and yet they have abused thy gifts, and turned a deaf ear to thine entreaties and warnings. Show them that the way of the wicked is darkness, and the end thereof eternal death: while the path of the just is as the shining light, and his reward a blissful eternity. Whilst thou art revealing to them the enormity of their guilt, show them the surpassing extent of the redemption thou hast provided for it. O may thy Spirit transform their corrupt wills, and renew their depraved affections. Save them by the washing of regeneration, and the renewing of the Holy Ghost; that being sanctified by grace, they shall be made partakers of thy holiness, and heirs of eternal life.

The Promise of God:

“For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.”

Romans 5:6

August 4

Call to Worship: Psalm 113:2-3

“Blessed be the name of the LORD from this time forth and forevermore! From the rising of the sun to its going down the LORD’s name *is* to be praised.”

Psalm 44

Scripture Reading:

Lamentations 1-3
HCO: Song of Solomon 2-4

Confession of Faith: Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 19. *What is the misery of that estate whereinto man fell?*

A. All mankind by their fall lost communion with God, are under his wrath and curse, and so made liable to all the miseries of this life, to death itself, and to the pains of hell forever.

Prayer:

O Lord, give me a deep conviction of the awful truth, that thou hast ordained and fixed a place of torment for all the finally impenitent—a bottomless pit, where there is the blackness of darkness—a prison, where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth — a lake of fire, where the smoke of their torment ascendeth forever. There they will remember their ungodly deeds; their multiplied mercies; the riches of thy long-suffering which they despised; the instruction they hated; and their hardness and impenitence of heart, whereby they treasured unto themselves wrath against the day of wrath. There they shall have cruel fellowship with the devil and his angels: hatred and malice, and every evil passion, shall vex their souls; while around, and above, and beneath them, will be indignation and wrath, tribulation and anguish!

Lord, let not my heart ever rebel against the wisdom and righteousness of thy punitive justice. Just and true are all thy ways, thou King of Saints. Teach me, O God, by the deep damnation of the wicked, that thou hatest sin and lovest holiness; and that thou art thus promoting the obedience and welfare of the universe, and sustaining thy character as the moral Governor of creation.

Assist me, God of Grace, to flee from the wrath to come, and to lay hold of eternal life, through the Saviour. But O, let me not be satisfied with my own safety. May I seek the salvation of those that are in the broad way of ruin. Impel me by keen sympathy for their danger, and love for their happiness, to put forth such efforts of prayer and labour, as shall be the means of saving some that are ready to perish.

O do thou arouse the church to a conviction of her duty to a perishing world. Let none of thy people dishonour their calling, by carelessness about the eternal welfare of the impenitent. May each one feel the powers of the world to come; and by earnest supplication, and by fervent action, strive for the blessedness of converting sinners from their dangerous ways, and of saving souls from the second death.

Lord, I beseech thee, give the wicked such views of the everlasting destruction awaiting the unrepenting sinner, as shall lead them to consider the mercy that has provided a way of escape from perdition. Persuade them, by thy terrors, to be reconciled to thee by the blood of the

everlasting covenant. O make many, who now seem to be vessels of wrath, fitting for destruction, to be vessels of mercy, preparing for glory; who shall be kept by thy power, through faith, unto final salvation: where the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, which are begun on earth, shall be perfected forever.

The Promise of God:

“Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.”

Romans 5:9

August 5

Call to Worship: Psalm 118:1,14, 28

“Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for *He is* good! For His mercy endures forever....The LORD *is* my strength and song, and He has become my salvation....You *are* my God, and I will praise You; *You are* my God, I will exalt You.”

Psalm 45

Scripture Reading:

Lamentations 4-5
Ezekiel 1
HCO: Song of Solomon 5-8

Confession of Faith: Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 20. *Did God leave all mankind to perish in the estate of sin and misery?*

A. God having, out of his mere good pleasure, from all eternity, elected some to everlasting life, did enter into a covenant of grace, to deliver them out of the estate of sin and misery, and to bring them into an estate of salvation by a redeemer.

Prayer:

Adorable Jehovah, I would praise thee that, in thy sovereign mercy, thou didst from eternity enter into a covenant of grace, to deliver men out of their estate of sin and misery, and to bring them into an estate of salvation by a Redeemer. Lord, make with me this everlasting covenant, even the sure mercies of David. Call me with a holy calling, not according to works, but according to thy purpose, which was given in Christ Jesus before the world began; but has now been made manifest by his appearing, who hath brought life and immortality to light through thy gospel: and in whom we have redemption, through his blood. O bind me to thee in the adoption of thy children, wherein thou makest them accepted in the Beloved.

Lord, assist me to remember and keep all my engagements to thee. In the silence of retirement and communion with thee—in the acts of social and public prayer—in the hearing of thy word and the singing of thy praise—and in the solemn sacrament, where thy saints subscribe with the hand unto the Lord—I have again and again pledged myself unto thee. My vows are written in my conscience, and in the book of thy remembrance. Help me, I beseech thee, to shun all that I promised to forsake: help me, I pray thee, to perform all that I promised to do. Put thy law into my mind, and write it in my heart; and be my God, that I may be of thy people, chosen according to thy covenant of grace. Make my heart and life abundant in the fruits of that holy relation. Let me not forsake thy love, nor turn from thy ways, but press on towards the mark for the prize of that high calling which is in Christ Jesus. Merciful God, regard with compassion those who are aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise. Make them feel the deep and radical depravity of their hearts. Convince them of sin, as committed against a holy God. Show them the danger to which they are exposed while they refuse to forsake their transgressions. Exhibit to them Christ crucified, as him by whom alone they can escape from the dominion, the guilt, and the retribution of their sins. O may thy Spirit give them

grace to receive and rest upon him for pardon and acceptance. And grant that they may enjoy a union with him as close and fruitful as the branch which abideth in the vine.

The Promise of God:

“For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him.”

1 Thessalonians 5:9-10

August 6

Call to Worship: Psalm 119:7, 10, 12, 108

“I will praise You with uprightness of heart, when I learn Your righteous judgments....With my whole heart I have sought You; oh, let me not wander from Your commandments....Blessed *are* You, O LORD! Teach me Your statutes....Accept, I pray, the freewill offerings of my mouth, O LORD, and teach me Your judgments.”

Psalm 46

Scripture Reading:

Ezekiel 2-4
HCO: Ecclesiastes 1-3

Confession of Faith: Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 21. *Who is the Redeemer of God's elect?*

A. The only Redeemer of God's elect is the Lord Jesus Christ, who, being the eternal Son of God, became man, and so was, and continueth to be, God and man in two distinct natures, and one person, forever.

Prayer:

Gracious Jehovah, assist me to understand, and love, and obey the gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. I would magnify the riches of thy mercy, which devised these glad tidings of great joy for all people. I would praise thee that thou didst send it in due time, in all its fulness of grace and truth, life and immortality. It was not because we deserved thy favour, or sought thy mercy; but because thou didst pity our lost condition, and didst enter into a covenant of grace, to bring us out of an estate of sin and misery, into an estate of salvation, by a Redeemer. Lord, I would praise thee that this word is offered without money and without price; and that whosoever will, may take of the waters of life freely. Thou hast made the plan of redemption commensurate with the wants and sins of our ruined race, and with the claims of thy holy and inflexible justice. I bless thy name that it has brought light for the benighted; joy for the mourner; liberty for the captive; rest for the heavy-laden; plenty for the destitute: pardon for the condemned; purity for the unholy; life for the dead; and the hope of salvation for the heirs of perdition!

Lord, help me to lay hold upon the hope set before me in the gospel. May I receive it as the only savour of life unto life. Let me not be ashamed of the gospel of Jesus Christ; but may I glory in it, as the power of God, unto salvation, to every one that believeth. May it teach me to deny ungodliness, and to live righteously in thy sight. Make it the instrument of building me up in saving knowledge, holy love, and willing obedience, to the praise of Jesus Christ.

O God, make the impenitent feel that they cannot escape thy wrath, if they neglect this great salvation. May it bring them, from being strangers and foreigners, to be fellow-citizens of the household of faith. May it turn their carnal minds from their enmity unto peace with God, and release them, being justified by faith, from that wrath of God which now abideth on them. Blessed Saviour, call them from darkness into marvellous light: free them from the bondage of sin, and cause them to stand fast in the liberty wherewith thou makest thy servants free. Lord, may the kingdom of thy gospel come, and thy will be done on earth as in heaven. Multiply the

number of those who shall run to and fro, increasing knowledge. Make the reading, but especially the preaching of thy word, an effectual means of convincing and converting sinners.— Strengthen the minds, and sanctify the wills, and increase the zeal of thy people. Send the rod of thy strength out of Zion, and make thy people willing in the day of thy power: and may converts be multiplied to them as drops of dew in the morning. O God, redeem thy promise, that at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow, and every tongue confess that he is Lord, to the praise of God, the Father.

The Promise of God:

“Then they remembered that God was their rock, and the Most High God their Redeemer.”
Psalm 78:35

August 7

Call to Worship: Psalm 136:1-4, 26

“Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for *He* is good! For His mercy *endures* forever. Oh, give thanks to the God of gods! For His mercy *endures* forever. Oh, give thanks to the Lord of lords! For His mercy *endures* forever: to Him who alone does great wonders, for His mercy *endures* forever....Oh, give thanks to the God of heaven! For His mercy *endures* forever.”

Psalm 47

Scripture Reading:

Ezekiel 5-7
HCO: Ecclesiastes 4-6

Confession of Faith: Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 22. *How did Christ, being the Son of God, become man?*

A. Christ, the Son of God, became man, by taking to himself a true body and a reasonable soul, being conceived by the power of the Holy Ghost in the womb of the virgin Mary, and born of her, yet without sin.

Prayer:

Blessed Father, teach me thy truth as it is in Jesus. Grant that I may love it, and feed upon it; and that I may teach it by my lips, and manifest it by my conduct to others.—Alas, our race, which thou didst make but a little lower than the angels, fell from the noble and happy condition in which it was created, by sinning against thee: and when thou didst look from heaven, upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, or seek after God; behold! They were altogether become filthy: there was none that did good; no not one. Yet thou didst not cast them off; but in the counsels of thy mercy, didst enter into a covenant of grace, to bring them into an estate of salvation by a Redeemer; even the Lord Jesus Christ, who, being the eternal Son of God, became man, that he might redeem us from the curse of the law, in being made a curse for us; and that we might have salvation through his blood.—O Lord, we exercised no penitence of heart that could have prompted thee to this display of compassion; and there was nothing in our character which could give thee any delight. It was sovereign, unsearchable, unmerited grace that formed and perfected the plan of redemption. Thou didst indeed commend thy love to us, in that while we were sinners, Christ died for us!

Great God, enable me to make Christ, and him crucified, the primary object of study and faith. Give me heartfelt and precious views of his character and offices. May I regard him as that Word, which was in the beginning with God, and was GOD; and which was made flesh, and dwelt on earth, full of grace and truth. O suffer me never to doubt that in him dwells all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.

The Promise of God:

“And so it is written, ‘*The first man Adam became a living being.*’ The last Adam *became* a life-giving spirit....The first man *was* of the earth, *made* of dust; the second Man *is* the Lord from heaven. As *was* the *man* of dust, so also are those *who are made* of dust; and as *is* the heavenly Man, so also *are* those *who are* heavenly. And as we have borne the image of the *man* of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly *Man.*”

1 Corinthians 15:45, 47-49

August 8

Call to Worship: Psalm 138:1a, 2c

“I will praise You with my whole heart...for Your lovingkindness and Your truth....”

Psalm 48

Scripture Reading:

Ezekiel 8-10
HCO: Ecclesiastes 7-9

Confession of Faith: Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 23. *What offices doth Christ execute as our Redeemer?*

A. Christ, as our Redeemer, executeth the offices of a prophet, of a priest, and of a king, both in his estate of humiliation and exaltation.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, I would praise and magnify thy name, that thou hast laid help upon One, who is mighty to save, unto the uttermost, all who come unto thee by him. Though the human race was at enmity with thee, and lay exposed to thy curse, thou didst, in infinite mercy, appoint an Interposer between thee and us, that we, who were alienated and enemies by wicked works, might be reconciled in the body of his flesh, through death. We thank thee that we are not called to that mountain which burned with fire, and was clouded with darkness and tempest; but to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to that blood of sprinkling, which speaketh better things than that of Abel. O, it was needful that he should be the Son of God; for no other sacrifice could satisfy the demands of infinite justice—and he must needs be the Son of man; since without the shedding of blood, there is no remission of sins. He who is our eternal Daysman, has infinite fitness for his high and holy office: for in him dwells the fulness of power, wisdom, and mercy!

Blessed Jesus, be thou the propitiation for my sins; and not for mine only, but also for the whole world. O thou who didst become the High-Priest of thine own sacrifice, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people, do thou blot out the handwriting of ordinances that was recorded against me, for my transgressions—procure for me, by thine intercession, the loving kindness of Jehovah—and bind all my affections to the throne of grace, by that new, and better, and everlasting covenant, which is the fruit of thy wisdom and mercy, and the work of thy power and grace, unto salvation.—Heavenly Father, make the words of my mouth, and the meditations of my heart, and the service of my life, acceptable to thee, through him who is my Strength and my Redeemer.

The Promise of God:

“And for this reason He is the Mediator of the new covenant, by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant, that those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.”

Hebrews 9:15

August 9

Call to Worship: Psalm 144:1a, 2abc

“Blessed *be* the LORD my Rock...my lovingkindness and my fortress, my high tower and my deliverer, my shield and *the One* in whom I take refuge....”

Psalm 49

Scripture Reading:

Ezekiel 11-13
HCO: Ecclesiastes 10-12

Confession of Faith: Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 24. *How doth Christ execute the office of a prophet?*

A. Christ executeth the office of a prophet, in revealing to us, by his Word and Spirit, the will of God for our salvation.

Prayer:

Lord, assist me to receive Christ as my Teacher. May he reveal to me, by his word and Spirit, the will of God for my salvation. May I learn of him, who spake as never man spake, and who taught as one having authority. Let me remember that if I hearken not to his words, thou wilt require it of me: for if they escaped not, who refused him that spake on earth, much more shall not I escape, if I turn from him that speaketh from heaven. O put his law into my mind, and write it in my heart. Let its entrance give light and love, zeal and purity to my soul. Lord, let it not be a savour of death unto death, but of life unto life.

The Promise of God:

“God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by *His* Son, who He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; who being the brightness of *His* glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high....”

Hebrews 1:1-3

August 10

Call to Worship: Psalm 146:1-2

“Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD, O my soul! While I live I will praise the LORD; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.”

Psalm 50

Scripture Reading:

Ezekiel 14-16
HCO: Lamentations 1-3

Confession of Faith: Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 25. *How doth Christ execute the office of a priest?*

A. Christ executeth the office of a priest, in his once offering up of himself a sacrifice to satisfy divine justice, and reconcile us to God, and in making continual intercession for us.

Prayer:

Help me, I pray thee, to receive Jesus as the High-Priest of my profession. May I look on him as offering up himself a sacrifice, to satisfy divine justice, and reconcile us to God; and as ever living to make intercession for his chosen people. He who was the brightness of the Father's glory, and who thought it not robbery to be equal with God, took upon himself the form of a servant, that he might put away sin, by the sacrifice of himself, in his own body, on the tree. Yea, it pleased thee to bruise him, to put him to grief, to make his soul an offering for sin, that he might justify many, and that the pleasure of the Lord might prosper in his hand. In due time, when we were without strength, Christ died for the ungodly; taking away the handwriting of ordinances that was against us; suffering the just for the unjust; that he might bring us to God.—Lord, I would praise thee that by him we have received the atonement. Thou hast set him forth to be a propitiation, through faith in his blood, for the remission of sins. He has given his life a ransom for many. He who knew no sin, was made sin for us, that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

O Lord, convince me that forgiveness is granted only for his sake: there being no other name given among men whereby they can be saved. Teach me that his costly sacrifice was not needed to make thee willing to be reconciled to us; for it was the fruit of thy love: but because thou wouldst maintain thy justice, and still be the justifier of him that believeth in Jesus, and his deliverer from the wrath to come. Heavenly Father, show me by this office of Christ's mission, the lost condition of human nature, and the wonders of thy justice and love. May it be the most cherished object of my contemplation, and fill my spirit with adoration and thanksgiving, love and obedience. May I thus judge, that if Christ has died for me, I should henceforth live, not unto myself, but unto him; and that both living and dying I should be the Lord's.

The Promise of God:

“Also there were many priests, because they were prevented by death from continuing. But He, because He continues forever, has an unchangeable priesthood. Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.”

Hebrews 7:23-25

August 11

Call to Worship: Psalm 145:1-3

“I will extol You, my God, O King; and I will bless Your name forever and ever. Every day I will bless You, and I will praise Your name forever and ever. Great *is* the LORD, and greatly to be praised; and His greatness *is* unsearchable.”

Psalm 51

Scripture Reading:

Ezekiel 17-19
HCO: Lamentations 4-5
Esther 1

Confession of Faith: Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 26. *How doth Christ execute the office of a king?*

A. Christ executeth the office of a king, in subduing us to himself, in ruling and defending us, and in restraining and conquering all his and our enemies.

Prayer:

Great God, I pray thee, make me willing to receive Christ not only as my Saviour, but as my Sovereign, to subdue me to himself, to rule and defend me, and to restrain and conquer all his and my enemies. O may I regard his service greater riches than the treasures of Egypt. Thou hast set him at thy right hand, that at his name every knee should bow, and every tongue confess; and hast given unto him the keys of death and hell, with all power in heaven and earth. His throne is forever and ever. Thou wilt break them with a rod of iron, who will not have thy Son to reign over them, and wilt dash them in pieces, as a potter's vessel. Thou wilt make him Governor among the nations, and give him the heathen for his inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for a possession. O hasten that day.—Lord, lead my thoughts often to that consummation of Christ's sovereignty, when he shall come in his glory, to judge the quick and the dead. O may he then be my Saviour King, and I be a redeemed vassal of his everlasting kingdom.

The Promise of God:

“These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful.”

Revelation 17:14

August 12

Call to Worship: Psalm 150:1a, 2

“Praise the LORD!...Praise Him for His mighty acts; praise Him according to His excellent greatness!”

Psalm 52

Scripture Reading:

Ezekiel 20-22
HCO: Esther 2-4

Confession of Faith: Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 27. *Wherein did Christ's humiliation consist?*

A. Christ's humiliation consisted in his being born, and that in a low condition, made under the law, undergoing the miseries of this life, the wrath of God, and the cursed death of the cross; in being buried, and continuing under the power of death for a time.

Prayer:

Jehovah God, incline me to make Jesus my example in all the duties of life. May the same mind that was in him, be also in me. Lead me to walk even as he walked; for he that followeth not after him is not worthy of him. May I look unto him as my pattern of patience and humility, prayer and faith, long-suffering and benevolence. May I strive to purify myself even as Christ is pure; and beholding, as in a glass, his glory, be changed into the same image, from glory to glory, as by the Spirit of the Lord.

The Promise of God:

“Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, ‘*Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree*’), that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.”

Galatians 3:13-14

August 13

Call to Worship: Psalm 5:1-2

“Give ear to my words, O LORD, consider my meditation. Give heed to the voice of my cry, my King and my God, for to You I will pray.”

Psalm 53

Scripture Reading:

Ezekiel 23-25
HCO: Esther 5-7

Confession of Faith: Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 28. *Wherein consisteth Christ's exaltation?*

A. Christ's exaltation consisteth in his rising again from the dead on the third day, in ascending up into heaven, in sitting at the right hand of God the Father, and in coming to judge the world at the last day.

Prayer:

Lord, I thank thee that our Blessed Saviour became the first-fruits of them that slept; thus setting the seal of heaven to the truth of his gospel, and to the hope of our resurrection. If Christ be not risen, then is our faith vain. But, thanks be to thy name, he has the keys of death, and could not be holden of it: and as we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus, will God bring with him. O may I rejoice in the hope, that though after my skin, worms destroy my body, yet in my flesh, I shall see God, and be forever with the Lord. O grant that when the earth shall cast forth her dead, this corruptible may put on incorruption, and this mortality put on immortality, and be fashioned like unto Christ's glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able to subdue all things to himself.

The Promise of God:

“I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death.”

Revelation 1:18

August 14

Call to Worship: Psalm 7:17

“I will praise the LORD according to His righteousness, and will sing praise to the name of the LORD Most High.”

Psalm 54

Scripture Reading:

Ezekiel 26-28
HCO: Esther 8-10

Confession of Faith: Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 29. *How are we made partakers of the redemption purchased by Christ?*

A. We are made partakers of the redemption purchased by Christ, by the effectual application of it to us by his Holy Spirit.

Prayer:

Blessed and Triune God, enable me to understand the character and offices of the Holy Ghost. Thou hast revealed him to us as a partner of the Deity, who exercises the attributes of the Most High, and does the works of the Almighty. O may my thoughts of him be such as become me when I meditate on the name of God. I thank thee that thou hast sent that Spirit to convince the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment. Grant, O Lord, that I may share in all his blessed influences, and that they may be in me as a well of water, springing up into everlasting life. May they be as showers that water the earth, imparting to my soul growth, beauty, and fruitfulness, and giving me favour in the sight of God and man.

Blessed Spirit, show me my sinfulness, apply to me the redemption purchased by Christ, mortify the deeds of the body, and renew me day by day in thy holy image. O do thou lead me into the knowledge of truth, make intercession within me in prayer, bear witness with my spirit that I am a child of God, and seal me with that promise, which is an earnest until the redemption of the purchased possession.

The Promise of God:

“In Him you also *trusted*, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.”

Ephesians 1:13-14

August 15

Call to Worship: Psalm 9:1-2

“I will praise *You*, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will tell of all Your marvelous works. I will be glad and rejoice in You; I will sing praise to Your name, O Most High.”

Psalm 55

Scripture Reading:

Ezekiel 29-31
HCO: Daniel 1-3

Confession of Faith: Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 30. *How doth the Spirit apply to us the redemption purchased by Christ?*

A. The Spirit applieth to us the redemption purchased by Christ, by working faith in us, and thereby uniting us to Christ in our effectual calling.

Prayer:

Lord, increase my faith. I would believe: help thou mine unbelief. Give me unwavering trust in thee as infinite, eternal, and unchangeable, in all thine attributes. Cause me to repose with implicit confidence in thy purposes and dispensations towards thy creatures. Enable me to confide all my interests, for time and eternity, to thy keeping. Be thou, O God, the strength of my heart, and my portion forever!

Let me not stagger at thy word through unbelief; for without faith it is impossible to please thee. May I trust thee in all thou hast spoken, as well as in all thou hast done. Let me not hold thy truth in unrighteousness; but do thou make it profitable to me for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, and for instruction in righteousness; that thereby I may be thoroughly furnished unto every good work. Teach me to confide in its precious promises, to heed its solemn warnings, to follow its sacred examples, and to obey its holy precepts.

Lead me, blessed God, to look unto Jesus, the author and finisher of faith. To him give all the prophets witness, that through him, whosoever believeth on his name, shall have remission of sins: while he that believeth not shall be damned. O may he be my Teacher, my Saviour, and my Ruler; and may I receive and rest upon him alone for salvation, as he is offered in the gospel.

Heavenly Father, excite my trust in thee by the examples of the saints, who by faith wrought righteousness, obtained promises, and out of weakness were made strong. Wherefore seeing that I am compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, may I also, for the joy set before me, endure the cross, and run my race with patience, striving against sin.

Lord, enable me to exercise faith in prayer. Give me an abiding conviction, that thou art the rewarder of all that diligently seek thee. May I ask of thee the things that are according to thy will, trusting that I shall receive them. May I knock at the door of thy mercy, believing that thou wilt open unto me. O grant me access with confidence to the throne of thy grace, in the strength of Christ's merits, and of that intercession which he ever liveth to make for those that come unto thee by him.

Lord, give me grace to show my faith by my works; for as the body without the spirit is dead,

so faith without works is dead also. May I add to it virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly-kindness, and charity. May it so work by love, that I may realize the iniquity and danger of those who are strangers to thy covenants of promise, and have the energies of my soul and body stirred up, to pluck them as brands from the burning.

Heavenly Father, give me the evidence of things not seen, and the substance of things hoped for. May I walk by faith, and not by sight; looking not at the things which are seen and temporal, but at those that are not seen, and are eternal, O may it please thee to give me that victory which overcometh the world; and to grant that in all the trials of life, and amid the struggles of death, I may come off more than conqueror, through him who is the end of the law for righteousness, to all that believe on him!

The Promise of God:

“For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world – our faith.”

1 John 5:4

August 16

Call to Worship: Psalm 13:6

“I will sing to the LORD, because He has dealt bountifully with me.”

Psalm 56

Scripture Reading:

Ezekiel 32-34
HCO: Daniel 4-6

Confession of Faith: Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 31. *What is effectual calling?*

A. Effectual calling is the work of God's Spirit, whereby, convincing us of our sin and misery, enlightening our minds in the knowledge of Christ, and renewing our wills, he doth persuade and enable us to embrace Jesus Christ, freely offered to us in the gospel.

Prayer:

Lord, I would come to thee, in the name of Christ, that I may learn the necessity, the nature, and the fruits of regeneration. O do thou fasten on my mind, abiding convictions that the carnal mind is enmity against thee, and that all mankind are by nature the children of wrath, and receive not the things of the Spirit, for they are foolishness to them; neither can they learn them, for they are spiritually discerned. Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

Show me, O Lord, that if any man be in Christ Jesus, he is a new creature; old things are passed away; all things are become new. He has put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge, after the image of him who created him, in righteousness and true holiness. It is thou, God of Mercy, who workest in such to will and to do of thine own good pleasure; not by works which they have done; but according to thy mercy; by the washing of regeneration, and the renewing of the Holy Ghost. They are born not of blood, nor of the will of man, but of God, who only giveth repentance unto life, and the earnest of that Spirit whereby they are sealed until the day of redemption.

Teach me, O Lord, that they who have been born from above bring forth fruits, meet for repentance; that they add to faith virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness, and charity; and that these, abounding in them, cause them that they be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of the Saviour. They are made free from sin, and have become servants unto God; having their fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.

Blessed Saviour, give me evidence in my heart and conduct, that I have passed from death unto life; that having been convinced of my sin and misery, I have had my mind enlightened in the knowledge of thee, my will renewed, and have been persuaded and enabled to embrace thee, as thou art freely offered in the gospel. Let me not be satisfied with the form of godliness, without its life-giving power. Search me, O Lord, and try me; and see if there be any evil way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting. Make me watchful against temptation; quick to retrace my way when I fall into evil; ready to confess my trespasses; and earnest in purposes of new obedience. Create in me a new heart, and renew a right spirit within me. Grant me forgiveness of sins, and enable me to look forward, with a rejoicing hope, to an inheritance among them that are

sanctified. Vouchsafe unto me, I pray thee, the testimony of thy Spirit, that I have been redeemed by thy grace. O, if thou hast begun a good work in me, continue it unto the end; and let thy grace be in me as a well of living water, springing up into everlasting life.

Lord, convince the impenitent of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment. Thou hast no pleasure in the death of him that dieth, and thou art not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. O lead many to inquire what they must do to be saved. Show them that they who are in the flesh cannot please God. Set before them distinctly, life and good; death and evil. May thy law be a schoolmaster to bring them to Christ, that they may be justified by faith. Persuade them to believe in that only name by which sinners can be saved. May they be born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible; by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever.

The Promise of God:

“My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given *them* to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch *them* out of My Father’s hand.”

John 10:27-29

August 17

Call to Worship: Psalm 18:46

“The LORD lives! Blessed be my Rock! Let the God of my salvation be exalted.”

Psalm 57

Scripture Reading:

Ezekiel 35-37
HCO: Daniel 7-9

Confession of Faith: Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 32. *What benefits do they that are effectually called partake of in this life?*

A. They that are effectually called do in this life partake of justification, adoption, and sanctification, and the several benefits which in this life do either accompany or flow from them.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, grant me just and full views of the plan of salvation by a Redeemer. Give me, I pray thee, an understanding to know, and a heart to feel, what thou hast done for the redemption of sinners.—In the counsels of eternity, thou didst foresee that estate of sin and misery into which mankind should be brought by the fall ; and thou didst not leave them to perish in it; for in thy wisdom and mercy, thou didst devise a scheme, by which they might be delivered from it, and be brought into an estate of salvation, through the atoning blood of thy Son. Thou didst send him, in the fulness of time, to save that which was lost—to ransom those who were under the curse of the law—to redeem them who were subject to the world, the flesh, and the devil; and over whom were hanging the terrors of the second death. And, O, that redemption which he brought, not only saves from these fearful evils, but exalts those who were by nature and practice the heirs of wo, to be the objects of God's favour in this life, and the joint heirs of Christ's inheritance in the world to come!

O Lord, give me an ever-present conviction that this salvation is not by human wisdom or power; for it was thy mercy that procured it, and it is thy Spirit that induces and enables me to accept it. Direct all my hopes to the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world; and assist me to realize that there is no other name given under heaven, among men, whereby sinners can be saved. Enable me, I beseech thee, to believe in him with my heart unto righteousness, and to make confession of him with my mouth unto salvation. Teach me that it is by grace we are saved: for thou wouldst not defile the excellency and glory of thy plan, by making our deliverance the fruit of our works of righteousness, which are indeed, of themselves, as filthy rags. Thou wilt suffer none to glory in redemption, but through the cross of Jesus Christ. Lead me, I pray thee, in that highway of holiness, thy sacred word; which thou hast given us, that the man of God may be perfect, and thoroughly furnished unto all good works. Seal me by thy Spirit of promise; and if thou hast begun a good work in me, perform it unto the day of Christ.

O Most High, if the righteous be scarcely saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear? For thy great name's sake, show the power and fitness of thy salvation on the wicked. Arouse them from their false and guilty peace, by some bereavement of their comforts, or some disaster of life; by the startling terrors of thy law, or by the clear shining of thy love. Make them

feel that the redemption of the soul is precious, and that it ceaseth forever. Persuade them to flee for refuge to a crucified Saviour. Take them from the horrible pit and the miry clay; and set their feet upon the Rock of safety and blessedness; and put a new song into their mouths, even of praise to him, who so loved the world, as to give himself for it, that he might redeem unto himself a peculiar people, who should serve him in newness of life, and enjoy with him the blessings of an everlasting salvation.

The Promise of God:

“Blessed *be* the Lord, *who* daily loads us *with benefits*, the God of our salvation!”
Psalm 68:19

August 18

Call to Worship: Psalm 16:5-6

“O LORD, *You* are the portion of my inheritance and my cup; You maintain my lot. The lines have fallen to me in pleasant *places*; Yes, I have a good inheritance.”

Psalm 58

Scripture Reading:

Ezekiel 38-40
HCO: Daniel 10-12

Confession of Faith: Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 33. *What is justification?*

A. Justification is an act of God's free grace, wherein he pardoneth all our sins, and accepteth us as righteous in his sight, only for the righteousness of Christ imputed to us, and received by faith alone.

Prayer:

Blessed Lord, give me clear, and scriptural, and saving views of that justification, which is a cardinal doctrine of the gospel, and an essential and lifegiving principle of personal piety. Teach me that it is an act of thy free grace, wherein thou pardonest all our sins, and acceptest us as righteous, in thy sight, only for the righteousness of Christ, imputed to us, and received by faith alone. Show me that in it thou hast displayed thy holiness, satisfied thy justice, and magnified thy law—Christ being made the end of the law, to every one that believeth. Instruct me that by the deeds of the law, no flesh living shall be justified; but only by the faith of Jesus; in whom thou art reconciling the world unto thyself, not imputing unto them their trespasses and sins.

Lord, justify me freely by thy grace, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. In his merits, acquit me from the punishment I deserve for my transgressions, and give me a title to those blessings which I would have received through thy law, if I had fulfilled it in sinless obedience. O may I ever be found in him, not having on mine own righteousness, which is of the law; but that which is by the faith of him, unto all and upon all that believe. Grant that I may have peace with thee, and access to thy throne, with confidence of acceptance, in the Beloved. Give me faith in him as a living, as well as a dying Saviour—he being risen again for our justification. May I know him in whom I have believed, as my atoning sacrifice; and be persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him. And grant, O Lord, that my hope of forgiveness and favour, in the blood of the Redeemer, may result in that open acknowledgment and acquittal, in the day of judgment, which will be followed by everlasting glory.

Lord, let the question, "How shall men be just with God?" agitate the minds of those that have not made their peace with thee. May thy Spirit answer it, " Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved." And do thou give this truth such convincing and persuading power, that many shall accept and rest on Christ, as the only and all sufficient hope of salvation.

The Promise of God:

“For He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”

2 Corinthians 5:21

August 19

Call to Worship: Psalm 18:1-3a

“I will love You, O LORD, my strength. The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. I will call upon the LORD, *who is worthy* to be praised....”

Psalm 59

Scripture Reading:

Ezekiel 41-43
HCO: Ezra 1-3

Confession of Faith: Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 34. *What is adoption?*

A. Adoption is an act of God’s free grace, whereby we are received into the number, and have a right to all the privileges, of the sons of God.

Prayer:

Lord, wilt thou give me the Spirit of adoption, by which I may cry "Abba, Father?" I am indeed thine offspring by creation. May I be thine by adoption: and be thou my parent in that nobler relation, of a reconciled God and Father in the Lord Jesus. Make me one of the number, and give me, through the merits of Christ, a title to the privileges, of thy dear children. Behold! what manner of love the Father hath bestowed on them, that they should be called the sons of God!

O grant that in indulging this hope, I may purify myself, even as thou art pure. Make it a spirit of tenderness and reverence, of gratitude and love, of obedience and zeal. May it give me access to thy throne with an humble confidence in the faith of Christ, of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named; and keep me from that spirit of bondage, that servile fear and slavish formality in duty, which will make me as a hired servant, instead of an heir, in my Father's house. May it enable me in all the vicissitudes of life to look up to thee as infinitely able and willing to bless me with thy paternal gifts: for if earthly parents know how to give good gifts to their children, much more will our heavenly Father give his Holy Spirit to them that ask him. Grant that thy Spirit may bear witness with mine that I am thy child; and if a child, then an heir, and a joint-heir with Christ, in that inheritance which fadeth not away.

Look in mercy, O God, on thy children by nature, who are wandering as prodigals from their home, and are living without God in the world. Touch their hearts with a feeling of their wants and their apostasy; and do thou bring many back, who shall say they have sinned against heaven and in thy sight, and are not worthy to be called thy children. Establish them in the fellowship of thy saints, and make them heirs of the grace of life, through the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Promise of God:

“But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.”

John 1:12-13

August 20

Call to Worship: Psalm 19:14

“Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my strength and my Redeemer.”

Psalm 60

Scripture Reading:

Ezekiel 44-46
HCO: Ezra 4-6

Confession of Faith: Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 35. *What is sanctification?*

A. Sanctification is the work of God's free grace, whereby we are renewed in the whole man after the image of God, and are enabled more and more to die unto sin, and live unto righteousness.

Prayer:

O Most Holy, how impure is this heart which thou didst make to be the temple of the living God. But, thanks be to thy name, thou canst make me clean. Thy Spirit can sanctify me by thy truth, and by thy providence, and can change me into thine own image; making my powers fit for thy service, and my soul meet to be thy dwelling.

Lord, grant me that work of thy free grace, by which I shall be enabled, more and more, to die unto sin, and to live unto righteousness. May I remember that thou art holy; and that this is thy will, even our sanctification. May I look upon Jesus, in his character as a Saviour from sin. Show me in his sufferings and death, the guilt of man's sinfulness. Teach me by the rebellion of my own heart, its stubbornness and deformity. Convince me of its demerit, by vivid views of the unending punishment of the lost. O make me loathe transgression. Paralyze its power over my judgment, conscience, and affections; that the body of sin being destroyed, henceforth I may not serve sin, but be the servant of righteousness.

Great God, preserve the hearts of thy chosen generation from sinful thoughts, words, and actions; and do thou cause them to abound in the fruits of holiness. May thy grace sanctify them by a hope that purifieth, even as Christ is pure; by a love which seeks conformity to thine own image; and by a faith which looks at things that are not seen, and that are eternal.—Make them living epistles, seen and read of all men. Make them the salt of the earth—the means of leading a wicked and perverse generation, by the power of a good example, to glorify their Father in heaven. Gracious Sovereign, enable them to adorn the doctrine of God, their Saviour, in all things. Imbue them with that holiness without which no man can see the Lord.

The Promise of God:

“Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my present only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for *His* good pleasure.”

Philippians 2:12-13

August 21

Call to Worship: Psalm 25:1, 4-5b

“To You, O LORD, I lift up my soul....Show me Your ways, O LORD; teach me Your paths. Lead me in Your truth and teach me, for You *are* the God of my salvation....”

Psalm 61

Scripture Reading:

Ezekiel 47-48
Daniel 1
HCO: Ezra 7-9

Confession of Faith: Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 36. *What are the benefits which in this life do accompany or flow from justification, adoption, and sanctification?*

A. The benefits which in this life do accompany or flow from justification, adoption and sanctification, are, assurance of God's love, peace of conscience, joy in the Holy Ghost, increase of grace, and perseverance therein to the end.

Prayer:

God of Salvation, let me not be of those that draw back unto perdition, but of them that believe unto the saving of the soul. Make me steadfast in the pursuit of knowledge, and performance of duty. Teach me that the race is not to the swift, but to them who cast aside every weight, and the sin that doth so easily beset them; and who look to Jesus, as the Author and Finisher of faith. Blessed be God, the way I am called to run in, is not an unbeaten path; for thy people on earth are now walking in it as the highway to heaven; the saints in glory have followed it unto life eternal; yea, even the High Priest of our profession, Christ the Righteous, hath made it smooth by his glorious footsteps. Lord, give me a warmer zeal, and a holier strength, to run that heavenly road.

O God, set clearly and strongly before my mind, that exceeding and eternal weight of glory, which is laid up for those that endure unto the end. May I so run, that I shall obtain it. Enable me to continue in all things which are written in the book of the law, to do them. O teach me the duty of perseverance, by a conviction of the uncertainty of life. Those servants only shall be blessed, whom when the Lord cometh, he shall find watching.—Give me, I beseech thee, such views of the foes that are within and around me, as shall lead me to continual dependence on thy grace, and unremitting diligence in thy will. Imbue me with courage of mind and strength of heart, to overcome all the hinderances which Satan, or the world, or my own passions, may cast in my way.—Heavenly Father, let nothing be able to separate me from thy love in Christ Jesus. O, love me with an everlasting love. May he that is the Ransom of sinners, save me unto the uttermost. May thy Holy Spirit seal me unto the day of redemption, and be my Comforter, to abide with me forever. And then, in that inheritance which is incorruptible, and that fadeth not away, I will praise thee for the power of thy grace, by which I shall have been kept, through faith, unto salvation.

The Promise of God:

“And the Lord will deliver me from every evil work and preserve *me* for His heavenly kingdom.
To Him *be* glory forever and ever. Amen!”

2 Timothy 4:18

August 22

Call to Worship: Psalm 27:4

“One *thing* I have desired of the LORD, that will I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in His temple.”

Psalm 62

Scripture Reading:

Daniel 2-4
HCO: Ezra 10
Nehemiah 1-2

Confession of Faith: Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 37. *What benefits do believers receive from Christ at death?*

A. The souls of believers are at their death made perfect in holiness, and do immediately pass into glory; and their bodies, being still united to Christ, do rest in their graves till the resurrection.

Prayer:

God of the living, thou hast revealed the doctrine that thou wilt raise these mortal frames, at the day of judgment, from their long decay of death, and make them joint-heirs with our spirits in the retributions of eternity. All that are in the graves shall hear thy voice, and shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.

Lord, I thank thee that our Blessed Saviour became the first-fruits of them that slept; thus setting the seal of heaven to the truth of his gospel, and to the hope of our resurrection. If Christ be not risen, then is our faith vain. But, thanks be to thy name, he has the keys of death, and could not be holden of it: and as we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus, will God bring with him. O may I rejoice in the hope, that though after my skin, worms destroy my body, yet in my flesh, I shall see God, and be forever with the Lord. O grant that when the earth shall cast forth her dead, this corruptible may put on incorruption, and this mortality put on immortality, and be fashioned like unto Christ's glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able to subdue all things to himself.

The Promise of God:

“But now Christ is risen from the dead, *and* has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since by man *came* death, by Man also *came* the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those *who are* Christ's at His coming.”

1 Corinthians 15:20-23

August 23

Call to Worship: Psalm 28:6-7

“Blessed *be* the LORD, because He has heard the voice of my supplications! The LORD *is* my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in Him, and I am helped; therefore my heart greatly rejoices, and with my song I will praise Him.”

Psalm 63

Scripture Reading:

Daniel 5-7
HCO: Nehemiah 3-5

Confession of Faith: Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 38. *What benefits do believers receive from Christ at the resurrection?*

A. At the resurrection, believers, being raised up in glory, shall be openly acknowledged and acquitted in the day of judgment, and made perfectly blessed in the full enjoying of God to all eternity.

Prayer:

O God, Most High, assist my feeble powers to contemplate the bliss of heaven. In that blest land the righteous shall hunger no more; neither thirst any more; and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes. There they shall understand all mysteries and all knowledge. Now they see through a glass darkly; but then they shall see face to face—now they know but in part; but then they shall know even as they are known. There they shall dwell in the city of the living God, the New Jerusalem, with an innumerable company of angels, and spirits of just men made perfect; and shall sing, with unwearied tongues, the new song of praise to the Lamb, who has redeemed them to God by his blood, out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation. There they shall serve God with fulness of joy, holiness of heart, and obedience of will: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them, the Lamb shall feed them, and lead them to living fountains of waters: and thus they shall be forever with the Lord!

I thank thee, O God, that thou hast made known to us the glories of the heavenly state, and that thou hast taught us how we may obtain them. Life and immortality have been brought to light by the gospel; and though the carnal eye hath not seen, nor the ear heard, nor have entered into such heart, the things which thou hast prepared for them that love thee; yet thou hast revealed them to thy children, by thy Spirit, as a foretaste of that glory which shall be made known in the eternal life.—O Lord, shall I be a partaker of that blessedness? Grant that the contemplation of it may make me feel the vanity of earthly things, and lead me to set my affections on things that are heavenly and divine. May I follow after holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord; and seek a building of God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

Lord, grant that visions of heavenly glory may quicken the hopes, and purify the hearts, and animate the zeal of thy chosen people. May they have thy grace in them, as a rich prelude to the joys of everlasting life. May they show by their lives, that here they have no abiding place, no

continuing city; but that they seek a better, even a heavenly.—Lead them, O Lord, while they strive to work out their own salvation, to seek to bring others into the path of eternal life. Make them feel that their own happiness and glory in the future state, will be greatly increased by their turning souls unto righteousness here: for then they shall shine as the brightness of the firmament, and as the stars forever and ever.

Blessed Lord, convince the worldly-minded and sinful, of the depraving and perishing nature of temporal things; and of the exalted and eternal treasures thou hast laid up in the home of the righteous. Induce them, by thy Spirit, to renounce the world, the flesh, and the devil; and to seek that faith in Christ, that purity of heart, and that compliance with thy will, by which they shall be made meet for the inheritance of the saints in light. And to thy name, Father, Son, and Spirit, shall be the glory of their salvation forever.

The Promise of God:

“Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.”

John 17:24

August 24

Call to Worship: Psalm 29:2

“Give unto the LORD the glory due to His name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.”

Psalm 64

Scripture Reading:

Daniel 8-10
HCO: Nehemiah 6-8

Confession of Faith: Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 39. *What is the duty which God requireth of man?*

A. The duty which God requireth of man, is obedience to his revealed will.

Prayer:

Adorable Jehovah, bestow on me, for the merits of thy Son, the spirit of unreserved and fullhearted obedience to thy law. Thou art entitled to the service of all thy creatures. Thou didst form man out of the dust of the ground, and didst give him the breath of life, that he should honour and obey thee. Thou hast preserved his being, and gathered around him the comforts of life, that he should show forth thy praise. And he owes thee allegiance, because thou art the Governor of the universe, having a right to do thy pleasure among the army of heaven and the inhabitants of earth; none of whom can resist thy will, but at the risk of thy sore displeasure. But thou hast strengthened, infinitely, all these claims on his service, by the offer of salvation to a perishing world. Without this there had been no hope of escape from the fruits of disobedience, which had treasured up wrath against the day of wrath. Blessed be thy mercy, that with this precious gift, thou hast not only infinitely increased our obligations, but thou hast actually redeemed unto thyself, a peculiar people, who are zealous of good works. Though thy righteous claims of creation, preservation, and benefaction, have been disregarded, thou hast overcome the rebellion of many of thy creatures, by the controlling influence of a Saviour's love; so that they no longer live unto themselves, but unto him who died for them.

Lord, enable me to present myself to thee, a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable, which is my most reasonable service. Aid me to do thy will in the things which thou hast commanded, and in those which thou hast forbidden. May I fulfil thy commandment out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned. Teach me that whoso keepeth thy word, in him verily is the love of God perfected. O let me not confer with flesh and blood, in reference to the claims of duty. Give me courage to hold forth the word of life in evil report, and in good report. O let my obedience have that symmetry and that fulness, which are found in adding to faith virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly-kindness and charity. Give me patient continuance in well-doing; and cheer me by the hope, that in due season, if I faint not, I shall reap eternal blessedness.

Blessed Sovereign, may thy chosen generation adorn the doctrine of God, their Saviour, in all things. Enable them, by a holy walk, to be the light of the world, and to put to silence the ignorance of foolish men. Make their consciences void of offence toward God and man. May they find that thy yoke is easy and thy burden light. Make them fruitful of every good work; for

thou hast ordained them, that they should go and bring forth fruit; and herein is our Father glorified, that they should bear much fruit. Grant that they may walk worthy of thee, in holiness and righteousness before thee, all the days of their lives. Make them willing, if needs be, to lose life for thy sake and the gospel's; for then they shall find it in life everlasting. And the praise of their service, sanctified by Christ's merits, and accepted through his pleadings, shall be thine forever.

The Promise of God:

“But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues *in it*, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.”

James 1:25

August 25

Call to Worship: Psalm 33:1-3

“Rejoice in the LORD, O you righteous! *For* praise from the upright is beautiful. Praise the LORD with the harp; make melody to Him with an instrument of ten strings. Sing to Him a new song; play skillfully with a shout of joy.”

Psalm 65

Scripture Reading:

Daniel 11-12
Hosea 1
HCO: Nehemiah 9-11

Confession of Faith: Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 40. *What did God at first reveal to man for the rule of his obedience?*

A. The rule which God at first revealed to man for his obedience, was the moral law.

Prayer:

I thank thee, Great God, for that law of nature, impressed on my conscience, by which I am left without excuse, in the transgression of thy will. But I would praise thee still more, that thou hast given me the law of thy word, to convince me of sin, to warn and restrain me, and to lead me in the ways that are well-pleasing in thy sight. Thy commandment, O Lord, is holy, just, and good. Thou art holy; and thy law is perfect, converting the soul—thou art just; wherefore thy judgments are true and righteous altogether—thou art good; and thy statutes rejoice the heart; for in keeping them there is great reward. Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in nowise pass from the law, until all be fulfilled.

Incline me, O Lord, to take heed to my ways, according to thy word. Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law. Make thou thy testimonies my delight and counsellors; my songs in the house of my pilgrimage, and the daily monitors of my conduct. May I make thy will my meditation by day, and my remembrance in the night. Make it a lamp to my feet, and a light to my path; and do thou incline my heart to perform thy statutes always, even to the end. Impress deeply on my mind that solemn truth—whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, is guilty of all.

Lord, teach me that thy commandment is exceeding broad and deep: that it has relation not only to the actions of life, but to the hidden workings of thought and feeling. For though the sound of my lips, and the work of my hands, may be right before men; yet thy statutes may condemn the thoughts of my heart; and I may stand more guilty in thy sight, for secret sin, than for open violations of thy will.

Heavenly Father, let not my regard for thy commandment create within me a spirit of self-righteousness: for in the trial of thy justice, every mouth shall be stopped, and all the world become guilty before God. Make it a schoolmaster to bring me to Christ, as my only hope of justification. May I remember, that while it is the rule of my obedience, it is not the plan of salvation. He who came to fulfil it, is himself the end of the law for righteousness, to every one that believeth.

O Lord, make thy law the sword of the Spirit in thy dealings with the impenitent. May it awaken and alarm their consciences, enlighten and convince their minds, and persuade and sanctify their wills; so that they may be born, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible; by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever.

The Promise of God:

“For the LORD God *is* a sun and shield; The LORD will give grace and glory; No good *thing* will He withhold from those who walk uprightly.”

Psalm 84:11

August 26

Call to Worship: Psalm 34:1

“I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise *shall* continually *be* in my mouth.”

Psalm 66

Scripture Reading:

Hosea 2-4
HCO: Nehemiah 12-13
1 Chronicles 1

Confession of Faith: Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 41. *Wherein is the moral law summarily comprehended?*

A. The moral law is summarily comprehended in the ten commandments.

Prayer:

O Thou Judge of the quick and the dead, make me realize that I am responsible to thee for all my thoughts, words, and actions; and in all my duties and privileges. Thou knowest all the thoughts of my mind, with all the works of my life; and thou makest record of them:—and for all these thou wilt bring me into judgment, whether they be good or evil. Then there shall be nothing that now is covered, that shall not be revealed; and hid, that shall not be made known: and it shall be more tolerable for Sodom and Gomorrah than for my soul, if I fail to serve thee now in reverence and godly fear. For even the earth that drinketh in the rain, that cometh oft upon it, and bringeth forth herbs meet for them by whom it is dressed, receiveth blessing from God; but that which beareth thorns and briers is rejected, and is nigh unto cursing; whose end is to be burned. O let not my stewardship of thy mercies be one of wilful sin, of abused privileges, and neglected duties; but grant that in all things I may strive, in the grace of Christ, to work out my salvation with fear and trembling.

Lord, excite me to diligent labour on behalf of thy church and of sinners. May I feel that I am bound to do good as I have opportunity; looking diligently to the judgment of that day, when the unprofitable servant shall be cast into outer darkness, while he that has been faithful shall enter, through the atonement of Christ, into the joy of his Lord. And unto him that is able to keep me from falling, and to present me faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy; to the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever.

The Promise of God:

“Surely *there is* a reward for the righteous; surely He is God who judges in the earth.”

Psalm 58:11b,c

August 27

Call to Worship: Psalm 42:1-2a

“As the deer pants for the water brooks, so pants my soul for You, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God....”

Psalm 67

Scripture Reading:

Hosea 5-7
HCO: 1 Chronicles 2-4

Confession of Faith: Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 42. *What is the sum of the ten commandments?*

A. The sum of the ten commandments is to love the Lord our God with all our heart, with all our soul, with all our strength, and with all our mind; and our neighbor as ourselves.

Prayer:

Exalted Jehovah, thou art worthy, both by thy nature and dealings, of the strongest love of all thy rational creatures. Thou art perfect in all the attributes of thy character. No ignorance impairs thy wisdom; no error perverts thy justice; no falsehood clouds thy truth; no spot stains thy holiness. Thou art, moreover, merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abundant in goodness. O that the language of my heart might always be—"Whom have I in heaven but thee; and there is none on earth I desire besides thee." Be thou my Alpha and Omega; my morning praise; my noonday thought; my evening prayer; and my waking meditation.

Blessed Jesus, help me that I may love thee with all my heart, and soul, and strength, and mind. I desire to cherish the memory of thine example and instructions, thy benevolence and promises, as the dearest objects of thought. O may my affection for thee urge me to advance thy glory, to desire to be conformed to thine image, to seek communion with thee, and to love thy house, thine ordinances, thy word, and thy people. But let me not think that any strength of attachment can merit thy love to me; for O thine acceptance of my love is one of the crowning gifts of undeserved mercy.

Glorious God, may thy saints bring thee the full tribute of their hearts. Let the constant bearing of their thoughts be unto thee, and the remembrance of thy name. Fill their hearts with gratitude to thee, and lead them to seek thee, with delight, in all the exercises of religion. May they rejoice in thy word, as the index of thy will; and take pleasure in thy people, as the excellent of the earth; and seek the glory of Christ more than the favour of man, or the love of the world.

Lord, bring those who are now at enmity with thee, to esteem and desire thee, as their chief good. Cast out their selfishness and aversion, and take the dominion of their hearts, that they may be able to say, the Lord is their portion, and his love the fulness of their joy.

The Promise of God:

“And the LORD your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your descendants to love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live.”

Deuteronomy 30:6

August 28

Call to Worship: Psalm 43:3-4

“Oh, send out Your light and Your truth! Let them lead me; let them bring me to Your holy hill and to Your tabernacle. Then I will go to the altar of God, to God my exceeding joy; and on the harp I will praise You, O God, my God.”

Psalm 68

Scripture Reading:

Hosea 8-10
HCO: 1 Chronicles 5-7

Confession of Faith: Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 43. *What is the preface to the ten commandments?*

A. The preface to the ten commandments is in these words, *I am the Lord thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.*

Prayer:

Sovereign of the Universe, the heaven of heavens cannot contain thy fulness. Thou art the infinite source of blessedness. Giving doth not impoverish thee, neither doth withholding make thee rich. It is in thee that my weakness is made strength, and the iniquities of my heart removed. O Lord, let a full persuasion of thy boundless sufficiency fill my heart, that I may forsake the broken cisterns of human happiness, and go to the fountain of living waters. All that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine. Be thou more precious to me than music to the ear, or light to the eye, or fragrance to the smell, or sweetness to the taste, or friendship to the heart. Make thy love my continual feast. May I commit all my wants and trials to thee; may I be encouraged in the midst of danger and distress; be persuaded that infinite wisdom and goodness govern all thy dealings; and be led to persevere in faith and prayer, until the vision of hope be exchanged for thine open presence, where there is fulness of joy and pleasures for evermore!

The Promise of God:

“Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me.”
Psalm 50:15

August 29

Call to Worship: Psalm 57:11

“Be exalted, O God, above the heavens; *let Your glory be above all the earth.*”

Psalm 69

Scripture Reading:

Hosea 11-13
HCO: 1 Chronicles 8-10

Confession of Faith: Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 44. *What doth the preface to the ten commandments teach us?*

A. The preface to the ten commandments teacheth us that because God is the Lord, and our God, and Redeemer, therefore we are bound to keep all his commandments.

Prayer:

Lord, I pray thee, through the merits of Jesus Christ, that thou wouldst sanctify my motives. Let my outward conduct be according to righteousness and mercy; but O, do thou make my heart pure in all its promptings towards duty. Dispose me to watch narrowly, lest I make a merit of good works; or perform them to be seen of men, or to advance my selfish interests. Raise me above the love of self, and the desire of applause. Let not my motives, when they are right, be unsteady; but do thou give them such stability as shall cause me to be steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord. Teach me that if my purposes are right in thy sight, O Lord, thou wilt bless me, though thou mayst see fit to deny their accomplishment. Show me that where there is a will to serve thee, it is accepted according to what a man hath, and not according to what a man hath not; for even the widow's mite secured a richer meed of favour, than the expensive gifts of the wealthy; and a cup of cold water given to a disciple, out of love to Jesus, shall in nowise lose its reward. Blessed Lord, make mine eye single, and my heart sincere. May I do good, not to be seen of men, but in the spirit of not letting my left hand know what my right hand doth; for my Father which seeth in secret, will reward me openly. Lord, I would not seek to do thy will merely that I may derive comfort from so doing; but chiefly because it is thy pleasure that I should obey thee, and because it should be my own desire that good may be done, for thy glory and human welfare.

The Promise of God:

““But this *is* the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.””

Jeremiah 31:33

August 30

Call to Worship: Psalm 59:16-17

“But I will sing of Your power; Yes, I will sing aloud of Your mercy in the morning; for You have been my defense and refuge in the day of my trouble. To You, O my Strength, I will sing praises; for God is my defense, my God of mercy.”

Psalm 70

Scripture Reading:

Hosea 14
Joel 1-3
HCO: 1 Chronicles 11-13

Confession of Faith: Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 45. *Which is the first commandment?*

A. The first commandment is, *Thou shalt have no other gods before me.*

Prayer:

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits; for God is love. Thou art good, O Lord, in giving, preserving, and blessing the lives of thy creatures. They are thine offspring, and have their being in thy mercy. The eyes of all are unto thee, and thou givest them their meat in due season: thou openest thy hand, and satisfiest the desires of every living thing. Thou crownest the year with thy goodness, and thy paths drop fatness.—Thou hast shown thy mercy in thy forbearance; for if thou didst mark iniquity, who could stand? Yea, thou art long-suffering, and art not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.—But thou hast exhibited thy goodness, above all, in the gift of thy Son. Thou didst so love the world, as to give him, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life: and thou didst commend thy love to us, in that while we were sinners, Christ died for us. Though we had turned every one to his own way, the Lord laid on him the iniquity of us all.—Blessed God, thou art merciful in the gift of the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make us wise unto salvation—and in the bestowment of that Comforter, whose ministrations are life, because of righteousness.—Even our afflictions have been blessings in disguise; for thou hast chastened us for our profit, that we might be partakers of thy holiness: and though thy chastenings seemed not to be joyous, but grievous, yet afterwards they worked the peaceable fruits of righteousness.—Lo! thou hast made even the sins of thy creatures to work together for good: thou hast made the wrath of man to praise thee: and where sin hath abounded, grace doth much more abound. —Whoso is wise, and will observe these things, even he shall understand the loving-kindness of the Lord!

Heavenly Father, make me feel that I am not worthy of the least of thy mercies, and that I have deserved thy wrath instead of thy kindness. Bind me, I beseech thee, to thee and thy cause, by a strong and an abiding gratitude. Permit me not to forget nor abuse thy mercies. Let them not rise up in judgment against me, either in this world, or in that which is to come. Do thou lead me, O Lord, to imitate thy goodness, by labours of love, and by seeking occasions to do good, in all the relations of life.

Lord, draw all men unto thee by the cords of thy love. May thy kindness lead them to repentance, and to devotion to thy cause. O that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men. His goodness endureth continually, and his mercy is everlasting. Lord let thine abundant grace, through the thanksgiving of many, redound to thy glory.

The Promise of God:

“The fear of the LORD *is* a fountain of life, to turn *one* away from the snares of death.”

Proverbs 14:27

August 31

Call to Worship: Psalm 63:3-5

“Because Your lovingkindness *is* better than life, my lips shall praise You. Thus I will bless You while I live; I will lift up my hands in Your name. My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness, and my mouth shall praise You with joyful lips.”

Psalm 71

Scripture Reading:

Amos 1-3
HCO: 1 Chronicles 14-16

Confession of Faith: Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 46. *What is required in the first commandment?*

A. The first commandment requireth us to know and acknowledge God to be the only true God, and our God; and to worship and glorify him accordingly.

Prayer:

Adorable Jehovah, I would praise thee for thine excellent greatness. Thou dwellest in light that is inaccessible and full of glory: thou coverest thyself with it as with a garment; and thou art clothed with honour and majesty! Thou dwellest on high, and humblest thyself to behold the things that are done in heaven and earth. Thou art infinite, eternal, and unchangeable in thy being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth. Thou art not worshipped as though thou needest any thing; for thou givest unto all, life, and breath, and all things. Yet thou art exalted above principalities and powers, that at thy name every knee should bow, and every tongue confess.

O, thou art infinitely worthy of the everlasting adoration of all thy rational creatures. Thou art glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders. In thee I live, and move, and have my being. From thee I derive every good and perfect gift. It was thy power which created me; it is thy wisdom that governs me; thy goodness that provides for me; and thy grace that saves me. O help me, adorable Jehovah, to feel and express the infinite excellencies of thy character, and to bow before thee as over all, God, blessed forever!

The Promise of God:

“The fear of the LORD *is* the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding....”

Proverbs 9:10

September 1

Call to Worship: Psalm 68:4

“Sing to God, sing praises to His name; extol Him who rides on the clouds, by His name YAH, and rejoice before Him.”

Psalm 72

Scripture Reading:

Amos 4-6
HCO: 1 Chronicles 17-19

Confession of Faith: Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 47. *What is forbidden in the first commandment?*

A. The first commandment forbiddeth the denying, or not worshiping and glorifying the true God as God, and our God; and the giving of that worship and glory to any other, which is due to him alone.

Prayer:

Great God, look in mercy on those who are bowing down to gods which their own hands have made, or worshipping the things thou hast created, and which are dependent on thee for their being. O Lord, further every effort that is made to spread light among the dark places of the earth. May brightness spring up to them that sit in the region and shadow of death. Cause the isles to wait for thy law, and the Gentiles to come to thy light. Bring many from the east and the west, who shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven. Say to the north, "Give up;" and to the south, "Hold not back." Bring thy sons from afar, and thy daughters from the ends of the earth. Make the wilderness and solitary place to be glad; and the desert to rejoice and blossom as the rose.—Lord, teach the heathen that the Godhead is not like unto gold, or silver, or stone; graven by art or man's device. May they learn the folly and wickedness of their worship, and casting their idols to the moles and the bats, honour and serve the living God.—Lord, thou seest that this harvest is plenteous, but the labourers are few. Send forth labourers into it, who shall be the means of dispelling every form of superstition, and spreading the day-spring of thy gospel: until every heart shall be an altar, and every tongue a voice of praise, unto him that sitteth on the throne, and unto the Lamb, forever.

Blessed Lord, keep my own heart from idolatry. Thou art God; and beside thee there is none other. Suffer me not to idolize the world, nor any thing that is in the world. Let no created good supplant thy dominion over my heart. Let no object of affection divert from thee that supreme love which I owe thee, as my Creator, Preserver, and Redeemer. What concord hath Christ with Belial? What agreement should the temple of God have with idols? Be thou to me my all, and in all. Persuade and control my soul to acknowledge thee as the only true God, and my God; and to worship and glorify thee accordingly.

The Promise of God:

“The fear of the LORD prolongs days, but the years of the wicked will be shortened.”
Proverbs 10:27

September 2

Call to Worship: Psalm 69:16, 30

“Here me, O LORD, for Your lovingkindness *is* good; turn to me according to the multitude of Your tender mercies....I will praise the name of God with a song, and will magnify Him with thanksgiving.”

Psalm 73

Scripture Reading:

Amos 7-9
HCO: 1 Chronicles 20-22

Confession of Faith: Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 48. *What are we specially taught by these words before me in the first commandment?*

A. These words *before me* in the first commandment teach us that God, who seeth all things, taketh notice of, and is much displeased with, the sin of having any other god.

Prayer:

Great Fountain of Knowledge, thine understanding is infinite. Thou knowest all things; even the end from the beginning. There is no creature that is not manifest in thy sight. Thou rememberest every thing that has occurred in the history of the wide universe: thou knowest all the open and secret workings of matter and mind, throughout thine unmeasured dominion: even a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without thy notice, and the very hairs of our heads are all numbered: and there is nothing in the countless revolutions of eternity, that is not as visible to thine eye as the light of day!

Lord, thou knowest my down-sitting and mine up-rising; thou art acquainted with all my ways; and thou understandest even my thoughts afar off. If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me"—even the night shall be light about me. O grant me the solemn influence of the truth, that thou knowest the hearts of all men: thou hast indeed searched and known me. May it lead me to worship thee in spirit and in truth; for thou art not deceived, and canst not be mocked. May it restrain me from sin; because there is no darkness nor shadow of death, where the workers of iniquity may hide themselves. And, O, may it be a source of comfort and blessing to me; for thou knowest all my wants, and canst supply them out of thine abundant fulness.

The Promise of God:

“The eyes of the LORD *are* on the righteous, and His ears *are open* to their cry.”

Proverbs 34:15

September 3

Call to Worship: Psalm 71:8, 15, 23

“Let my mouth be filled *with* Your praise *and with* Your glory all the day....My mouth shall tell of Your righteousness *and* Your salvation all the day....My lips shall greatly rejoice when I sing to You, and my soul, which You have redeemed.”

Psalm 74

Scripture Reading:

Obadiah
Jonah 1-2
HCO: 1 Chronicles 23-25

Confession of Faith: Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 49. *Which is the second commandment?*

A. The second commandment is, *Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; and showing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.*

Prayer:

Great Giver of every good and perfect gift, grant me a sanctifying and saving knowledge of thy mercy. Thou art good and gracious; slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy. Yet thou hast a perfect right to withhold it from us—yea, to visit us with unmixed and irretrievable evil, for we are not only unworthy of the least expression of thy goodness, but we have deserved the severe retributions of thy wrath. Nevertheless, thy goodness has pursued us in all the walks of life. It has stayed, or soothed, or healed the inflictions of merited evil; and it has bestowed on us uncounted tokens of unmerited good. When we have been thoughtless of thee, thou hast been mindful of us: when we hated thee, thou hast loved us. Verily, thou art long-suffering, and abundant in compassion. Thou dost not mete unto man evil for evil; but dost crown him with loving-kindness and tender mercy.

O that my memory could retain, and that my heart could properly value, the long catalogue of thine affectionate dealings with me. Thou hast watched over me by night, and guarded me by day; thou hast preserved me in health, and healed me in sickness; thou hast chosen for me the changes of life, and hast suited me to them: and more than all things else, thou hast given our race that mercy of Christ, whereby the dayspring from on high hath visited us, with healing in its beams. Lord, enable me to cherish a suitable estimate of thy goodness. May it lead me to love thee, and to do thy will—may it succour me when I am tempted, and comfort me when I am grieved.—May it strengthen me in the hour of death, and be the song of my rejoicing throughout the ages of eternity.

Compassionate Father, deal not in strict justice with those who are now rejecting thy mercy. Say not in thy wrath, that they shall not enter thy rest. Make them hear thy tender and oft-

repeated entreaties to turn from their wickedness, whilst thou art waiting to be gracious. Display to them the riches and fulness of that compassion, which brings the Sovereign of heaven to plead with them, and to pursue them, in their obstinacy, with so many expressions of love. Extend to them thy golden sceptre of grace, that they may touch it, and live. O, forsake them not; but multiply thy mercies upon them, until their hardness of heart shall be melted down, in humble sorrow and love—until their rebellious wills shall be brought to serve the living and true God.

The Promise of God:

“The way of the LORD *is* strength for the upright, but destruction *will come* to the workers of iniquity.”
Proverbs 10:29

September 4

Call to Worship: Psalm 72:18-19b

“Blessed *be* the LORD God, the God of Israel, Who only does wondrous things! And blessed *be* His glorious name forever! And let the whole earth be filled *with* His glory....”

Psalm 75

Scripture Reading:

Jonah 3-4
Micah 1
HCO: 1 Chronicles 26-28

Confession of Faith: Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 50. *What is required in the second commandment?*

A. The second commandment requireth the receiving, observing, and keeping pure and entire, all such religious worship and ordinances as God hath appointed in his word.

Prayer:

Adorable Jehovah, thou art exalted above principalities and powers, that at thy name every knee should bow, and every tongue confess. All thy works praise thee. Bestow on me, in the name of Jesus, that grace which will qualify me to worship thee in spirit and in truth. Let me not seek to draw nigh to thee with my lips, while my heart is far from thee; nor take the attitude of devotion, while my thoughts wander among the cares and pleasures of life. If the language of insincerity be offensive when offered to a fellow-being, how much more when it is presented to the God of Truth! May strong convictions of thy greatness and presence rest upon me, and make me suitably afraid. Make me feel that I am unworthy of the least of thy mercies, and that if thou wert strict to mark iniquity, I dare not come before thee, but should take up my abode where there is no mercy-seat, and no answer of peace to the cry of despairing want.

Gracious God, let all my approaches to thee be in humble reliance upon the merits of Christ. Give me such an impression of thy goodness, in the bounties of thy providence and the covenant of thy grace, that I shall go to thee with the love and confidence of a child to its father; for if earthly parents know how to give good gifts to their children, much more will our Heavenly Father give his Holy Spirit to them that ask him. Lord, grant me such views of thy character, and of my own wants and those of mankind, as shall dispose me to magnify thy name, with an adoring and grateful spirit, and lead me to seek thy favour by fervent and believing supplication.

Lord, bless the assemblies of thy saints. May reverence, love, and faith, animate their devotions. May thy praise be sung with holy affections; thy favour be sought with believing hearts; thy word be preached in the demonstration of the Spirit, and be heard as a message of divine wisdom and mercy. Bring into thy sanctuaries those who neglect thy worship; and fill thy courts with such as live regardless of thy statutes. Grant, O Lord, that all the solemn feasts of thy house may be seasons of refreshing from thy presence, in which saints shall grow in grace, and many prodigals be brought into the adoption of the sons of God; to the glory of thy mercy in Jesus, both now and forever.

The Promise of God:

“All the earth shall worship You and sing praises to You; they shall sing praises *to* Your name.”

Psalm 66:4

September 5

Call to Worship: Psalm 73:25, 26, 28

“Whom have I in heaven *but You*? And *there is* none upon earth *that* I desire besides You. My flesh and my heart fail; *but God is* the strength of my heart and my portion forever. But *it is* good for me to draw near to God; I have put my trust in the LORD GOD, that I may declare all Your works.”

Psalm 76

Scripture Reading:

Micah 2-4
HCO: 1 Chronicles 29
2 Chronicles 1-2

Confession of Faith: Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 51. *What is forbidden in the second commandment?*

A. The second commandment forbiddeth the worshipping of God by images, or any other way not appointed in his Word.

Prayer:

Lord, preserve me from falsehood. Teach me that it degrades character, injures peace of conscience, subverts the welfare of society, and incurs thy hot displeasure. O make my conscience tender with regard to every violation of truth. Let me not utter falsehood in jest; for thou hast said that for every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account in the day of judgment. Let me not depart from truth, for the love of gain; for the wages of sin is death. Let me not practice deceit, through the fear or favour of man; for his breath is in his nostrils. And, O Lord, let me not be false, with the plea of doing good; for we may not do evil that good may come. Keep me, I pray thee, from every thing which is prejudicial to truth, or injurious to my own or my neighbour's good name. Suffer me not to think, nor act, nor speak deceitfully in any thing.

O Lord, make me, above all, sincere towards thee. Let me not attempt to draw nigh to thee with a lip-service, while my heart is far from thee. Thou searchest the heart, and triest the reins: thou art not deceived, and thou canst not be mocked. May all my homage before thee, spring from a controlling desire to do thy will, which requires truth in the inward parts. O renew my spirit in the likeness of thy Son; who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth.

The Promise of God:

“The LORD *will be* awesome to them, for He will reduce to nothing all the gods of the earth; *people* shall worship Him, each one from his place, indeed all the shores of the nations.”

Zephaniah 2:11

September 6

Call to Worship: Psalm 84:1-2

“How lovely *is* Your tabernacle, O LORD of hosts! My soul longs, yes, even faints for the courts of the LORD; my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God.”

Psalm 77

Scripture Reading:

Micah 5-7
HCO: 2 Chronicles 3-5

Confession of Faith: Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 52. *What are the reasons annexed to the second commandment?*

A. The reasons annexed to the second commandment are, God’s sovereignty over us, his propriety in us, and the zeal he hath to his own worship.

Prayer:

Lord, thou dost according to thy will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of earth; and none can stay thy hand, or say unto thee, “What dost thou?” Thou workest all things after the counsel of thine own will. A man's heart deviseth his way, hut thou directest his steps. Thou hast chosen our inheritance, and determined our changes, and fixed the number of our days. We are in thy hands, as clay in the hands of the potter. — Lord, I would adore the mystery of thy sovereignty in the works of grace. Thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and revealed them unto babes. Thou hast mercy on whom thou wilt have mercy; and whom thou wilt thou hardenest. Even so, Father; for so it seemed good in thy sight.

Great God, I rejoice that thy dominion is built on power and wisdom, righteousness and mercy. Thou alone mayest exercise it; for thou art the Maker, Governor, Benefactor, and Judge of all things. — O do thou work in me, to will and to do, of thy good pleasure. Let me not be the slave of sin, but the servant of Jesus; for his yoke is easy, and his burden is light, to all who put their trust in thee. Thy statutes are right, and thy law is perfect. Because the Lord reigneth, let the earth rejoice; let the multitude of isles be glad thereof. Though clouds and darkness are round about thee, justice and judgment are the habitation of thy throne.

Lord, do good in thy good pleasure unto Zion. Build thou the walls of Jerusalem. Be thou her king, to govern, to defend, and to lead her forward, conquering and to conquer. May that stone which was cut out without hands, become a great mountain, and fill the whole earth.

Sovereign of the Universe, teach all men that it is lawful for thee to do what thou wilt with thine own. Wo unto him that striveth with his Maker. Let the potsherd of the earth strive with the potsherd of the earth; but let not the thing formed say to him that formed it, "Why hast thou made me thus?"—Lord, bring the hearts of the ungodly to bow in quiet and confiding submission to thy will. Make them willing in the day of thy power. May they know that thy dominion will be an everlasting dominion, even though they may never become the subjects of thy heavenly kingdom. Thou makest the wrath of men to praise thee: and when the smoke of their torment ascendeth up forever and ever, then shall be heard the voice of a great multitude, as the voice of many waters, and of mighty thunderings, saying, "Alleluia; for the Lord God,

Omnipotent, reigneth."

The Promise of God:

“As *for* God, His way *is* perfect; the word of the LORD *is* proven; He *is* a shield to all who trust in Him.”

2 Samuel 22:31

September 7

Call to Worship: Psalm 85:8a,b

“I will hear what God the LORD will speak, for He will speak peace to His people and to His saints...”

Psalm 78

Scripture Reading:

Nahum 1-3
HCO: 2 Chronicles 6-8

Confession of Faith: Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 53. *Which is the third commandment?*

A. The third commandment is, *Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain: for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.*

Prayer:

O thou Most High, I would praise thee for thine excellent greatness. The heaven of heavens cannot contain thee. From everlasting to everlasting thou art God. With thee there is no variableness, neither shadow of turning. Thou art infinitely more exalted above us, than we are above the smallest insect of creation. Lord, thou knowest all things: thou art the only wise God, wonderful in counsel, and infinite in knowledge. Thou art able to do, exceeding abundantly, above all that we can think. Thou art of purer eyes, than to behold evil. Justice and judgment are the habitation of thy throne. The works of nature, the movements of providence, and the plan of redemption are full of thy goodness. Thy counsels of old are faithfulness and truth. Lo, all thy ways are perfect!

Lord, grant me such adoring views of thy character, as shall be delightful foretastes of that praise which is the incense of thy worship in heaven. May I rejoice that the government of the world, and of the universe, is in the hands of a perfect being, who will do all things well. Make me esteem thy favour as the highest honour, and the most glorious privilege, which men or angels can enjoy. O may I often set my feeble and corrupt powers in contrast with thine infinite and spotless perfections, that I may thus at once take my place in the dust before thee, and magnify thy great and glorious name.

The Promise of God:

“So the nations shall fear the name of the LORD, and all the kings of the earth Your glory.”

Psalm 102:15

September 8

Call to Worship: Psalm 86:11-12

“Teach me Your way, O LORD; I will walk in Your truth; unite my heart to fear Your name. I will praise You, O LORD my God, with all my heart, and I will glorify Your name forevermore.”

Psalm 79

Scripture Reading:

Habakkuk 1-3
HCO: 2 Chronicles 9-11

Confession of Faith: Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 54. *What is required in the third commandment?*

A. The third commandment requireth the holy and reverent use of God’s names, titles, attributes, ordinances, Word, and works.

Prayer:

Lord God Almighty, thou art glorious in the infinite excellencies of thy character. Thou art everlasting in being, almighty in power, infinite in wisdom, inflexible in justice, eternal in truth, spotless in holiness, and boundless in mercy. Great and marvellous are thy works, just and true are thy ways, thou King of Saints. Who will not fear and glorify thy name? The heavens declare thy glory, and the firmament exhibiteth thy handiwork: day unto day uttereth speech concerning thee, and night unto night showeth knowledge of thee. All thy works praise thee. But it is in the person and work of our blessed Saviour, that thou hast chiefly shown the perfection of thy character, for the adoration and homage of thine intelligent creation. There thou didst make thy richest display of might and knowledge, righteousness and goodness. O, thou art worthy to be held in everlasting honour, that he who was the brightness of the Father's glory, and the express image of his person, was made flesh, and dwelt with us, being in all points tempted as we are; and when he had filled up the measure of his reproach and persecution, gave himself up to an ignominious death, that we might have redemption through his blood, even the remission of sins!

Father in Heaven, hallowed be thy name. O help me to honour thee whenever I contemplate thy works, or thy word, or thy providence. Make me willing to spend my substance, my reputation, my time, and my life itself, to promote the honour of thy name. May I praise thee in my thoughts, and with my lips, and by my life: and whether I eat or drink, or whatsoever I do, may I do all to the glory of God. And do thou shine into my heart to give me the knowledge of thy glory, in the face of Jesus Christ.

Lord, let all thy saints bless thee. Instruct them that their chief end is to glorify thee. Dispose them to show forth the praises of him who hath called them out of darkness into his marvellous light. May they meditate on thy greatness, and talk of thy wondrous works, and honour thy will by acts of holy obedience. Be thou admired in all that believe on thee. Make them the blessed instruments of leading multitudes, who now cast dishonour on thy mercy, to witness and magnify the riches of thy grace.

Father, glorify thy name in turning the wicked from the error of their ways unto the wisdom of the just. O fulfil in all their power and efficacy the messages of the gospel, which are glory to God in the highest; peace on earth, and good-will to men.

The Promise of God:

“Some *trust* in chariots, and some in horses; but we will remember the name of the LORD our God.”

Psalm 20:7

September 9

Call to Worship: Psalm 89:1

“I will sing of the mercies of the LORD forever; with my mouth will I make known Your faithfulness to all generations.”

Psalm 80

Scripture Reading:

Zephaniah 1-3
HCO: 2 Chronicles 12-14

Confession of Faith: Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 55. *What is forbidden in the third commandment?*

A. The third commandment forbiddeth all profaning or abusing of anything whereby God maketh himself known.

Prayer:

Lord, let me not take thy holy name in vain. Keep me from profaning or abusing any thing whereby thou makest thyself known; and lead me into a holy and reverend use of thy names, titles, attributes, ordinances, word, and works.

Suppress, I beseech thee, the profanity which so shamefully abounds in the world. O, I would lament before thee, that because of swearing, the land mourneth. May all who are guilty of this transgression, be persuaded that it is an unprovoked, a wilful, and presumptuous sin against the Most High, whose name is exalted, that every knee should bow, and every tongue confess before him, in the deepest reverence and self-abasement. Thou hast revealed thy name, and character, and dealings, that mankind should praise, and supplicate, and obey thee: but they have, in their madness of heart, made this knowledge the occasion of impious profaneness. Lord, show them that thou wilt not hold those guiltless, who take thy name in vain. They that love cursing, shall be cursed. Adorable Jehovah, give them a speedy repentance and forsaking of their sin. Grant that every tongue which has abused thy majesty, may become a voice of thanksgiving and prayer.

The Promise of God:

“Whoever guards his mouth and tongue keeps his soul from troubles.”

Proverbs 21:23

September 10

Call to Worship: Psalm 91:2

“I will say of the LORD, ‘*He is my refuge and my fortress; my God, in Him I will trust.*’”

Psalm 81

Scripture Reading:

Haggai 1-2
Zechariah 1
HCO: 2 Chronicles 15-17

Confession of Faith: Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 56. *What is the reason annexed to the third commandment?*

A. The reason annexed to the third commandment is that however the breakers of this commandment may escape punishment from men, yet the Lord our God will not suffer them to escape his righteous judgment.

Prayer:

Great God, thou hast appointed unto men once to die, and after this the judgment, when every one of us shall give account of himself to God; and when thou wilt display to an assembled universe, the righteousness of thy justice, and the glory of thy holiness. Of that day and that hour knoweth no man; but it shall be the end of the world, when all the works therein shall be burnt up, the heavens pass away with a great noise, and the elements melt with fervent heat. Lord, make me mindful of that awful day, and of the solemn truths thou hast revealed concerning it. Then the Lord Jesus will come with his holy angels, and sit on his great white throne, and open the books of remembrance—the testimonies of creation, of providence, of scripture, and of conscience. The quick and dead shall stand before him, to be judged out of those things that are written in the books, according to their works, with every secret thing, whether it be good or evil; and also for every thing which thou didst command to be done, but which they left undone. Lord, make me realize that men will then be judged also for the privileges they have enjoyed; for of them unto whom much has been given, much will be required. O, even the best of thy saints will then need the atonement of Christ: they could not stand before thee, if thou shouldst mark their iniquities. But, blessed be thy name, there will be no condemnation to them that are in Christ Jesus: they shall receive the promise of a new heaven and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness. But then the judge will say to them on his left hand—“Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:” and the wicked shall be turned into hell, with all the nations that forget God. O God of infinite compassion, grant that in that fearful day of trial, my name may be found written in the Lamb's book of life, and that my unworthy, hell-deserving spirit may be received, through the merits of Christ, into the habitations of eternal life.

The Promise of God:

“The eyes of the LORD are in every place, keeping watch on the evil and the good.”

Proverbs 15:3

September 11

Call to Worship: Psalm 92:1-2

“*It is good to give thanks to the LORD, and to sing praises to Your name, O Most High; to declare Your lovingkindness in the morning, and Your faithfulness every night...*”

Psalm 82

Scripture Reading:

Zechariah 2-4
HCO: 2 Chronicles 18-20

Confession of Faith: Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 57. *Which is the fourth commandment?*

A. *The fourth commandment is, Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labor, and do all thy work: but the seventh day is the sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: for in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.*

Prayer:

Gracious God, help me to consecrate myself to thee, with full purpose of soul, and with endeavours after new obedience. Make me feel that if I could offer thee a world, and yet hold back the gift of my heart, my oblation would be but a worthless and odious thing in thy sight. Lord, I am thine by creation, and by constant benefaction. O has not Christ died for me, that I should be thine, in the purchase of his atoning blood? Let me, therefore, not live unto myself, but unto him. Enable me to say from my heart, "Here, Lord, I give myself to thee; it is all that I can do." Accept, I pray thee, that offering, in the name of Jesus, the Ransom of sinners.

I would take thee, O Lord, as my portion—thy law as my rule—thy service as my meat and drink—and thy purposes as the ground of my faith and hope. Bring all my expectations, wishes, and intentions into conformity with thy will; and let me live, and move, and have my being in a covenant of full-hearted and never-failing devotion to thee, and the interests of thy kingdom.

The Promise of God:

“And He said to them, ‘The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath. Therefore the Son of Man is also Lord of the Sabbath.’”

Mark 2:27-28

September 12

Call to Worship: Psalm 93:1ab, 2, 5b

“The LORD reigns, He is clothed with majesty; the LORD is clothed, He has girded Himself with strength...Your throne *is* established from of old; You *are* from everlasting...holiness adorns Your house, O LORD, forever.”

Psalm 83

Scripture Reading:

Zechariah 5-7
HCO: 2 Chronicles 21-24

Confession of Faith: Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 58. *What is required in the fourth commandment?*

A. The fourth commandment requireth the keeping holy to God such set times as he hath appointed in his word; expressly one whole day in seven, to be a holy sabbath to himself.

Prayer:

O thou that hearest and answerest prayer for the merits of Jesus, the Heavenly Advocate, give me grace, I beseech thee, to remember the Sabbath-day, to keep it holy. In six days thou didst make heaven, earth, and sea; and didst rest the seventh day: wherefore thou hast blessed the Sabbath, and hallowed it. I thank thee, God of Mercy, for that consecrated season, in which thou givest rest to our wearied natures, and afforest us leisure for reflection on our duties in this world, and our destinies in the world to come. I thank thee for its privileges of praise, of prayer, and of instruction, by which thy saints are built up in faith and zeal, and sinners are brought from the darkness and iniquity of carnal nature, to the light and holiness of heavenly grace. I would praise thee that there still remaineth this rest to the people of God. Thou hast made the Sabbath for man; and thou hast abolished neither its privileges nor its duties; but thou wilt continue them down to the end of the world.

The Promise of God:

“But those who wait on the LORD shall renew *their* strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.”

Isaiah 40:31

September 13

Call to Worship: Psalm 96:1-6

“Oh, sing to the LORD a new song! Sing to the LORD, all the earth. Sing to the LORD, bless His name; proclaim the good news of His salvation from day to day. Declare His glory among the nations, His wonders among all peoples. For the LORD *is* great and greatly to be praised; He *is* to be feared above all gods. For all the gods of the peoples *are* idols, but the LORD made the heavens. Honor and majesty *are* before Him; strength and beauty *are* in His sanctuary.”

Psalm 84

Scripture Reading:

Zechariah 8-10
HCO: 2 Chronicles 25-28

Confession of Faith: Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 59. *Which day of the seven hath God appointed to be the weekly sabbath?*

A. From the beginning of the world to the resurrection of Christ, God appointed the seventh day of the week to be the weekly sabbath; and the first day of the week ever since, to continue to the end of the world, which is the Christian sabbath.

Prayer:

Great God, who hath been thy counsellor, or who hath directed thy judgment? Lo, thou workest all things according to the counsels of thine own will. O Lord, how manifold are thy works; in wisdom thou hast made them all. Thy discerning and directing mind is seen everywhere in the works of thy hands, in the ways of thy providence, and in the government of thy creatures. Thou chooseth thine ends, and framest all thy means according to knowledge. Thy counsels are steadfast, thy thoughts are deep, and thine understanding is infinite.

O Lord, thou hast gathered, as into a radiant focus, the power and glory of thy wisdom, in the work of redemption. Into this the angels desire to look; but they cannot measure its matchless strength and fulness. Herein are those mysteries of thy grace—*God manifest in the flesh—he who knew no sin was made sin for us—while we were sinners Christ died for us—thou canst be just and still be the justifier of him that believeth in Jesus!* O, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God: how unsearchable are his judgments and his ways past finding out!

Omniscient Jehovah, I desire to put all my trust in thee; for thou knowest both how to provide and to deliver. I would acknowledge thee with prayer in all my ways; for thou only canst direct my steps. I would submit to thy will, which is the perfection of reason. And I would adore thee, because thou art infinite, eternal, and unchangeable in thy wisdom!

The Promise of God:

“And it shall come to pass *that* from one New Moon to another, and from one Sabbath to another, all flesh shall come to worship before Me,’ says the LORD.”

Isaiah 66:23

September 14

Call to Worship: Psalm 98:1-2

“Oh, sing to the LORD a new song! For He has done marvelous things; His right hand and His holy arm have gained Him the victory. The LORD has made known His salvation; His righteousness He has revealed in the sight of the nations.”

Psalm 85

Scripture Reading:

Zechariah 11-14
HCO: 2 Chronicles 29-32

Confession of Faith: Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 60. *How is the sabbath to be sanctified?*

A. The sabbath is to be sanctified by a holy resting all that day, even from such worldly employments and recreations as are lawful on other days; and spending the whole time in the public and private exercises of God's worship, except so much as is to be taken up in the works of necessity and mercy.

Prayer:

O that I might always be in the Spirit on the Lord's-day.—May I remember that thou hast given me six days of the week for my own employments, and hast challenged a special ownership of the seventh; and that thou hast given it the sanction of thine own example and blessing. O let me not profane that holy time by idleness; nor by doing that which is in itself sinful; nor by unnecessary thoughts, words, or works, about worldly employments or recreations. May I sanctify it by a holy resting, even from such avocations as are lawful on other days; and spend all its sacred hours in the public and private exercises of God's worship; except so much as may be taken up in the works of necessity and mercy. Let that day ever be a precious occasion, wherein thy love shall be richly manifested to me, and my affections shall hold free, and holy, and rejoicing communion with thy Spirit. May I be prepared by its sanctifying duties and reviving pleasures, for serving thee and mankind better, in all the relations of life. O make it a blessed type of that eternal Sabbath, which is reserved for the pure in heart, in the regions of unmingled bliss.

The Promise of God:

“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

Matthew 6:19-21

September 15

Call to Worship: Psalm 101:1

“I will sing of mercy and justice; to You, O LORD, I will sing praises.”

Psalm 86

Scripture Reading:

Malachi 1-4
HCO: 2 Chronicles 33-36

Confession of Faith: Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 61. *What is forbidden in the fourth commandment?*

A. The fourth commandment forbiddeth the omission or careless performance of the duties required, and the profaning the day by idleness, or doing that which is in itself sinful, or by unnecessary thoughts, words, or works, about our worldly employments or recreations.

Prayer:

Lord, save thy holy day from the desecration which has been so fearfully brought upon it. Thou seest how men pursue on it their carnal pleasures and worldly interests, regardless of thy statutes, and the ultimate welfare of their country, and of mankind. Even those who have made a covenant with thee, to keep thy commandments, sometimes join hand in hand with the ungodly, in these profanations of sacred time. O that thy people would set their faces as flint against these transgressions, and bear the testimony of their voice and conduct against them. Bring not thy wrath upon our land, because its inhabitants make the Sabbath their season of amusement, convenience, and lucre. Teach all men that it is thine imperative will, that they should sanctify that day: and that thou hast judgments in store for its transgressors:—while they who turn away their feet from polluting it, and from doing their pleasure on it, and shall call the Sabbath a delight, the holy of the Lord, honourable; and shall honour thee, not doing their own ways, nor finding their own pleasure, nor speaking their own words—they shall ride upon the high places of the earth, and shall be fed with the heritage of Jacob; for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it!

The Promise of God:

“Delight yourself also in the LORD, and He shall give you the desires of your heart.”

Psalm 37:4

September 16

Call to Worship: Psalm 103:1

“Bless the LORD, O my soul; and all that is within me, *bless* His holy name!”

Psalm 87

Scripture Reading:

Matthew 1-3

Confession of Faith: Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 62. *What are the reasons annexed to the fourth commandment?*

A. The reasons annexed to the fourth commandment are, God's allowing us six days of the week for our own employments, his challenging a special propriety in the seventh, his own example, and his blessing the sabbath day.

Prayer:

O Most High, enable me to deny myself, to take up my cross daily, and to follow my blessed Saviour; who, though he had shared with the Father, the glory from the beginning, yet made himself of no reputation; and though he had all power in heaven and earth, took upon him the form of a servant, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

Lord, grant me the spirit of self-denial in what I eat and drink, and wherewithal I am clothed. Let me not be a lover of pleasure more than a lover of God. Make me temperate in every lawful pursuit. Help me to abstain from fleshly lusts that war against the soul. May I forsake uncleanness of thought, word, and action. Turn me away from the love of money, which is the root of all evil. Give me grace to stifle my desires for the praise of men, whose favour is indeed deceitful. Raise me above the fear of man, that bringeth a snare. Assist me, I beseech thee, to overcome my temptations to display and to self-righteousness; and let me count all things but loss, that I may be found in Christ, with that righteousness which is of God, by faith. Make me willing to give up every thing which will come in competition with the interests of my soul, or the welfare of thy kingdom. Yea, let me not count my life dear to myself, if I may avoid that which is evil, and cleave to that which is right: for whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but he that loseth his life for thy sake, shall find it.

The Promise of God:

“Thus says the LORD: ‘Keep justice, and do righteousness, for My salvation *is* about to come, and My righteousness to be revealed. Blessed *is* the man *who* does this, and the son of man *who* lays hold on it; who keeps from defiling the Sabbath, and keeps his hand from doing any evil.’”

Isaiah 56:1-2

September 17

Call to Worship: Psalm 104:1,33-34

“Bless the LORD, O my soul! O LORD my God, You are very great; You are clothed with honor and majesty....I will sing to the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have my being. May my meditation be sweet to Him; I will be glad in the LORD.”

Psalm 88

Scripture Reading:

Matthew 4-6

Confession of Faith: Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 63. *Which is the fifth commandment?*

A. The fifth commandment is, *Honor thy father and thy mother; that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.*

Prayer:

Lord, bless all the households of the earth. Thou art worthy to be praised for the institution of the family relation, in which thou hast blended the sweet influences of support and dependence, protection and control, love and obedience; which are essential to the comfort and virtue of individual being, and the safety and purity of social life. Fulfil, I pray thee, all the purposes of mercy thou hadst in view, in the establishment of the domestic constitution; and do thou make all the homes of earth households of piety.

Lord, let mutual attachment, counsel, and assistance, and love to God, be the bonds of union between every husband and wife. Give to parents an adequate sense of the responsibility thou hast laid on them, to train up their offspring in knowledge, industry, and virtue. Cause them to teach thy words diligently to their children; and to talk of thy statutes when they sit in their house, when they walk by the way, when they lie down, and when they rise up. Show them that the rod and reproof give wisdom; but a child, left to himself, bringeth shame. Make them wise to discern, and faithful to execute, those measures, which will secure, with thy blessing, domestic happiness and piety. O let an altar, for daily sacrifice, be raised in every dwelling to consecrate its pleasures, and to obtain thy favour.

Heavenly Father, dispose children everywhere to obey their parents, in the Lord. Let them not, by unkindness and disobedience, bring shame or sorrow to the hearts of fathers and mothers; nor draw down disgrace or misery on their own heads, though they can never requite the care and labour that have been bestowed on them; yet may they by reverent affection and dutiful service, minister to the comfort and well-being of their parents. And O do thou gladden the hearts of such, by bringing their offspring into the adoption of the sons of God.

Lord, cause the relations of brothers and sisters to be distinguished by forbearance, conciliation, assistance, and love: and let all their reciprocal ties be purified and cemented by the friendship of him that sticketh closer than a brother.

O do thou secure for those that are servants, justice and kindness from their superiors. Teach

them the duties of their station; and incline them to discharge every lawful labour with cheerful fidelity. Make them realize thine own claims on their obedience; and incline them to fulfil, with all their strength, the service of their heavenly Master.

Gracious God, make the domestic circle the dwelling-place of every thing that is pure, and lovely, and of good report. Make it the cradle of the household of faith, and the nursery of the brotherhood of glory.

The Promise of God:

“My son, do not forget my law, but let your heart keep my commands; for length of days and long life and peace they will add to you.”

Proverbs 3:1-2

September 18

Call to Worship: Psalm 105:1-5

“Oh, give thanks to the LORD! Call upon His name; make known His deeds among the peoples! Sing to Him, sing psalms to Him; talk of all His wondrous works! Glory in His holy name; let the hearts of those rejoice who seek the LORD! Seek the LORD and His strength; seek His face evermore! Remember His marvelous works which He has done, His wonders, and the judgments of His mouth....”

Psalm 89

Scripture Reading:

Matthew 7-9

Confession of Faith: Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 64. *What is required in the fifth commandment?*

A. The fifth commandment requireth the preserving the honor, and performing the duties, belonging to every one in their several places and relations, as superiors, inferiors or equals.

Prayer:

Eternal God, O may my daily and hourly inquiry be, "What wilt thou have me to do?" Instruct me that the duty which thou requirest of me, is obedience to thy revealed will. Help me, I pray thee, to discharge all my obligations to thee, to myself, and to my fellow-creatures.

May I love thee with all my soul, and mind, and strength, and heart. Dispose me to submit to thy will; to love thy character; to trust in thy name; and to fear thine excellent greatness. May I regard thee as, through Christ, the object of prayer, and the rewarder of them who diligently seek thee. Help me, I pray thee, to worship thee, who art a Spirit, in spirit and in truth.

Lord, enable me, by thy Spirit, to do my duty to myself. May I exercise faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and repentance unto life; and make a diligent use of all the outward and ordinary means whereby Christ communicates unto us the benefits of redemption. May I work out my salvation with fear and trembling, knowing that it is God that worketh in me, to will and to do of his own good pleasure.

Assist me, O Lord, to perform all the duties, social, civil, and religious, which I owe to my fellow-creatures. May my conduct to them be governed by that spirit of charity which excludes anger, revenge, censoriousness, prejudice, injury, and oppression. Make me averse to injure the feelings, persons, property and character of any. May I delight in the happiness of others. Make my heart a well-spring of sympathy, compassion, and liberality; and lead me to spend cheerfully my property, my time, and, if needs be, my life, in works of mercy and justice. Enable me to fulfil all my relations as a superior, an inferior, and an equal.

Lord, I thank thee for the encouragements thou art giving, in the course of thy providence, to religious effort, by making rich with thy blessing those who are diligent in thy cause. Yet, I would feel that while these things are to be remembered with thankfulness, they increase my obligation to labour, that I may return thine own to thee with abundant usury.—Strengthen me, I pray thee, to do thy will, while it is called to-day—to do it with my might, and with perseverance therein to the end—even as thine angels do it in heaven.

Lord, I would offer these and all other petitions through him who is the Prophet, Priest, and King of the whole Israel of God; and without whose merits and intercessions, all my services would be without hope or profit.

The Promise of God:

“The wicked *man* does deceptive work, but he who sows righteousness *will have* a sure reward.”
Proverbs 11:18

September 19

Call to Worship: Psalm 106:1

“Praise the LORD! Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for *He is good!* For His mercy *endures forever!*”

Psalm 90

Scripture Reading:

Matthew 10-12

Confession of Faith: Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 65. *What is forbidden in the fifth commandment?*

A. The fifth commandment forbiddeth the neglecting of, or doing anything against, the honor and duty which belongeth to every one in their several places and relations.

Prayer:

Great Sovereign, let not my motives nor conduct be governed by selfishness. Teach me that this principle is the original and deep-rooted sin of my nature. O how has it exalted self above all other creatures, and above God himself! How has it filled the world, in all the length of its history, with pride, self-indulgence, contention, cruelty, and death.—Lord, suffer me not to setup my judgment against thy wisdom, nor my desires against thy will. Show me that thy will is the supreme law of both duty and happiness. Keep me from seeking my own interests heedlessly, or at the expense of the welfare of others. Make me realize that I am but a unit among the multitudes of thy rational creatures, each of whom has the same deep stake with myself, in the pursuit of comfort and well-being. Thou hast said that he who would follow Jesus, must deny himself. Keep me from the character and woe of those that covet an evil covetousness, and who would grow rich in pleasure and worldly good, at the cost of the humble and needy. O let me not exclude myself from thy love, nor dishonour humanity, by shutting up my feelings of compassion at the cry of want or misery. Give me that charity that seeketh not her own, that goeth about doing good, even as did our Lord and Master.

Lord, preserve me from selfishness in the pursuits of religion. Though thou hast enjoined on me the most diligent efforts for growth in grace and personal salvation, thou hast laid necessity upon me, to spread the gospel among the destitute, and to warn souls from the broad way of death, and win them to the narrow path of life. O help me so to blend my duties to myself and my neighbour, that we together may be partners of thy fellowship on earth, and joint-heirs of thy communion in heaven.

The Promise of God:

“For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works.”

Matthew 16:27

September 20

Call to Worship: Psalm 107:1

“Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for *He is good!* For His mercy *endures* forever.”

Psalm 91

Scripture Reading:

Matthew 13-15

Confession of Faith: Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 66. *What is the reason annexed to the fifth commandment?*

A. The reason annexed to the fifth commandment is a promise of long life and prosperity (as far as it shall serve for God's glory and their own good) to all such as keep this commandment.

Prayer:

Lord, if it please thee to bestow abundance on me, enable me to use it, not in fulfilling the lust of the flesh, but for thy glory and the good of man. If riches increase, let me not set my heart upon them. Make me willing to surrender them at thy call. May I remember that the duration of their enjoyment must at best be short; that their pleasures are mixed with vanity and vexation of spirit; and that thou wilt judge men according to the plenty they enjoy from thee. O give me such views of thy better inheritance, as shall preserve me from the thralldom of those vices which spring from a prosperous life. Give such strength to my hope of the eternal weight of glory, that all the enjoyments of earth shall be barren and tasteless in the infinite contrast. O make me ever mindful of the solemn warning, “How hardly shall they that have riches, enter into the kingdom of God!”

God of Beneficence, enlarge the souls of those on whom thou hast cast the mantle of plenty. May they bless the Lord, and forget not all his benefits. Make them rich in good works, and ready to distribute, according as thou hast prospered them. Teach them that the silver and the gold are thine, and make them the stewards of thy bounty—willing instruments in sustaining and enlarging every work of faith and labour of love. Give them grace to lay up treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not corrupt, and where thieves cannot break through and steal.

The Promise of God:

“Only be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go.”

Joshua 1:7

September 21

Call to Worship: Psalm 108:1-5

“O God, my heart is steadfast; I will sing and give praise, even with my glory. Awake, lute and harp! I will awaken the dawn. I will praise You, O LORD, among the peoples, and I will sing praises to You among the nations. For Your mercy *is* great above the heavens, and Your truth *reaches* to the clouds. Be exalted, O God, above the heavens, and Your glory above all the earth....”

Psalm 92

Scripture Reading:

Matthew 16-18

Confession of Faith: Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 67. *Which is the sixth commandment?*

A. The sixth commandment is, *Thou shalt not kill.*

Prayer:

Lord, keep my heart from the occasional or frequent influence of malice. Let no rivalry and no sense of injury, ever excite me to feelings or acts of malignity. O how infinitely is such a temper opposed to thy holiness; and how nearly does it approach to the hatred which fills the bosoms of the damned!—Blessed Jesus, bring me into closer likeness to thy precious example. Thou didst not render railing for railing, nor evil for evil; but contrariwise, blessing. O give me, I pray thee, that spirit of love which worketh no ill to its neighbour; and which looks on the earth, in all its length and breadth, as one neighbourhood—and on all its diversified races, as one brotherhood of man.

The Promise of God:

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.”

Matthew 5:9

September 22

Call to Worship: Psalm 111:3-5

“The works of the LORD *are* great, studied by all who have pleasure in them. His work *is* honorable and glorious, and His righteousness endures forever. He has made His wonderful works to be remembered; the LORD *is* gracious and full of compassion, He has given food to those who fear Him; He will ever be mindful of His covenant.”

Psalm 93

Scripture Reading:

Matthew 19-21

Confession of Faith: Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 68. *What is required in the sixth commandment?*

A. The sixth commandment requireth all lawful endeavors to preserve our own life, and the life of others.

Prayer:

Giver of all Good, grant me that fruit of the Spirit which is love. May this be the element where my soul will live, and move, and have its being. O, may I feel that if I could speak with the tongues of men and angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass or a tinkling cymbal: though I should bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.

Lord, grant that thy holy commandment, and the countless examples of thy good-will, and the various wants of my fellow-creatures, may be heart-stirring motives to this law of kindness. And especially may the love of Christ constrain me to love my neighbour as myself. Make it a bond of perfectness, and the end of the commandment; springing out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned. May this grace preserve me from envy, censoriousness, and ill-will, and so mould my temper and character, that I shall be meek and forbearing, disinterested and self-denying, and steadfast and kind in all my intercourse with mankind. Blessed God, let it not be bounded by narrow limits, but be as expansive as the length and breadth of the world, and take into the bosom of its sympathies the whole family of man.

O thou, Sovereign of Destinies, hasten that time when charity shall fill the hearts and control the conduct of all men; when anger, and malice, and revenge shall have fled away forever; when nations shall learn war no more, and Jesus, the Prince of Peace, shall reign over an undisturbed empire of love.

The Promise of God:

“The LORD shall preserve you from all evil; He shall preserve your soul. The LORD shall preserve your going out and your coming in from this time forth, and even forevermore.”

Psalm 121:7-8

September 23

Call to Worship: Psalm 113:2-3

“Blessed be the name of the LORD from this time forth and forevermore! From the rising of the sun to its going down the LORD’s name *is* to be praised.”

Psalm 94

Scripture Reading:

Matthew 22-24

Confession of Faith: Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 69. *What is forbidden in the sixth commandment?*

A. The sixth commandment forbiddeth the taking away of our own life, or the life of our neighbor, unjustly, or whatsoever tendeth thereunto.

Prayer:

Lord, strengthen me by thy grace, that I may restrain and conquer my propensities to unholy anger. Let it not cloud my brow, nor envenom my tongue, nor vex my heart. Let gentleness, courtesy, and kindness spread themselves, like the green covering of earth, over my character and conduct. Teach me that he who ruleth his own spirit is greater than he who taketh a city; and that he who is hasty of spirit exalteth folly, and shall suffer punishment. Show me that a soft answer turneth away wrath, but grievous words stir up strife. He that soweth to the wind shall reap the whirlwind; but the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace. May I consider him who endured the contradiction of sinners, and seek not to avenge myself, but rather give place to wrath. Let me do nothing in rashness and strife. Enable me, in the exercise of candour, forbearance, meekness, and forgiveness, to disarm every temptation to sinful passion, and to cause the wrath of my adversaries to praise thee.

Source of Wisdom, instruct me how I may be angry and sin not. Let me not be indignant without cause and above cause. Give me a holy displeasure against transgression; but let it be mingled with a reclaiming pity towards the transgressor; and be exercised for his good and thy glory.

The Promise of God:

“Cease from anger, and forsake wrath; do not fret-*it* only *causes* harm. For evildoers shall be cut off; but those who wait on the LORD, they shall inherit the earth. For yet a little while and the wicked *shall be no more*; indeed, you will look carefully for his place, but it *shall be no more*.

But the meek shall inherit the earth, and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace.”

Psalm 37:8-11

September 24

Call to Worship: Psalm 118:1,14, 28

“Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for *He is* good! For His mercy endures forever....The LORD *is* my strength and song, and He has become my salvation....You *are* my God, and I will praise You; *You are* my God, I will exalt You.”

Psalm 95

Scripture Reading:

Matthew 25-27

Confession of Faith: Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 70. *Which is the seventh commandment?*

A. The seventh commandment is, *Thou shalt not commit adultery.*

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, grant me, in the name of Jesus, that spiritual mind which is life and peace. Let not my heart be troubled nor careful about the things of this world; but let it choose that better part, which cannot be taken from me. May I regard the blessing of thy favour infinitely above any and all earthly good. Incline me to find my pleasure in the services of thy kingdom, and not in the debasements of sense. Purify my motives, and make the objects of my desires such as shall be in harmony with the teachings of the Holy Ghost.—Lord, fill my soul with those spiritual joys which raise the heart above the pleasures, honours and riches of the world; which throw the gladness of hope over earth's darkest scenes; and which are sweet foretastes of the happiness of that land of spirits, where formality, and sense, and sin, shall give place to sincerity, devotion, and holiness.

The Promise of God:

“Oh, love the LORD, all you His saints! *For* the LORD preserves the faithful, and fully repays the proud person. Be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart, all you who hope in the LORD.”

Psalm 31:23-24

September 25

Call to Worship: Psalm 119:7, 10, 12, 108

“I will praise You with uprightness of heart, when I learn Your righteous judgments....With my whole heart I have sought You; oh, let me not wander from Your commandments....Blessed *are* You, O LORD! Teach me Your statutes....Accept, I pray, the freewill offerings of my mouth, O LORD, and teach me Your judgments.”

Psalm 96

Scripture Reading:

Matthew 28

Mark 1-2

Confession of Faith: Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 71. *What is required in the seventh commandment?*

A. The seventh commandment requireth the preservation of our own and our neighbor's chastity, in heart, speech, and behavior.

Prayer:

Heavenly Parent, thou hast shown both thy wisdom and goodness in the institution of marriage. Thou hast sought by it to increase the happiness and promote the virtue of mankind. The works of thy creation, though good in thy sight, were unfinished, while man dwelt alone; and thy last and best gift to earth, was she that should be a fountain of joy, a partner of pleasure, and a solace of sorrow. Lord, teach all men that this relation of life is still (and must be throughout the annals of time) identified with the comfort and welfare of our race. O let none with ruthless and impious hand, undermine nor overthrow this ordinance of God; but may all regard and sustain it as the safeguard of purity, the pledge of social bliss, and the bond of public good.

Lord, reform the opinions and correct the practice of Christians in relation to unhallowed marriages. Let none such be unequally yoked with unbelievers. May they marry only in the Lord. Show them that those who ally themselves in sacred ties with the ungodly, rebel against the will of God, cast snares and unhappiness in their way through life, and fearfully hinder the grace of God in their own hearts.

Lord, govern by the dictates of affection, prudence, and piety, those who would enter on the duties and pleasures of matrimony.—Bless all who have embarked on them. May their relations be characterized by mutual love, esteem, forbearance, assistance, and sympathy. May the same sincere, ardent, unchangeable, protecting, and providing love, which the Saviour manifests to his spouse, the church, be shown by the husband to his wife. And do thou direct her conduct to him in subjection, reverence, prudence, and love. Lord, make their union conducive to every rational good of human life. Let it be an emblem of the union between Christ and his church; that they may walk in all the statutes and ordinances of the Lord, blameless, and be made mutual helpers in the fellowship of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

The Promise of God:

“Blessed *are* the pure in heart, for they shall see God.”
Matthew 5:8

September 26

Call to Worship: Psalm 136:1-4, 26

“Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for *He* is good! For His mercy *endures* forever. Oh, give thanks to the God of gods! For His mercy *endures* forever. Oh, give thanks to the Lord of lords! For His mercy *endures* forever: to Him who alone does great wonders, for His mercy *endures* forever....Oh, give thanks to the God of heaven! For His mercy *endures* forever.”

Psalm 97

Scripture Reading:

Mark 3-5

Confession of Faith: Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 72. *What is forbidden in the seventh commandment?*

A. The seventh commandment forbiddeth all unchaste thoughts, words, and actions.

Prayer:

Preserve me, O Holy One, from impurity in thought, in word, and in action. Grant that a sense of thy holiness and thine omniscience may so rest upon me, that I may walk in the Spirit, and not fulfil the lusts of the flesh. May I set a watch upon my lips, that no double meaning nor corrupt communication may proceed out of my mouth; and suffer me not to take pleasure in, but to abhor and turn away from, the language of indelicacy and lasciviousness on the tongues of others. Help me to make a covenant with my eyes, that they may not dwell on unlawful objects, nor pamper forbidden wishes. Throw a guard round my heart, that it may not devise wicked imaginations. Teach me to loathe and flee from these beginnings of evil, which debase the spirit, enfeeble the mind, and drown the soul in perdition. Enable me to put away uncleanness, and to glorify thee in my body and spirit, which are thine.

God of Justice, enter not into judgment with our land for the foul impurity which covers it. If thou wert strict to mark its iniquity, thou wouldst bring over it the besom of desolation, and make it a monument of reproach. O lead us, in thy mercy, to the use of such measures as shall subvert the dominion of licentiousness, and establish purity of heart, speech, and conduct. Lord, thou knowest whether the means which have been employed, by social and open action, for the suppression of that destroying vice, are according to thy holy will. If they are, O give them abundant success. But if they are not, cause them to be laid aside, and teach thy people what they may do that will secure thy blessing. Correct, elevate, and inform public opinion in relation to the destroying evils of lewdness. Put under the ban of universal condemnation the unchaste word, the licentious song, the impure page, the lascivious dance, and the dissolute play-house. Make the libertine a scorn and reproach in every society. O preserve those who are still pure; and let them not go down the pathways of disgrace and destruction. Convince and alarm those whose name is clean in the eyes of the world, but whose thoughts cherish unholy emotions, and whose hearts work uncleanness greedily. Recover those who have listened to the song of the syren, and who go as a bird hasteth to the snare, and knoweth not that it is for his life: who think not that many strong men have been slain by her, and that her house is the chambers of death, and that her guests are in the depths of hell. Cleanse our land and the world from this vile leprosy which

destroys health, and happiness, and virtue: and bring over it a reformation that shall be total abstinence from impurity of every name.

The Promise of God:

“Truly God *is* good to Israel, to such as are pure in heart.”

Psalm 73:1

September 27

Call to Worship: Psalm 138:1a, 2c

“I will praise You with my whole heart...for Your lovingkindness and Your truth....”

Psalm 98

Scripture Reading:

Mark 6-8

Confession of Faith: Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 73. *Which is the eighth commandment?*

A. The eighth commandment is, *Thou shalt not steal.*

Prayer:

Gracious God, I would bless thee that thou carest for the wants of this perishing body; and that thou permittest me to ask thee for my daily bread. Herein thou hast shown both thy condescension and thy love; and hast taught me my dependence on thee, and warned me against undue anxiety respecting the future. I confess before thee, that I am prone to neglect the duty of desiring and seeking, as the gifts of thy hands, my food, and all my temporal comforts. And in receiving them, how often do I fail to acknowledge thy providing and nourishing goodness! O lead me constantly to look to thee, as willing to give to all their meat in due season; and dispose me to receive always thy benefits with humility and thanksgiving.

Lord, suffer not my appetite to crave luxury. May I seek such provision as will recruit and strengthen my body. Let my steadfast desire be, that I may be fitted by thy sustaining mercies, for thy service: so that whether I eat or drink, I may do all to the glory of God.

Teach me, for Jesus' sake, that man liveth not by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. Let me esteem thy words more than my necessary food. Let me not take thought what I shall eat or drink, or wherewithal I shall be clothed; but cause me to seek first thy righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto me. Lord, feed me with heavenly manna. Give me the Bread of Life; that I may eat and live forever.

The Promise of God:

“Wealth *gained* by dishonesty will be diminished, but he who gathers by labor will increase.”

Proverbs 13:11

September 28

Call to Worship: Psalm 144:1a, 2abc

“Blessed *be* the LORD my Rock...my lovingkindness and my fortress, my high tower and my deliverer, my shield and *the One* in whom I take refuge....”

Psalm 99

Scripture Reading:

Mark 9-11

Confession of Faith: Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 74. *What is required in the eighth commandment?*

A. The eighth commandment requireth the lawful procuring and furthering the wealth and outward estate of ourselves and others.

Prayer:

Lord, dispose me to render to all their dues. Implant such a sense of justice in my bosom, that I shall willingly give to my fellow-creatures, of every rank, all their lawful and moral rights. Let not selfishness exalt itself against the dictates of integrity; nor covetousness violate the duties of uprightness. Rebuke in me that love of lucre, whether it be in small things or in great, which would lead me to forego the demands of rectitude for the desires of dishonesty. Grant me, if it seem good to thee, that moderate competence, and contentment with it, which will raise me above the temptations of poverty. But do thou assure me, that the wealth, which I sometimes covet, neither satisfies the soul, nor elevates its sense of justice, but begets raging desire and clamorous injustice.

Heavenly Father, make me prompt in the discharge of my obligations; especially to the poor. Let me owe no man any thing, without his cheerful consent. Or if misfortune or disappointment deny me the present ability to discharge the claims of creditors, let no evasive plea nor legal subterfuge release me from the conviction of indebtedness, and the purpose of recompense. Great God, may I remember the wo of him that buildeth his house by unrighteousness, and his chambers by wrong; and the reward of him that walketh righteously, and despiseth the gain of oppressions, and shaketh his hand from holding bribes—he shall dwell on high; his defence shall be the munitions of rocks; bread shall be given him; his water shall be sure; his name shall be as ointment poured forth, and his memory shall be blessed.

The Promise of God:

“The soul of a lazy *man* desires, and *has* nothing; but the soul of the diligent shall be made rich.”

Proverbs 13:4

September 29

Call to Worship: Psalm 145:1-3

“I will extol You, my God, O King; and I will bless Your name forever and ever. Every day I will bless You, and I will praise Your name forever and ever. Great *is* the LORD, and greatly to be praised; and His greatness *is* unsearchable.”

Psalm 100

Scripture Reading:

Mark 12-14

Confession of Faith: Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 75. *What is forbidden in the eighth commandment?*

A. The eighth commandment forbiddeth whatsoever doth, or may, unjustly hinder our own, or our neighbor's, wealth or outward estate.

Prayer:

Blessed God, cause all dishonesty to cease from the face of the earth. Let men no longer unjustly hinder their neighbour's wealth or outward estate. Destroy that spirit of covetousness which urges mankind to fraud, robbery, and oppression, and to be partakers of unholy gain. Do thou cause the principles of strict and impartial honesty to govern the relations of commerce, and of master and servant. Give currency and influence, I pray thee, to that blessed rule, of doing unto others as we would they should do unto us.

Lord keep me from indulging in any form of dishonesty. Make me just to all the lawful interests of my fellows. Let me never desire to increase my own substance at their expense; nor to withhold from any, however humble or unworthy, the debts of justice and humanity. Incline me always to rejoice in the good of my neighbour, and to walk uprightly and work righteousness.

The Promise of God:

“There is *one* who scatters, yet increases more; and there is *one* who withholds more than is right, but it *leads* to poverty. The generous soul will be made rich, and he who waters will also be watered himself.”

Proverbs 11:24-25

September 30

Call to Worship: Psalm 146:1-2

“Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD, O my soul! While I live I will praise the LORD; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.”

Psalm 101

Scripture Reading:

Mark 15-16
Luke 1

Confession of Faith: Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 76. *Which is the ninth commandment?*

A. The ninth commandment is, *Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.*

Prayer:

Lord, preserve me from falsehood. Teach me that it degrades character, injures peace of conscience, subverts the welfare of society, and incurs thy hot displeasure. O make my conscience tender with regard to every violation of truth. Let me not utter falsehood in jest; for thou hast said that for every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account in the day of judgment. Let me not depart from truth for the love of gain; for the wages of sin is death. Let me not practice deceit through the fear or favour of man; for his breath is in his nostrils. And, O Lord, let me not be false with the plea of doing good; for we may not do evil that good may come. Keep me, I pray thee, from every thing which is prejudicial to truth, or injurious to my own or my neighbour's good name. Suffer me not to think, nor act, nor speak deceitfully in any thing.

O Lord, make me, above all, sincere towards thee. Let me not attempt to draw nigh to thee with a lip-service, while my heart is far from thee. Thou searchest the heart, and triest the reins: thou art not deceived, and thou canst not be mocked. May all my homage before thee spring from a controlling desire to do thy will, which requires truth in the inward parts. O renew my spirit in the likeness of thy Son; who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth.

The Promise of God:

“The LORD *is* near to all who call upon Him, to all who call upon Him in truth.”

Psalm 145:18

October 1

Call to Worship: Psalm 150:1a, 2

“Praise the LORD!...Praise Him for His mighty acts; praise Him according to His excellent greatness!”

Psalm 102

Scripture Reading:

Luke 2-4

Confession of Faith: Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 77. *What is required in the ninth commandment?*

A. The ninth commandment requireth the maintaining and promoting of truth between man and man, and of our own and our neighbor’s good name, especially in witness bearing.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, dispel every form of error by the power of uncorrupted truth. Lord, thy word is truth. Give it, therefore, free course that it may be glorified in redeeming the corrupt and wandering minds of men from the deceptions of prejudice and error. Bring all mankind to a knowledge of it, and especially of the truth as it is in Jesus, which only is able to make them wise unto salvation. Instruct them in that mystery, which was hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to the saints; which is Christ, in them, the hope of glory.

Lord, assist me to love thy truth and to seek its promotion, even though it may cover me with rebuke and shame. May it turn me from every refuge of lies, and bring me to trust in thee with all my heart. May sincerity dwell in my soul, and truth have its image in my heart, and verity be found on my lips. Teach me to abhor deceit in every possible form. May I remember that nothing can enter the holy city that maketh or loveth a lie; and that the lip of truth shall be established forever.

Great God, thou art the fountain of untarnished truth, and with thee there is no variableness, nor shadow of turning. No form of deceit has ever cast a stain on the purity of thy purposes and dealings. Though the mountains depart and the hills be removed, thy kindness doth not depart from thee; neither is the covenant of thy peace removed. Thy word is the counsels of faithfulness; thy promises are all Yea and Amen; and thy threatenings, though they be not speedily executed, shall be fulfilled in righteousness. O Lord, give me such a persuasion of thy faithfulness as shall encourage and strengthen my heart in every endurance of trial, and in every performance of duty. Help me to commit the keeping of my soul unto thee, in well-doing, as unto a faithful Creator.

The Promise of God:

“A true witness delivers souls, but a deceitful *witness* speaks lies.”

Proverbs 14:25

October 2

Call to Worship: Psalm 5:1-2

“Give ear to my words, O LORD, consider my meditation. Give heed to the voice of my cry, my King and my God, for to You I will pray.”

Psalm 103

Scripture Reading:

Luke 5-7

Confession of Faith: Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 78. *What is forbidden in the ninth commandment?*

A. The ninth commandment forbiddeth whatsoever is prejudicial to truth, or injurious to our own, or our neighbor’s good name.

Prayer:

Lord, suffer me not to be guilty of the vice of slander. Let me not through either mistake or prejudice, rashness or ill-will, charge evil falsely on my fellows. Make me tender of the reputation of all men; and especially of the household of faith.—O how has this sin impaired or destroyed individual comfort and usefulness, domestic and social bliss, and public peace! How has even the character of piety been soiled, and its means of doing good frustrated, by the words of suspicion, and talebearing and falsehood! Let the lying lips be put to silence, which speak grievous things proudly and contemptuously, against the righteous. O that all evil speaking would cease out of the world, and that all men would judge the motives, and state the conduct of others, in righteousness and truth.

Lord, keep my mouth from slander, and my lips from speaking guile. Incline me to take heed to my ways, that I sin not with my tongue. May my speech be always with grace; for if any man offend not in word, the same is perfect, and is able also to bridle the whole body.

The Promise of God:

“A wholesome tongue *is* a tree of life, but perverseness in it breaks the spirit.”

Proverbs 15:4

October 3**Call to Worship:** Psalm 7:17

“I will praise the LORD according to His righteousness, and will sing praise to the name of the LORD Most High.”

Psalm 104**Scripture Reading:**

Luke 8-10

Confession of Faith: Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 79. *Which is the tenth commandment?*

A. The tenth commandment is, *Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor anything that is thy neighbor's.*

Prayer:

Blessed Lord, keep my heart from idolatry. Thou art God; and beside thee there is none other. Suffer me not to idolize the world, nor any thing that is in the world. Let no created good supplant thy dominion over my heart. Let no object of affection divert from thee that supreme love which I owe thee, as my Creator, Preserver, and Redeemer. What concord hath Christ with Belial? What agreement should the temple of God have with idols? Be thou to me my all, and in all. Persuade and control my soul to acknowledge thee as the only true God, and my God; and to worship and glorify thee accordingly.

The Promise of God:

“And Jesus said to them, ‘I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.’”

John 6:35

October 4

Call to Worship: Psalm 9:1-2

“I will praise *You*, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will tell of all Your marvelous works. I will be glad and rejoice in You; I will sing praise to Your name, O Most High.”

Psalm 105

Scripture Reading:

Luke 11-13

Confession of Faith: Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 80. *What is required in the tenth commandment?*

A. The tenth commandment requireth full contentment with our own condition, with a right and charitable frame of spirit toward our neighbor, and all that is his.

Prayer:

Great Sovereign of heaven and earth, thou art infinitely wise and good, in all the allotments of thy providence. I pray thee, teach me in whatever state I am, therewith to be content. Keep me, O Lord, from envy, from avarice, from ambition, from anxiety, and from murmuring. May I remember it was discontent that brought death into the world, and all its woes. Make me content with such things as I have; for thou hast said thou wilt never leave nor forsake me, if I put my trust in thee. May mine be the prayer of Agur—“Give me neither poverty nor riches; lest I be full, and deny thee; or be poor, and steal, and take thy name in vain.” Let me not forget that the love of money is the root of evil. They who will be rich fall into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. Make my soul satisfied in the midst of losses and afflictions. May I be ever ready to say—“The Lord gave, and the Lord taketh away: blessed be the name of the Lord.”

Heavenly Father, discipline me so by thy grace, that I shall be careful for nothing, but in all things, by prayer and supplication, make known my requests unto thee. Let me not trust in uncertain riches; but in the living God, who giveth me all things richly to enjoy. Show me that human happiness consists not in the abundance of worldly treasure; but in godliness, which with contentment is great gain. I am not worthy of the least of thy mercies; wherefore then should I complain? I brought nothing into the world, and I can carry nothing out; let me therefore look not at things which are seen and temporal; but at things which are not seen, and that are eternal. May thy great and precious promises give me more comfort than the wicked have, when their corn and wine do most abound. Induce me, O Lord, to seek my portion where the righteous obtain joy and gladness, and where murmuring and sorrow shall flee away forever.

The Promise of God:

“Now godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into *this* world, *and it is* certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content.”

1 Timothy 6:6

October 5

Call to Worship: Psalm 13:6

“I will sing to the LORD, because He has dealt bountifully with me.”

Psalm 106

Scripture Reading:

Luke 14-16

Confession of Faith: Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 81. *What is forbidden in the tenth commandment?*

A. The tenth commandment forbiddeth all discontentment with our own estate, envying or grieving at the good of our neighbor, and all inordinate motions and affections to anything that is his.

Prayer:

Preserve me, Great Helper, from the vice of covetousness, which is idolatry. O let me not worship filthy lucre, instead of the living God. May I remember the judgment of the Valley of Achor, on him who coveted forbidden spoil; and the swift destruction of them that kept back part of the price, and agreed together to tempt the Spirit of the Lord. Let me not dishonour my faith in thee, nor blight my spiritual comfort, nor bring disgrace on thy cause, in the eyes of the world, by indulging in this wickedness. Give me full contentment with my own condition, and a right and charitable frame of spirit towards my neighbour and all that is his. Banish from my mind all discontentment with my own estate; all envying and grieving at the good of my neighbour, and all inordinate emotions and affections to any thing that is his.

Help me, O Lord, to overcome the love of the world. May I seek thy favour as the chief good of life, and say in my heart—"There is none on earth I desire beside thee." Lead me to look with the eye of benevolence on the wants of my fellow creatures; and in supplying them, as thou hast prospered me, to find that it is more blessed to give than to receive. Let me not seek to lay up treasures on earth, but in heaven; where moth and rust do not corrupt, and where thieves cannot break through and steal.

Lord, redeem thy church from this vice, which has spotted her garments, and tainted her blood, and crippled her energies. How long, Blessed Saviour, shall they, who have covenanted to be thine, bow the knee at the golden shrine of mammon? Show them that covetousness degrades their immortal nature, breaks thy holy law, and is the fruitful source of manifold iniquity. Keep them from those graspings of avarice, those daring speculations and greedy monopolies, which are the offspring of pride, and the fountains of misery. May they thus judge, that if Christ has bought them by his own precious blood, they should not live for themselves, but for him. Excite thy people, O Lord, to active and unwearying benevolence. As thou hast made them the stewards of thy multiplied mercies, let none forget to do good, and to communicate; for with such sacrifices thou art well pleased. May they cease to do evil and learn to do well; and labour not for the meat that perisheth, but for that which endureth unto everlasting life.

The Promise of God:

“Oh, fear the LORD, you His saints! *There* is no want to those who fear Him. The young lions lack and suffer hunger; but those who seek the LORD shall not lack any good *thing*.”

Psalm 34:9-10

October 6

Call to Worship: Psalm 16:5-6

“O LORD, *You* are the portion of my inheritance and my cup; You maintain my lot. The lines have fallen to me in pleasant *places*; Yes, I have a good inheritance.”

Psalm 107

Scripture Reading:

Luke 17-19

Confession of Faith: Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 82. *Is any man able perfectly to keep the commandments of God?*

A. No mere man, since the fall, is able in this life perfectly to keep the commandments of God, but doth daily break them in thought, word, and deed.

Prayer:

Great Source of Wisdom, give me a habit of honest and searching self-examination, that I may prove myself, and know whether I am in the faith. Make me ever anxious to know the state of my heart, and the working of my motives. Guide and strengthen me, while I inquire of my soul and of thee, whether I acknowledge and mourn over my transgressions, and receive Christ as my wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption. Have I indeed been born again—am I a new creature in Christ Jesus—and are the evidences of my new estate clear and increasing? Is the Lord my master to serve, and my portion to enjoy; and is the welfare of his kingdom the desire of my heart? Am I daily dying unto sin, and living unto righteousness? Am I thankful for mercies, and prayerful for blessings; pursuing the glory of God; doing to others as I would have them do unto me; and diligently seeking that city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God?

Teach me, O Lord, all my errors, weaknesses, and sins. Cleanse me from them by the enlightening, strengthening, and sanctifying influences of thy Spirit. And O, may I remember that if I should be wilfully or heedlessly blind to my transgressions, thou, Lord, knowest them altogether. Let not self-love nor pride, hinder me from an impartial knowledge of myself. Preserve me from a false estimate of any part of my character. May I look at my principles as well as my conduct—and at my motives as well as my actions. Let me never mistake the excitement of feeling for the renewing of the Holy Ghost; nor the outward activities of religion for its inward spirit. Let me not judge of my religion by occasional impressions and impulses, but by my habit of life. Lord, make it worthy of the vocation wherewith I am called, and such as becometh the gospel of Christ.

The Promise of God:

“For Christ *is* the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.”

Romans 10:4

October 7

Call to Worship: Psalm 18:1-3a

“I will love You, O LORD, my strength. The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. I will call upon the LORD, *who is worthy* to be praised....”

Psalm 108

Scripture Reading:

Luke 20-22

Confession of Faith: Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 83. *Are all transgressions of the law equally heinous?*

A. Some sins in themselves, and by reason of several aggravations, are more heinous in the sight of God than others.

Prayer:

Great God, thou hast appointed unto men once to die, and after this the judgment, when every one of us shall give account of himself to God; and when thou wilt display to an assembled universe, the righteousness of thy justice, and the glory of thy holiness. Of that day and that hour knoweth no man; but it shall be the end of the world, when all the works therein shall be burnt up, the heavens pass away with a great noise, and the elements melt with fervent heat. Lord, make me mindful of that awful day, and of the solemn truths thou hast revealed concerning it. Then the Lord Jesus will come with his holy angels, and sit on his great white throne, and open the books of remembrance—the testimonies of creation, of providence, of scripture, and of conscience. The quick and dead shall stand before him, to be judged out of those things that are written in the books, according to their works, with every secret thing, whether it be good or evil; and also for every thing which thou didst command to be done, but which they left undone. Lord, make me realize that men will then be judged also for the privileges they have enjoyed; for of them unto whom much has been given, much will be required. O, even the best of thy saints will then need the atonement of Christ: they could not stand before thee, if thou shouldst mark their iniquities. But, blessed be thy name, there will be no condemnation to them that are in Christ Jesus: they shall receive the promise of a new heaven and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness. But then the judge will say to them on his left hand—“Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:” and the wicked shall be turned into hell, with all the nations that forget God. O God of infinite compassion, grant that in that fearful day of trial, my name may be found written in the Lamb's book of life, and that my unworthy, hell-deserving spirit may be received, through the merits of Christ, into the habitations of eternal life.

The Promise of God:

“For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God *did* by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.”

Roman 8:3-4

October 8

Call to Worship: Psalm 18:46

“The LORD lives! Blessed be my Rock! Let the God of my salvation be exalted.”

Psalm 109

Scripture Reading:

Luke 23-24

John 1

Confession of Faith: Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 84. *What doth every sin deserve?*

A. Every sin deserveth God’s wrath and curse, both in this life, and that which is to come.

Prayer:

Holy One of Israel, teach me the evil nature and fearful consequences of iniquity. It is the transgression of thy law, in doing what thou hast forbidden, and failing to do what thou hast commanded. Lord, every sin deserves thy wrath and curse, both in this life, and in that which is to come.

Assist me, I beseech thee, to feel that it is, an evil and bitter thing to sin against the Lord. Thy law, which I and all mankind break, is holy, just, and good. Thy goodness against which we have transgressed, has been over us every hour of our lives. Thou hast nourished and brought us up as children; but we have rebelled against thee. Every sin which we commit, includes as many acts of ingratitude as the whole number of thy past mercies to us. Our iniquity has blinded our minds towards truth, and has made us the prey of error. It has been the snare that has corrupted and debased our souls, and left them increasingly open to temptation and guilt. O make us feel that all the sickness, misery, remorse, and death, in the world, are the fruits of transgression; and that if sin had not entered into the world, this earth would have been, in all its generations, a paradise of happy and holy obedience. Lord, increase our sense of the exceeding sinfulness of sin, by heartfelt views of the humiliation, agony, and death of thy Son; and by the revelation thou hast given of that blackness of darkness, and anguish of despair, which it has brought on the finally impenitent, the smoke of whose torment ascendeth forever and ever.

Great God, it becomes me to take shame and confusion of face upon myself; to cry, "Guilty, and unclean;" and to implore thee to be merciful to me, a sinner. Thou art spotless holiness; and thou canst not look upon sin but with abhorrence. If thou shouldst lay judgment to the line, and righteousness to the plummet; or if even thou shouldst deal with me for one of a thousand of my transgressions, I would be driven from thy presence, in utter despair. But, thanks be to thy name, the blood of Christ cleanseth from all sin. Though I should be condemned without hope, if I dared to stand before thee in my own strength, yet in the righteousness of my Surety, I may approach thee, and receive remission of sins. Lord, preserve me from the dominion of unholiness, whether it spring from the world, the flesh, or the devil. May the grace that bringeth salvation, so teach me to deny ungodliness, and to fear and loathe iniquity, that I shall constantly die unto sin and live unto righteousness.

The Promise of God:

“But the Scripture has confined all under sin, that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.”

Galatians 3:22

October 9

Call to Worship: Psalm 19:14

“Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my strength and my Redeemer.”

Psalm 110

Scripture Reading:

John 2-4

Confession of Faith: Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 85. *What doth God require of us, that we might escape his wrath and curse, due to us for sin?*

A. To escape the wrath and curse of God due to us for sin, God requireth of us faith in Jesus Christ, repentance unto life, with the diligent use of all the outward means whereby Christ communicateth to us the benefits of redemption.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, grant me repentance unto life, through the merits of the Saviour. Give me, I beseech thee, a true sense of my sin. It is against thee, O Lord, I have sinned. I have broken thy holy, wise, and benevolent law, ways and times beyond number. I have sinned against the teachings of thy word, against the testimonies of conscience, against the drawings of thy love, and against the strivings of thy Spirit. My transgressions may have led others into the paths of evil, and thus have been instrumental in loading their souls with guilt. Mine iniquities have cast reproach on thy cause in the world; and they have shut out the precious light of thy countenance from my soul. O God, make me feel how hateful my sin is in thy sight, and that the perfections of thy nature are pledged for its punishment. O thou hast spread wide and deep, the lake of unquenchable fire—thou hast built, with everlasting strength, the prison-walls of hell—where the unrepenting sinner will dwell in torment forever.

Lord, I implore thee to give me deep convictions of the atrocious guilt and soul-destroying danger of sin. Grant me feelings of strong abhorrence towards it. Incline me to mourn, with bitterness of heart, over my transgressions. Imbue me with courage, to resolve to forsake them, and with strength, to turn from them unto thee, with earnest endeavours after new obedience. Teach me, that he who turns not away from every sin, turns not aright from any sin. O let not mine be the sorrow of the world, that worketh death; but a godly sorrow, that worketh repentance to salvation, not to be repented of. Bring me to thee, crying, " Lord, save me, or I perish." And say to me in thy mercy, "Son, be of good cheer; thy sins be forgiven thee."

O God, kindle a fire in the consciences of the impenitent, that shall cleanse them from the love of sin, and purify them unto thee, in holiness of heart and life. Convince them of the evil nature, and fearful consequences of their iniquity. Show them that thou art waiting to be gracious, and that thou hast no pleasure in the death of them that die, but that they turn and live. Turn them from the error of their ways, and lead them into the path of the just. Induce them to forsake their sins, and to bring forth fruits meet for repentance. Incline them to obey thy will from the heart,

not that they may seek, by the deeds of the law, to be justified in thy sight; but that he who was delivered for their offences, may be made their justification and complete salvation.

The Promise of God:

“So they said, ‘Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and y our household.’”

Acts 16:31

October 10

Call to Worship: Psalm 25:1, 4-5b

“To You, O LORD, I lift up my soul....Show me Your ways, O LORD; teach me Your paths. Lead me in Your truth and teach me, for You *are* the God of my salvation....”

Psalm 111

Scripture Reading:

John 5-7

Confession of Faith: Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 86. *What is faith in Jesus Christ?*

A. Faith in Jesus Christ is a saving grace, whereby we receive and rest upon him alone for salvation, as he is offered to us in the gospel.

Prayer:

Lord, increase my faith. I would believe: help thou mine unbelief. Give me unwavering trust in thee as infinite, eternal, and unchangeable, in all thine attributes. Cause me to repose with implicit confidence in thy purposes and dispensations towards thy creatures. Enable me to confide all my interests, for time and eternity, to thy keeping. Be thou, O God, the strength of my heart, and my portion forever!

Let me not stagger at thy word through unbelief; for without faith it is impossible to please thee. May I trust thee in all thou hast spoken, as well as in all thou hast done. Let me not hold thy truth in unrighteousness; but do thou make it profitable to me for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, and for instruction in righteousness; that thereby I may be thoroughly furnished unto every good work. Teach me to confide in its precious promises, to heed its solemn warnings, to follow its sacred examples, and to obey its holy precepts.

Lead me, blessed God, to look unto Jesus, the author and finisher of faith. To him give all the prophets witness, that through him, whosoever believeth on his name, shall have remission of sins: while he that believeth not shall be damned. O may he be my Teacher, my Saviour, and my Ruler; and may I receive and rest upon him alone for salvation, as he is offered in the gospel.

Heavenly Father, excite my trust in thee by the examples of the saints, who by faith wrought righteousness, obtained promises, and out of weakness were made strong. Wherefore seeing that I am compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, may I also, for the joy set before me, endure the cross, and run my race with patience, striving against sin.

Lord, enable me to exercise faith in prayer. Give me an abiding conviction, that thou art the rewarder of all that diligently seek thee. May I ask of thee the things that are according to thy will, trusting that I shall receive them. May I knock at the door of thy mercy, believing that thou wilt open unto me. O grant me access with confidence to the throne of thy grace, in the strength of Christ's merits, and of that intercession which he ever liveth to make for those that come unto thee by him.

Lord, give me grace to show my faith by my works; for as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also. May I add to it virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly-kindness, and charity. May it so work by love, that I may realize the iniquity

and danger of those who are strangers to thy covenants of promise, and have the energies of my soul and body stirred up, to pluck them as brands from the burning.

Heavenly Father, give me the evidence of things not seen, and the substance of things hoped for. May I walk by faith, and not by sight; looking not at the things which are seen and temporal, but at those that are not seen, and are eternal, O may it please thee to give me that victory which overcometh the world; and to grant that in all the trials of life, and amid the struggles of death, I may come off more than conqueror, through him who is the end of the law for righteousness, to all that believe on him!

The Promise of God:

“But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which *is* from the law, but that which *is* through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith....”

Philippians 3:7-9

October 11

Call to Worship: Psalm 27:4

“One *thing* I have desired of the LORD, that will I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in His temple.”

Psalm 112

Scripture Reading:

John 8-10

Confession of Faith: Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 87. *What is repentance unto life?*

A. Repentance unto life is a saving grace, whereby a sinner, out of a true sense of his sin, and apprehension of the mercy of God in Christ, doth, with grief and hatred of his sin, turn from it unto God, with full purpose of, and endeavor after, new obedience.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, grant me repentance unto life, through the merits of the Saviour. Give me, I beseech thee, a true sense of my sin. It is against thee, O Lord, I have sinned. I have broken thy holy, wise, and benevolent law, ways and times beyond number. I have sinned against the teachings of thy word, against the testimonies of conscience, against the drawings of thy love, and against the strivings of thy Spirit. My transgressions may have led others into the paths of evil, and thus have been instrumental in loading their souls with guilt. Mine iniquities have cast reproach on thy cause in the world; and they have shut out the precious light of thy countenance from my soul. O God, make me feel how hateful my sin is in thy sight, and that the perfections of thy nature are pledged for its punishment. O thou hast spread wide and deep, the lake of unquenchable fire—thou hast built, with everlasting strength, the prison-walls of hell—where the unrepenting sinner will dwell in torment forever.

Lord, I implore thee to give me deep convictions of the atrocious guilt and soul-destroying danger of sin. Grant me feelings of strong abhorrence towards it. Incline me to mourn, with bitterness of heart, over my transgressions. Imbue me with courage, to resolve to forsake them, and with strength, to turn from them unto thee, with earnest endeavours after new obedience. Teach me, that he who turns not away from every sin, turns not aright from any sin. O let not mine be the sorrow of the world, that worketh death; but a godly sorrow, that worketh repentance to salvation, not to be repented of. Bring me to thee, crying, " Lord, save me, or I perish." And say to me in thy mercy, "Son, be of good cheer; thy sins be forgiven thee."

O God, kindle a fire in the consciences of the impenitent, that shall cleanse them from the love of sin, and purify them unto thee, in holiness of heart and life. Convince them of the evil nature, and fearful consequences of their iniquity. Show them that thou art waiting to be gracious, and that thou hast no pleasure in the death of them that die, but that they turn and live. Turn them from the error of their ways, and lead them into the path of the just. Induce them to forsake their sins, and to bring forth fruits meet for repentance. Incline them to obey thy will from the heart, not that they may seek, by the deeds of the law, to be justified in thy sight; but that he who was delivered for their offences, may be made their justification and complete salvation.

The Promise of God:

“Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out. So that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord...”

Acts 3:19

October 12

Call to Worship: Psalm 28:6-7

“Blessed *be* the LORD, because He has heard the voice of my supplications! The LORD *is* my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in Him, and I am helped; therefore my heart greatly rejoices, and with my song I will praise Him.”

Psalm 113

Scripture Reading:

John 11-13

Confession of Faith: Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 88. *What are the outward and ordinary means whereby Christ communicateth to us the benefits of redemption?*

A. The outward and ordinary means whereby Christ communicateth to us the benefits of redemption, are his ordinances, especially the word, sacraments, and prayer; all which are made effectual to the elect for salvation.

Prayer:

Lord, I thank thee for those means of grace which thou hast appointed for the instruction and conviction, conversion and sanctification of mankind. O bless me, I pray thee, in the enjoyment of them. Make the Holy Scriptures profitable to me for doctrine, reproof, correction, and instruction in righteousness. Let thy preached gospel bring me glad tidings of good things. May I hallow thy Sabbaths, and make them my delight. Make thy sacraments times of refreshing from thy presence. O cause the exercises of public, social, and private prayer to make me feel my wants, and thine infinite fulness and willingness to supply them. May I sing thy praises with melody of heart. Give me grace to keep the season of fasting or of thanksgiving, so that it may be a time of refreshing from thy presence. Grant me the sanctified use of meditation and self-examination; and lead me to such fellowship with thy saints, as will strengthen my heart and encourage my zeal in the Christian race.

Blessed God, I humbly pray thee, that I may use these privileges only as the means, and not as the end, of religion. Make me regard them as the channels through which thou dost vouchsafe to pour the refreshing streams of thy grace. It is the Spirit which gives efficacy to all the appointments of thy mercy. O Lord, make me understand that while I work out my salvation with fear and trembling, it is thou who workest in me, both to will and to do, of thine own good pleasure.

The Promise of God:

“Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, as His divine power has given to us all things that *pertain* to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption *that is* in the world through lust.”

2 Peter 1:2-4

October 13

Call to Worship: Psalm 29:2

“Give unto the LORD the glory due to His name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.”

Psalm 114

Scripture Reading:

John 14-16

Confession of Faith: Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 89. *How is the Word made effectual to salvation?*

A. The Spirit of God maketh the reading, but especially the preaching, of the word, an effectual means of convincing and converting sinners, and of building them up in holiness and comfort, through faith, unto salvation.

Prayer:

God of Truth, I praise thy mercy, in Jesus Christ, that thou hast not left the human race to the blind gropings of unaided reason, in seeking a knowledge of thy will; but that thou hast given us the Scriptures of truth, which holy men of old spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost. I would thank thee for their precepts, which are incentives to good — for their examples, which are monitors of duty — for their threatenings, which are merciful warnings against evil — and for their promises, which are the beacons of hope. Thy testimonies are sure, making wise the simple; and thy law is perfect, converting the soul.

Lord, grant me an affecting sense of thy condescending goodness in the gift of the volume of revelation. Give me the teachings of thy Spirit, that I may understand and love the things of thy word. Incline me, I pray thee, to keep thy statutes; since he only that doth thy will, shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God: while he is cursed, who continueth not in all things written in the book of the law, to do them. O make the Scriptures profitable to me for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, and for instruction in righteousness; that I may be thoroughly furnished unto every good work. Incline me to search them for the truth as it is in Jesus; and may I find there that pearl of great price, which is the only passport to heaven. When my soul cleaveth to the dust, quicken thou me according to thy word; and cause it to dwell in me richly, in all wisdom. Enable me to draw lessons of wisdom and holiness from its blessed pages, wherewith to guide my judgment, and direct my steps, in all the ways of life. Sanctify me by thy truth; thy word is truth.

Giver of Mercies, I thank thee for that bright cluster of evidences of the truth of the Bible, which the researches of the wise and good have gathered over its sacred leaves. O that every skeptic, and every infidel, would learn from them the folly and wickedness of their unbelief, and come with broken hearts and submissive minds, to the throne of thy mercy, crying, "Lord, we would believe; help thou our unbelief."

Lord, bring thy truth with convincing, and persuading, and controlling power, to the hearts and consciences of the ungodly. O make it an effectual means of converting sinners, and of building them up, in holiness and comfort, through faith, unto salvation.—May thy saints attend thereunto, with diligence, preparation, and prayer; receiving it with faith and love, laying it up in their hearts, and practicing it in their lives.

The Promise of God:

“Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart, having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever, because ‘*All flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, and its flower falls away, but the word of the LORD endures forever.*’ Now this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you.”

1 Peter 1:22-25

October 14

Call to Worship: Psalm 33:1-3

“Rejoice in the LORD, O you righteous! *For* praise from the upright is beautiful. Praise the LORD with the harp; make melody to Him with an instrument of ten strings. Sing to Him a new song; play skillfully with a shout of joy.”

Psalm 115

Scripture Reading:

John 17-19

Confession of Faith: Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 90. *How is the Word to be read and heard, that it may become effectual to salvation?*

A. That the word may become effectual to salvation, we must attend thereunto with diligence, preparation and prayer; receive it with faith and love, lay it up in our hearts, and practice it in our lives.

Prayer:

Shepherd of Israel, incline thy people to discharge the duties they owe to the messengers of thy word. May they remember that the labourer is worthy of his hire, and that they who preach the gospel, should live of the gospel. May they properly appreciate the office of those that are over them in the Lord, and esteem such very highly, in love, for their works' sake. Make them careful to maintain all the institutions of thy word. May they listen to the preached message with the preparation of heart, the culture of prayer, the hearing of faith, and the purpose of obedience: receiving with meekness the engrafted word, as that which ministers grace to the hearers. Blessed Lord, excite them to sustain thy ministering servants by their intercessory prayers, that thou wouldst make them wise as serpents, and harmless as doves—that thou wouldst enable them to turn many to righteousness, who shall be as stars in the crowns of their rejoicing, at the last day.

The Promise of God:

“Your Word is very pure; therefore Your servant loves it....The righteousness of your testimonies is everlasting; give me understanding, and I shall live.”

Psalm 119:140, 144

October 15

Call to Worship: Psalm 34:1

“I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise *shall* continually *be* in my mouth.”

Psalm 116

Scripture Reading:

John 20-21

Acts 1

Confession of Faith: Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 91. *How do the sacraments become effectual means of salvation?*

A. The sacraments become effectual means of salvation, not from any virtue in them, or in him that doth administer them; but only by the blessing of Christ, and the working of his Spirit in them that by faith receive them.

Prayer:

Blessed Spirit, show me my sinfulness, apply to me the redemption purchased by Christ, mortify the deeds of the body, and renew me day by day in thy holy image. O do thou lead me into the knowledge of truth, make intercession within me in prayer, bear witness with my spirit that I am a child of God, and seal me with that promise, which is an earnest until the redemption of the purchased possession. Be thou my comforter in sorrow, my strength in weakness, my shield in temptation, my teacher in ignorance, my security in joy, my leader in the labyrinths of life, and my consolation in the hour of death.

Lord, pour out thy Spirit on all thy servants. May they enjoy, in the fullest measure, those fruits which are love, joy, peace, long-suffering, goodness, meekness, gentleness, temperance, faith. Persuade them to set a high value on these things, and to seek them by fervent and believing prayer. Cause them to live in continual dependence on divine influence, and to walk worthy of the character of that Holy Agent. Make them his living temples, where there shall be the incense of prayer, praise, and holy obedience. May he sanctify their hearts, bind them closer by faith to Christ, make them wise unto salvation, and prepare them for their eternal weight of glory.

The Promise of God:

“Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.”

Romans 5:5

October 16

Call to Worship: Psalm 42:1-2a

“As the deer pants for the water brooks, so pants my soul for You, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God....”

Psalm 117

Scripture Reading:

Acts 2-4

Confession of Faith: Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 92. *What is a sacrament?*

A. A sacrament is a holy ordinance instituted by Christ; wherein, by sensible signs, Christ, and the benefits of the new covenant, are represented, sealed, and applied to believers.

Prayer:

Lord, what is man, that thou art mindful of him; or the son of man, that thou visitest him? Thou art infinite in all thy perfections, and needest not our praises nor services to increase thy happiness and glory. If our guilty race had continued even as thou didst create it, (but a little lower than the angels,) we must have praised thee for thy condescension in nourishing and governing us; but now, that we have lifted the arm of rebellion against thee, and have steeped our souls in transgression, how greatly is thy condescension magnified, in pursuing us with thy mercies, in providing for our wants, in protecting and delivering us from evil; and above all, in offering to redeem us from our lost estate by the sacrifice of thy Son. He, who knew no sin, was made sin for us, that we might be made the righteousness of God in him. He, who was rich, yet for our sakes became poor, that we through his poverty might be made rich. He, who from eternity knew no pain, sweat great drops of blood, and suffered unspeakable agony, that we might escape the wrath to come—the worm that never dieth, and the fire that is never quenched. O help me, God of Grace, to acknowledge thine undeserved and astonishing mercy. May it draw me closer to thee in the bonds of love and confidence, and seal me for thy service, in a covenant never to be forsaken.

The Promise of God:

“For the law was given through Moses, *but* grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.”

John 1:17

October 17

Call to Worship: Psalm 43:3-4

“Oh, send out Your light and Your truth! Let them lead me; let them bring me to Your holy hill and to Your tabernacle. Then I will go to the altar of God, to God my exceeding joy; and on the harp I will praise You, O God, my God.”

Psalm 118

Scripture Reading:

Acts 5-7

Confession of Faith: Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 93. *Which are the sacraments of the New Testament?*

A. The sacraments of the New Testament are, Baptism, and the Lord’s Supper.

Prayer:

O God, help me to dwell, by faith and prayer, on the solemn realities of the world to come. Thou hast made me in the image of thine own eternity, with powers that are capable of eternal progress in holiness, knowledge, and happiness—or in sin, error, and wo: and thou hast filled my soul with hopes and fears that travel far beyond the narrow limits of this life, and find their home in the future state of endless being. My condition will be fixed either in heaven or hell—enjoying the light of thy countenance, or cast out from thy presence for ever—rejoicing in the company of the good, or enduring the fellowship of the wicked—bathing in the fountain of eternal bliss, or plunging in the burning lake of undying wo.

Lord, I thank thee that thou hast revealed eternal things to me, and hast shown me how I may escape everlasting death, and obtain eternal life. Give me a firm belief of their reality, and a deep conviction of their importance. Teach me, God of Mercy, that life, and time, and means are given me to prepare for eternity—that there is but a step between me and death—and that according to my character then, will be my destiny forever. O seal me now by thy Spirit until the day of redemption; and then let an entrance be ministered unto me, abundantly, into the everlasting kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ, where my tongue shall utter a ceaseless anthem of praise, my understanding enjoy an unclouded knowledge of truth, and my soul delight in a perpetual feast of love.

The Promise of God:

“Then he said to me, ‘Write: “Blessed *are* those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!’” And he said to me, ‘These are the true sayings of God.’”

Revelation 19:9

October 18

Call to Worship: Psalm 57:11

“Be exalted, O God, above the heavens; *let Your glory be above all the earth.*”

Psalm 119:1-8

Scripture Reading:

Acts 8-10

Confession of Faith: Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 94. *What is Baptism?*

A. Baptism is a sacrament, wherein the washing with water in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, doth signify and seal our ingrafting into Christ, and partaking of the benefits of the covenant of grace, and our engagement to be the Lord's.

Prayer:

Gracious God, help me to consecrate myself to thee, with full purpose of soul, and with endeavours after new obedience. Make me feel that if I could offer thee a world, and yet hold back the gift of my heart, my oblation would be but a worthless and odious thing in thy sight. Lord, I am thine by creation, and by constant benefaction. O has not Christ died for me, that I should be thine, in the purchase of his atoning blood? Let me, therefore, not live unto myself, but unto him. Enable me to say from my heart, "Here, Lord, I give myself to thee; it is all that I can do." Accept, I pray thee, that offering, in the name of Jesus, the Ransom of sinners.

I would take thee, O Lord, as my portion—thy law as my rule—thy service as my meat and drink—and thy purposes as the ground of my faith and hope. Bring all my expectations, wishes, and intentions into conformity with thy will; and let me live, and move, and have my being in a covenant of full-hearted and never-failing devotion to thee, and the interests of thy kingdom.

The Promise of God:

“On the last day, that great *day* of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, ‘If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’”

John 7:37-38

October 19

Call to Worship: Psalm 59:16-17

“But I will sing of Your power; Yes, I will sing aloud of Your mercy in the morning; for You have been my defense and refuge in the day of my trouble. To You, O my Strength, I will sing praises; for God is my defense, my God of mercy.”

Psalm 119:9-16

Scripture Reading:

Acts 11-13

Confession of Faith: Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 95. *To whom is Baptism to be administered?*

A. Baptism is not to be administered to any that are out of the visible church, till they profess their faith in Christ, and obedience to him; but the infants of such as are members of the visible church are to be baptized.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, I thank thee for the evidence which thy word and the history of thy church give us, that children and youth may be taught to love thy name, and do thy will. Whilst thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, thou hast revealed them unto babes. Thou hast told the young to remember thee; and hast given thy promise that those who seek thee early shall find thee. Our blessed Saviour said, "Suffer little children to come unto me:" and he took them in his arms and blessed them, saying, "Of such is the kingdom of heaven." Lord, thy church, in every age, but especially in our own, has raised up many witnesses, that thou canst satisfy the children of men early with thy mercy, that they may rejoice and be glad all their days.

Lord, increase and multiply greatly the instances of early piety. May multitudes of children feel and act from the motives which should lead them to do that which is well pleasing in the sight of the Lord. Convince them that they are sinners, exposed to thy wrath, walking in rebellion against their heavenly Father, and yet receiving the most tender offers of mercy through Christ the Saviour. Make them understand something of the worth of the soul; of death and judgment; of heaven and hell. O lead them, through repentance and faith in Jesus, to remember and serve thee in the days of their youth.

Shepherd of Israel, rebuke the unbelief of thy church respecting the conversion of children, even as thou didst rebuke thy disciples when they would have hindered such from coming to thee. Let none despise these little ones; for thou hast warned us that their angels do always behold the face of their Father in heaven. O may thy saints on earth be instruments of leading them to Christ, and training them as plants of righteousness, whose leaf shall not wither, and who will bring forth the fruits of grace. Bless, I beseech thee, the various means which are now used to fill the minds of children with religious truth. Let not this condemnation come upon them, that they knew thy will, but did it not. O may their privileges be to them as the small rain upon the tender herb, and as showers that water the earth; and which cause it to bring forth beauty, and verdure, and fruit.

The Promise of God:

“But Jesus said, ‘Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven.’”

Matthew 19:14

October 20

Call to Worship: Psalm 63:3-5

“Because Your lovingkindness *is* better than life, my lips shall praise You. Thus I will bless You while I live; I will lift up my hands in Your name. My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness, and my mouth shall praise You with joyful lips.”

Psalm 119:17-24

Scripture Reading:

Acts 14-16

Confession of Faith: Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 96. *What is the Lord's Supper?*

A. The Lord's supper is a sacrament, wherein, by giving and receiving bread and wine according to Christ's appointment, his death is showed forth; and the worthy receivers are, not after a corporal and carnal manner, but by faith, made partakers of his body and blood, with all his benefits, to their spiritual nourishment and growth in grace.

Prayer:

Compassionate Jehovah, give me lively perceptions of the nature and uses of that holy Supper, which thou hast instituted in memory of the dying Saviour. May it always be to the eye of my faith, a token and pledge of a covenant of mercy, in the blood of Christ. Let it ever be my Eucharist—my giving of thanks to thee, from a heart overflowing with gratitude, that thou didst recover man from his condition of sin and misery, by the gift of a Redeemer. Make it my Passover, in which my soul shall be made joyful, in being exempted from the wrath which abideth on the ungodly. O let it be the Sacrament of that allegiance to thy cause, which will lead me to rejoice when I am counted worthy to suffer shame for thy name's sake; and to glory in nothing, save in the cross of Christ. Make it a Feast, at which he shall sup with me, and I with him; and in which my heart shall be refreshed by his spiritual presence. And O do thou make it a precious season of Communion, wherein I shall hold fellowship with the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost; and be knit, with closer bands of unity, to them that are of the household of faith.

Lord Jesus, help me to keep this ordinance in remembrance of thee. Give me knowledge to discern thy body, and faith to feed upon thee. Grant me repentance, love, and new obedience; lest coming unworthily, I eat and drink judgment to myself. Make me a partaker of thy body and blood, not after a corporal and carnal manner, but by faith; with all thy benefits, to my spiritual nourishment and growth in grace. Grant me comfort from this feast, when I am wounded by a sense of sin; for thou wast revealed to take away sin: give me patience in trials and afflictions, by looking at thee, enduring the contradiction of sinners, and the hidings of thy Father's love: and O grant that I may imbibe a holy hatred for transgression, when I look at thy body broken and thy blood shed, because I have sinned.—Blessed Jesus, crowned in light and glory, dost thou indeed desire us sinners to remember thee? O that we should ever forget thy matchless, unspeakable claims to our love! O help me to remember the glory thou didst leave, the flesh thou didst adopt, the reproach thou didst meet, and the sufferings thou didst endure, that I might be redeemed from the curse of the law, and be made a partner of thine inheritance in glory! I would learn of thee, as

my Prophet; I would rely on thee, as my Priest; I would follow thee, as my Example; I would obey thee, as my King!

Heavenly Father, make thy people feel their obligation to celebrate the Supper of the Lord. Thou hast commanded it. Thou hast set it forth to be the memorial of a Saviour's love, in which they show forth his death, before heaven and earth. And thou hast made it a special season of communion with thee, in thy banqueting-house, where thy banner over them is love.—O may they always be prepared for this service, by self-examination, by meditation, and by prayer: and so let them eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. May they resolve, upon that sacred altar, that they will renounce every transgression, and live only for that which is good in thy sight. Give them an affectionate and confiding trust in thy covenant of grace; and build them up, by means of this ordinance, through faith, unto salvation.—God forbid that there should be any hand on the table which will betray the Son of man. Let none who thus profess thy name, be cast forth as a branch that is withered, and cast into the fire, and burned; but make them all branches, that shall abide in thee, bringing forth much fruit, that thy name may be glorified.

Lord, grant that the impenitent may reflect, that if they eat not the flesh of the Son of man, and drink not his blood, they shall have no part nor lot in his salvation. May thy Spirit reveal Christ to them in the breaking of bread, in all his fulness and willingness as a Saviour. O may they be persuaded to make with him a covenant of mercy and obedience, which shall never be revoked nor forsaken.

These petitions I offer thee, Gracious Father, through him whose blood speaketh better things than that of Abel; and who sitteth at thy right hand, to make intercession, and receive the service and adoration of saints and angels, forever.

The Promise of God:

“He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him.”

John 6:56

October 21

Call to Worship: Psalm 68:4

“Sing to God, sing praises to His name; extol Him who rides on the clouds, by His name YAH, and rejoice before Him.”

Psalm 119:25-32

Scripture Reading:

Acts 17-19

Confession of Faith: Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 97. *What is required for the worthy receiving of the Lord's Supper?*

A. It is required of them that would worthily partake of the Lord's supper, that they examine themselves of their knowledge to discern the Lord's body, of their faith to feed upon him, of their repentance, love, and new obedience; lest, coming unworthily, they eat and drink judgment to themselves.

Prayer:

Great Source of Wisdom, give me a habit of honest and searching self-examination, that I may prove myself, and know whether I am in the faith. Make me ever anxious to know the state of my heart, and the working of my motives. Guide and strengthen me, while I inquire of my soul and of thee, whether I acknowledge and mourn over my transgressions, and receive Christ as my wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption. Have I indeed been born again—am I a new creature in Christ Jesus—and are the evidences of my new estate clear and increasing? Is the Lord my master to serve, and my portion to enjoy; and is the welfare of his kingdom the desire of my heart? Am I daily dying unto sin, and living unto righteousness? Am I thankful for mercies, and prayerful for blessings; pursuing the glory of God; doing to others as I would have them do unto me; and diligently seeking that city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God?

Teach me, O Lord, all my errors, weaknesses, and sins. Cleanse me from them by the enlightening, strengthening, and sanctifying influences of thy Spirit. And O, may I remember that if I should be wilfully or heedlessly blind to my transgressions, thou, Lord, knowest them altogether. Let not self-love nor pride, hinder me from an impartial knowledge of myself. Preserve me from a false estimate of any part of my character. May I look at my principles as well as my conduct—and at my motives as well as my actions. Let me never mistake the excitement of feeling for the renewing of the Holy Ghost; nor the outward activities of religion for its inward spirit. Let me not judge of my religion by occasional impressions and impulses, but by my habit of life. Lord, make it worthy of the vocation wherewith I am called, and such as becometh the gospel of Christ.

The Promise of God:

“I acknowledged my 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 32:5

October 22

Call to Worship: Psalm 69:16, 30

“Here me, O LORD, for Your lovingkindness *is* good; turn to me according to the multitude of Your tender mercies....I will praise the name of God with a song, and will magnify Him with thanksgiving.”

Psalm 119:33-40

Scripture Reading:

Acts 20-22

Confession of Faith: Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 98. *What is prayer?*

A. Prayer is an offering up of our desires unto God, for things agreeable to his will, in the name of Christ, with confession of our sins, and thankful acknowledgment of his mercies.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, teach me to pray, and quicken me by thy Spirit, that I may worship thee in spirit and in truth. Give me clear and abiding views of the nature of this solemn act of worship. Grant me a proper estimate of thy character, as infinitely able and willing to bless all who would approach the throne of grace, according to thy will. Enable me to make thy glory the ruling object of my desires; and to present them only in the name of the heavenly Mediator; whom thou always hearest, for in him thou art ever well-pleased. May every supplication be offered in the wish and hope that Jesus will present it, with his prevailing intercession, at the throne of grace. Lord, make me feel my entire and continual dependance on thee for all the blessings I possess, or hope to enjoy. O do thou give me such a craving sense of want, such a conviction that there is no other source of relief, and such confidence in thy promises, that supplication shall be the language of my tongue, the thought of my heart, and the food of my soul.

Great God, thou art, indeed, not worshipped as though thou needest any thing; for thou givest to all, life, and breath, and all things. It is in mercy to us that thou art willing to hear and answer the prayer of penitence and faith. Thou hast moreover commanded it, as our imperative duty—thus making our privilege and our obligation one and inseparable.

Infinite Fountain of Blessing, grant me the influences of thy Spirit, to show me what I should pray for, and the way in which I should draw nigh to the mercy-seat.—Teach me, I pray thee, the various and numerous wants of my dependent nature, until my thoughts shall grow familiar with them, in all their number, and my heart shall be absorbed by convictions of their importance. Lord, dispose me to submit every object of hope and every pursuit of desire, by prayer, to the control of thy will: and do thou turn me away from continuing or completing any thing, which has not the sanction of thy favour, and upon which I cannot invoke thy blessing. O Lord, suffer me not to confine my supplications to my own wants; but do thou give me a spirit of prayer on behalf of others. Make me feelingly alive to all the interests of thy church, and abundant in intercession for her knowledge, purity, and increase. O burden my heart with anxious solicitude for the impenitent; and lead my feelings out in earnest and importunate pleadings for their salvation.—Lord, suffer me not to approach thee, on any subject, with thoughtlessness or

insincerity. Restrain me from a wandering and corrupted mind. May every petition be the expression of true and anxious feeling. Suffer me not to forget my supplications, with the passing breath that utters them; but do thou cause my memory to retain them, and my hope to pursue them; and if I receive not, may I be assured that it is because I ask amiss.

Father of Mercy, assist me to bring my desires into conformity to thy will. Let me not ask thee for any thing inconsistent with thy holy and sovereign pleasure.—Help me to come in the humble boldness of faith to thy throne, that I may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need. Thou art indeed more ready to hear than I am to pray; and more willing to give than I am to ask. Enable me, I pray thee, to come to thee in the confidence with which I would approach an earthly parent: for if such an one knows how to give good gifts to his children, much more will our heavenly Father give his Holy Spirit to them that ask him. Lord, help thou mine unbelief, and enable me to believe that thou art the rewarder of them that diligently seek thee.—Teach me that if I regard iniquity in my heart, thou wilt not hear me. Do thou therefore cleanse my heart, that my desires may go forth unspotted by sin, and find acceptance in thy sight. Lord, lead me to the thankful acknowledgment of past mercies; and dispose me to hope from them for the bestowment of future good.—Bring me to thee, O Searcher of hearts, with humble confession of sins; for it becomes me to say, that instead of having any claim to thine audience and favour, I have only deserved thy displeasure. It is of thy grace that I am even permitted to plead for mercy.

Heavenly Father, dispose me to fulfil every suitable occasion of devotional duty. May I love the public and social supplications of thy saints. Let me not withhold the incense from the family altar. May I delight to hold converse with thee, where there is no other eye to watch, and no other ear to hear, and where I shall feel that I am alone with God. And give me. Blessed Master, that spirit of ejaculatory prayer, which will purify every current of my thoughts, and sanctify every business of my life.—Lord, enable me, in all the vicissitudes of life, to watch unto prayer, and to find that it is good for me to draw nigh to God. May I wrestle, as did thy servant of old, who had power with thee, and prevailed. And may my soul ascribe, in sincerity and love, the praise of all the mercies I derive from thee, to thy matchless grace in the Redeemer, both now and forever.

The Promise of God:

“In my distress I called upon the LORD, and cried out to my God; He heard my voice from His temple, and my cry came before Him, *even* to His ears.”

Psalm 18:6

October 23

Call to Worship: Psalm 71:8, 15, 23

“Let my mouth be filled *with* Your praise *and with* Your glory all the day....My mouth shall tell of Your righteousness *and* Your salvation all the day....My lips shall greatly rejoice when I sing to You, and my soul, which You have redeemed.”

Psalm 119:41-48

Scripture Reading:

Acts 23-25

Confession of Faith: Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 99. *What rule hath God given for our direction in prayer?*

A. The whole word of God is of use to direct us in prayer; but the special rule of direction is that form of prayer which Christ taught his disciples, commonly called the *Lord's Prayer*.

Prayer:

O thou that hearest prayer, grant that I may hold communion of spirit with thee, the Father of Spirits. As the hart panteth after the water-brooks, so may my soul pant after thee: and as the parched land drinketh in the rain of heaven, so let my soul receive the gifts of thy presence. Dispose me to be faithful and to delight in the observance of stated seasons of private devotion, and in the frequent exercises of occasional prayer. May I love to seek thee in the tabernacles of the righteous. Let my thoughts and desires hold intercourse with thee in thy word, and in thy works, and in thy ways. Let my walk be close with thee; and do thou fix my affections on thee, as the highest and noblest object of love. Teach me thy will, that I may acquaint myself with thee, and be at peace.

Lord, lift up the light of thy countenance upon me. Draw near to me in all my attempts to approach thee; and manifest thyself unto me as thou dost not unto the world. Sprinkle reconciling blood on the altar where I meet thee. Kindle with heavenly fire the incense I bring thee, and let it rise up as a sweet-smelling savour before thee. Make thine abode with me; and let my heart be a temple of the Holy Ghost. Give me that Spirit of adoption by which I may cry, "Abba, Father." May I be persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate me from thy love, which is in Christ Jesus. Give me such a sense of pardoned sin, as shall fill me with holy joys, and strong purposes of new obedience to thy will. Grant me, in these seasons of sweet converse with thee, those blessings which are spiritual in their nature, satisfying in their possession, and eternal in their continuance. Cause me, in the enjoyment of them, to commiserate the destitution of those who are without God in the world, and the woe of them who are shut out from thy presence forever. O let me cling closer to this precious privilege, and be pervaded with deeper pity, and animated with stronger zeal, for those who know not the delights of thy communion.

Lord, vouchsafe that my fellowship with thee may be sought only through him who is the way, the truth, and the life; for no man cometh unto the Father but by him. Let the communion of thy Holy Spirit rest upon me, and abide within me, now, henceforth and forever.

The Promise of God:

“But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who *is* in the secret *place*; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.”

Matthew 6:6

October 24

Call to Worship: Psalm 72:18-19b

“Blessed *be* the LORD God, the God of Israel, Who only does wondrous things! And blessed *be* His glorious name forever! And let the whole earth be filled *with* His glory....”

Psalm 119:49-56

Scripture Reading:

Acts 26-28

Confession of Faith: Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 100. *What doth the preface of the Lord's Prayer teach us?*

A. The preface of the Lord's prayer, which is, *Our Father which art in heaven*, teacheth us to draw near to God with all holy reverence and confidence, as children to a father able and ready to help us; and that we should pray with and for others.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, I thank thee that we have an advocate at the right hand of the Majesty on high, even Jesus Christ, the righteous. He hath not entered into the holy place made with hands; but into heaven itself, to appear in the presence of God for us; where he ever liveth to make intercession for his chosen generation. Blessed Jesus, I rejoice that thou wilt not break the bruised reed, nor quench the smoking flax; that though Satan hath desired to have thy people, that he might sift them as wheat, yet thou prayest for them, that their faith fail not: and that thou art their Mediator, to present their believing prayers, and secure their acceptance, at the throne of the heavenly mercy.

Lord, lead me, in the faith of that intercession, to the sceptre of thy grace, persuaded that thou art able by thy power, and willing in thy mercy, to supply me with all that I need. Assist me to draw nigh, with a true heart, in the full assurance of faith: for we have not an high-priest who cannot be touched with a feeling of our infirmities; but one who was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin; and who is able to save, unto the uttermost, all who come unto thee by him. O Jesus, Blessed Mediator, take my cause into thine own hands. Plead my interests for me, by thy spotless life, thy bleeding wounds, thy cruel death, and thy purchased glory; and enable me to rejoice in thy success, and to bless thy holy name forever.

Lord, grant me, for Christ's sake, a strong and an abiding spirit of intercessory prayer. Dispose me to make supplication for all men. Make it my privilege to commend to thee all that are near and dear to me; that thou wouldst guide them by thy counsel, protect them by thy power, and save them by thy grace. Lead me to pray for my enemies, for the needy, the afflicted, the sick, and the dying. Incline me to lift up earnest supplication on behalf of thy church. Especially, O Lord, may the yearnings of my heart go forth for the impenitent. Make me feel that the triumphs of thy church will depend on the importunity of thy people for mercy on the ungodly. O may I understand their awful condition, and be induced to plead with thee, in the name of Christ, and through the intercessions of thy Spirit, that they may be saved. Give me that degree of confidence in thee, and regard for thy glory, and such earnest longings after their conversion, as thou wilt own and bless, by the redemption of souls.

The Promise of God:

“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.”

James 1:17

October 25

Call to Worship: Psalm 73:25, 26, 28

“Whom have I in heaven *but You*? And *there is* none upon earth *that* I desire besides You. My flesh and my heart fail; *but God is* the strength of my heart and my portion forever. But *it is* good for me to draw near to God; I have put my trust in the LORD GOD, that I may declare all Your works.”

Psalm 119:57-64

Scripture Reading:

Romans 1-3

Confession of Faith: Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 101. *What do we pray for in the first petition?*

A. In the first petition, which is, *Hallowed be thy name*, we pray that God would enable us and others to glorify him in all that whereby he maketh himself known; and that he would dispose all things to his own glory.

Prayer:

Adorable Jehovah, I would praise thee for thine excellent greatness. Thou dwellest in light that is inaccessible and full of glory: thou coverest thyself with it as with a garment; and thou art clothed with honour and majesty! Thou dwellest on high, and humblest thyself to behold the things that are done in heaven and earth. Thou art infinite, eternal, and unchangeable in thy being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth. Thou art not worshipped as though thou needest any thing; for thou givest unto all, life, and breath, and all things. Yet thou art exalted above principalities and powers, that at thy name every knee should bow, and every tongue confess.

O, thou art infinitely worthy of the everlasting adoration of all thy rational creatures. Thou art glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders. In thee I live, and move, and have my being. From thee I derive every good and perfect gift. It was thy power which created me; it is thy wisdom that governs me; thy goodness that provides for me; and thy grace that saves me. O help me, adorable Jehovah, to feel and express the infinite excellencies of thy character, and to bow before thee as over all, God, blessed forever!

The Promise of God:

“But the LORD of hosts shall be exalted in judgment, and God who is holy shall be hallowed in righteousness.”

Isaiah 5:16

October 26

Call to Worship: Psalm 84:1-2

“How lovely *is* Your tabernacle, O LORD of hosts! My soul longs, yes, even faints for the courts of the LORD; my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God.”

Psalm 119:65-72

Scripture Reading:

Romans 4-6

Confession of Faith: Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 102. *What do we pray for in the second petition?*

A. In the second petition, which is, *Thy kingdom come*, we pray that Satan's kingdom may be destroyed; and that the kingdom of grace may be advanced, ourselves and others brought into it, and kept in it; and that the kingdom of glory may be hastened.

Prayer:

O God of all grace, who hast called out of this present evil world, a chosen generation to know thy will, to seek thy face, to follow thy ways, and to inherit thy glory, pour out thy blessings upon those who are yet in darkness and the shadow of death: make bare thine arm, and exert thy power, that all the ends of the earth may remember themselves, and turn to the Lord, and that all flesh may see the salvation of God. Call home to thee again thy once-favoured people, the Jews: and take the veil from their hearts, that they may see and own their Messiah. Let the blood of Christ, which they so profanely imprecated upon their own heads, cleanse them from the guilt of shedding it; yea, let it cleanse them from all their sins. Bring in, O God, the fulness of the Gentiles; and give thy Son the heathen for his inheritance, and the utmost parts of the earth for his possession. O give thy gospel a free course throughout the world; let it be propagated where it has not yet reached; and let the joyful sound be heard, even where Christ is not yet named. Give success to it, where it shines already; let all who have received it sincerely obey it: cause every one that names the name of Christ, to depart from iniquity; and grant that all who make a profession of godliness may be constrained by the love of Christ to live unto thee, and to adorn the doctrine of God the Saviour in all things.

Convince and convert both the avowed enemies of Christ, and also the enemies of his own house. Beat down all antichristian powers, both in the false church, where Christianity is so foully corrupted, and also beyond the borders of Christendom, where it is openly opposed. Show unto all of them the light of thy truth, that they may know it, as it is in Jesus: dispel their prejudices together with their darkness, and bring them to receive thy truth in the love of it, that they may be saved. O that the true religion of Jesus Christ may prevail powerfully, and gain more proselytes daily throughout the world. O thou Father of lights, grant that all errors in doctrine, and all ungodliness in practice, may be more and more exposed and suppressed, till they be utterly abolished! Let the wickedness of the wicked come to an end; but let truth and holiness increase in credit and authority, till they reign and flourish even to the ends of the earth: grant this, I most humbly beseech thee, through the abundant grace of Jesus Christ my Saviour.

Manual of Devotion, 121-123

Alternate Prayer:

Gracious Jehovah, assist me to understand, and love, and obey the gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. I would magnify the riches of thy mercy, which devised these glad tidings of great joy for all people. I would praise thee that thou didst send it in due time, in all its fulness of grace and truth, life and immortality. It was not because we deserved thy favour, or sought thy mercy; but because thou didst pity our lost condition, and didst enter into a covenant of grace, to bring us out of an estate of sin and misery, into an estate of salvation, by a Redeemer. Lord, I would praise thee that this word is offered without money and without price; and that whosoever will, may take of the waters of life freely. Thou hast made the plan of redemption commensurate with the wants and sins of our ruined race, and with the claims of thy holy and inflexible justice. I bless thy name that it has brought light for the benighted; joy for the mourner; liberty for the captive; rest for the heavy-laden; plenty for the destitute: pardon for the condemned; purity for the unholy; life for the dead; and the hope of salvation for the heirs of perdition!

Lord, help me to lay hold upon the hope set before me in the gospel. May I receive it as the only savour of life unto life. Let me not be ashamed of the gospel of Jesus Christ; but may I glory in it, as the power of God, unto salvation, to every one that believeth. May it teach me to deny ungodliness, and to live righteously in thy sight. Make it the instrument of building me up in saving knowledge, holy love, and willing obedience, to the praise of Jesus Christ.

O God, make the impenitent feel that they cannot escape thy wrath, if they neglect this great salvation. May it bring them, from being strangers and foreigners, to be fellow-citizens of the household of faith. May it turn their carnal minds from their enmity unto peace with God, and release them, being justified by faith, from that wrath of God which now abideth on them. Blessed Saviour, call them from darkness into marvellous light: free them from the bondage of sin, and cause them to stand fast in the liberty wherewith thou makest thy servants free. Lord, may the kingdom of thy gospel come, and thy will be done on earth as in heaven. Multiply the number of those who shall run to and fro, increasing knowledge. Make the reading, but especially the preaching of thy word, an effectual means of convincing and converting sinners.— Strengthen the minds, and sanctify the wills, and increase the zeal of thy people. Send the rod of thy strength out of Zion, and make thy people willing in the day of thy power: and may converts be multiplied to them as drops of dew in the morning. O God, redeem thy promise, that at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow, and every tongue confess that he is Lord, to the praise of God, the Father.

The Promise of God:

“Your kingdom *is* an everlasting kingdom, and Your dominion *endures* throughout all generations.”

Psalm 145:13

October 27

Call to Worship: Psalm 85:8a,b

“I will hear what God the LORD will speak, for He will speak peace to His people and to His saints....”

Psalm 119:73-80

Scripture Reading:

Romans 7-9

Confession of Faith: Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 103. *What do we pray for in the third petition?*

A. In the third petition, which is, *Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven*, we pray that God, by his grace, would make us able and willing to know, obey and submit to his will in all things, as the angels do in heaven.

Prayer:

Sovereign of the Universe, sanctify my will. Give it grace always to choose that which is good, and to reject that which is evil. I would lament before thee its proneness to forsake thy holy law, and to follow after selfish pleasure. That faculty which thou didst put within me, to guide me to righteous obedience, alas! How often does it urge me on to unholy rebellion. Lord, restore it to that strength and purity, which it enjoyed when thou didst first send forth man from thy creating power, in thine own blessed image. O let me not choose any thing that is opposed to thy holy will. Cleanse thou the fountain of my desires, and make it as a well of living water, springing up into everlasting life.

The Promise of God:

“Teach me to do Your will, for You *are* my God; Your Spirit *is* good. Lead me in the land of
uprightness.”

Psalm 143:10

October 28

Call to Worship: Psalm 86:11-12

“Teach me Your way, O LORD; I will walk in Your truth; unite my heart to fear Your name. I will praise You, O LORD my God, with all my heart, and I will glorify Your name forevermore.”

Psalm 119:81-88

Scripture Reading:

Romans 10-12

Confession of Faith: Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 104. *What do we pray for in the fourth petition?*

A. In the fourth petition, which is, *Give us this day our daily bread*, we pray that of God's free gift we may receive a competent portion of the good things of this life, and enjoy his blessing with them.

Prayer:

Gracious God, I would bless thee that thou carest for the wants of this perishing body; and that thou permittest me to ask thee for my daily bread. Herein thou hast shown both thy condescension and thy love; and hast taught me my dependence on thee, and warned me against undue anxiety respecting the future. I confess before thee, that I am prone to neglect the duty of desiring and seeking, as the gifts of thy hands, my food, and all my temporal comforts. And in receiving them, how often do I fail to acknowledge thy providing and nourishing goodness! O lead me constantly to look to thee, as willing to give to all their meat in due season; and dispose me to receive always thy benefits with humility and thanksgiving.

Lord, suffer not my appetite to crave luxury. May I seek such provision as will recruit and strengthen my body. Let my steadfast desire be, that I may be fitted by thy sustaining mercies, for thy service: so that whether I eat or drink, I may do all to the glory of God.

Teach me, for Jesus' sake, that man liveth not by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. Let me esteem thy words more than my necessary food. Let me not take thought what I shall eat or drink, or wherewithal I shall be clothed; but cause me to seek first thy righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto me. Lord, feed me with heavenly manna. Give me the Bread of Life; that I may eat and live forever.

The Promise of God:

“And God *is* able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all-sufficiency in all *things*, may have an abundance for every good work.”

1 Corinthians 9:8

October 29

Call to Worship: Psalm 89:1

“I will sing of the mercies of the LORD forever; with my mouth will I make known Your faithfulness to all generations.”

Psalm 119:89-96

Scripture Reading:

Romans 13-15

Confession of Faith: Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 105. *What do we pray for in the fifth petition?*

A. In the fifth petition, which is, *And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors*, we pray that God, for Christ's sake, would freely pardon all our sins; which we are the rather encouraged to ask, because by his grace we are enabled from the heart to forgive others.

Prayer:

Almighty God, do thou so control and discipline my heart, that I shall be ever ready to exercise the virtue of forgiveness. Though my motives and character be slandered, and my property and person be injured, let me not return railing for railing, nor injury for injury. May I remember thine example of long-suffering and great mercy, in which thou dost not avenge thyself of thine adversaries; and art not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. May I consider how long thou didst bear with my own disregard of thy rights, and disobedience to thy law; until thou didst at last move me to repentance and faith, and didst crown me, as I trust, with undeserved forgiveness of my sins.

Lord, make me realize the condition of that prayer, "Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors." O let me not, by a vindictive spirit, seal up the fountains of thy pardon; for thou hast said that if we do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will our Father in heaven forgive us our trespasses.—Lord, incline me, moreover, to a merciful spirit, by the reflection that I often commit offences against the rights of others. May I therefore do unto them as I would have them do unto me.—Make me willing to seek forgiveness of any whom I may offend or injure. Permit not false shame nor pride to keep me from acknowledging my errors and transgressions. May I feel that there is more honour in confessing and repairing a sin against my neighbour, than in covering it up, and refusing to render him justice.—Lord, dispose me to love my enemies, to bless them that curse me, and to do good to them that hate me. Make me willing, under every injury, to pray—"Lord, lay not this sin to their charge."

The Promise of God:

“For You, Lord, *are* good, and ready to forgive, and abundant in mercy to all those who call upon You.”

Psalm 86:5

October 30

Call to Worship: Psalm 91:2

“I will say of the LORD, ‘*He is* my refuge and my fortress; my God, in Him I will trust.’”

Psalm 119:97-104

Scripture Reading:

Romans 16
1 Corinthians 1-2

Confession of Faith: Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 106. *What do we pray for in the sixth petition?*

A. In the sixth petition, which is, *And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil*, we pray that God would either keep us from being tempted to sin, or support and deliver us when we are tempted.

Prayer:

Great God, make me realize that I live in constant danger of temptations from foes without and enemies within. Satan, with his countless wiles—my own heart, with its self-deceit and sensuality—the world, with its many lures—each seeks to draw me from the paths of duty, and to lead me in the ways of unrighteousness. Lord, thou hast, indeed, purposes of wisdom, in suffering me to be thus subject to temptation. Thou canst overrule it for my conformity to Christ, who was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. It is in such seasons, O Most High, that thy strength is made perfect in our weakness; and that we are enabled to glory in our infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest on us. And thou often givest us, in mercy, the messengers of Satan, to buffet us, lest we be exalted above measure. They that are tried, and found faithful, shall receive a crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.

Heavenly Father, make thy grace sufficient for me in every season of trial—in the hour of adversity—in the day of prosperity—in the period when exemption from temptation has left me open to seduction—and when the abounding consolations of thy Spirit have been perverted into heedlessness towards the spiritual dangers which beset me. Give me wisdom to discover, and strength to resist, the approach of evil. Let me say at every enticement, "How can I do this wickedness, and sin against God?" May I watch unto prayer, knowing that thou art a very present help in every hour of need; and that thou wilt, with the temptation, also make a way of escape, for all that are of thy heritage.—Lord, carry me safely through every danger, and in thine own time, give me an inheritance among those who have come out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white, in the blood of the Lamb!

The Promise of God:

“The LORD upholds all who fall, and raises up all *who are* bowed down.”

Psalm 145:14

October 31

Call to Worship: Psalm 46:10

“Be still, and know that I *am* God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!”

Psalm 119:105-112

Scripture Reading:

1 Corinthians 3-5

Confession of Faith: Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 107. *What doth the conclusion of the Lord's Prayer teach us?*

A. The conclusion of the Lord's prayer, which is, *For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen*, teacheth us to take our encouragement in prayer from God only, and in our prayers to praise him, ascribing kingdom, power, and glory to him; and, in testimony of our desire, and assurance to be heard, we say, *Amen*.

Prayer:

O Lord, Jehovah, thou art the strength of all that put their trust in thee. Thou art boundless in wisdom, omnipotent in power, and infinite in goodness. Thou dost not withhold any good thing from him that walketh uprightly. Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on thee, because he trusteth in thee. He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water; that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither. Whatsoever he doth shall prosper; and the end of that man is peace.

Lord, if thou art my light and salvation, whom shall I fear? If thou art my strength, of whom shall I be afraid? Enable me, I pray thee, to trust in thee with all my heart; and keep me from leaning on my own understanding. May I cast all my cares upon thee, in perils, in wants, in losses, in griefs, in sickness, and in death. Cause me to hear thy voice, in every variety of tribulation, saying unto me, "What I do thou knowest not now, but thou shalt know hereafter." I would remember that oft when I said, "My foot slippeth," thy mercy, O Lord, held me up. In the day when I cried, thou didst answer and strengthen me. May the memory of thy past goodness, the possession of present joys, and the testimonies of thy promises persuade me, that though the mountains depart, and the hills be removed, thy kindness doth not depart from thee; neither is the covenant of thy peace removed.

Heavenly Father, give me confidence towards thee in the duty of prayer. May I come to thee as to a forgiving, a bountiful, a compassionate, a wise, and a powerful God—for thou only hast an eye of pardon, a hand of plenty, a heart of pity, a judgment of knowledge, and an arm of might. Assure me that whosoever cometh unto thee, thou wilt in no wise cast out. Help me to ask in faith, nothing wavering.

God of Israel, inspire thy people with unlimited and unwavering reliance on thy character, dealings, and purposes. May they learn that the word of the Lord endureth for ever. Let them not cast away their confidence, which hath great recompense of reward. As thou didst not withhold thine own Son, but didst deliver him up for them, O cause them to hope that, with him, thou wilt freely give them all things. Lord, let them never forget that thou makest all things work together

for good to them that love thee. Although the fig-tree may not blossom, neither fruit be in the vines; the labour of the olive fail, and the fields yield no meat; the flock be cut off from the fold, and there be no herd in the stalls—yet may they rejoice in the Lord, and joy in the God of their salvation. Thou canst make even the bed of death a couch of down; and the gloomy grave the cradle of immortality.

Alternate Prayer:

God of Truth, destroy the power of popery. Let not the Man of Sin, the Son of Perdition, continue to rule the nations with his rod of iron. Lord, how long shall men concede to weak mortals, like themselves, the claims of infallibility and absolution? How long shall sinful men be permitted to keep the consciences of their fellow-men—to dispense vain indulgences for sin—to blot out the commandments of God—to make thy law void by vain traditions—to prohibit the bread of life—and to exalt the worship of superstition over the services of simplicity and truth? How long, O Lord, shall they impiously arrogate to change a corruptible thing into the incorruptible body of Christ; and to dishonour the atonement of Jesus, by claiming for any that have been redeemed by his blood, an excess of obedience beyond the requirements of thy law? O redeem the victims of these delusions. May they learn that thou only art the object of worship; that thou only canst forgive sin; and that the Scriptures of truth are the only and all-sufficient rule which thou hast given us, to know how we may glorify and enjoy thee forever.

Lord, cause thy word, thy Spirit, thy providence, and thy people, to concur mightily in overthrowing this great bulwark of Satan. May the spirit of love govern all thy saints in their efforts to recover the world from papal power. Transform all its temples into sanctuaries of righteousness; and into every heart that has been a shrine of its corruptions, put thou an altar consecrated to the pure service of the living God.

The Promise of God:

“The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; My God, my strength, in whom I will trust; My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.”

Psalm 18:2

November 1

Call to Worship: Psalm 92:1-2

“*It is good to give thanks to the LORD, and to sing praises to Your name, O Most High; to declare Your lovingkindness in the morning, and Your faithfulness every night....*”

Psalm 119:113-120

Scripture Reading:

1 Corinthians 6-8

Confession of Faith: Westminster Confession of Faith

CHAPTER I - Of the Holy Scripture

1. Although the light of nature, and the works of creation and providence do so far manifest the goodness, wisdom, and power of God, as to leave men unexcusable; yet are they not sufficient to give that knowledge of God, and of his will, which is necessary unto salvation. Therefore it pleased the Lord, at sundry times, and in divers manners, to reveal himself, and to declare that his will unto his church; and afterwards, for the better preserving and propagating of the truth, and for the more sure establishment and comfort of the church against the corruption of the flesh, and the malice of Satan and of the world, to commit the same wholly unto writing: which maketh the Holy Scripture to be most necessary; those former ways of God's revealing his will unto his people being now ceased.

2. Under the name of Holy Scripture, or the Word of God written, are now contained all the books of the Old and New Testaments, which are these:

Of the Old Testament:

Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, Ruth, I Samuel, II Samuel, I Kings, II Kings, I Chronicles, II Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, The Song of Songs, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi;

Of the New Testament:

The Gospels according to Matthew, Mark, Luke, John; The Acts of the Apostles; Paul's Epistles to the Romans, the Corinthians I, the Corinthians II, the Galatians, the Ephesians, the Philippians, the Colossians, the Thessalonians I, the Thessalonians II, Timothy I, Timothy II, Titus, Philemon; The Epistle to the Hebrews; The Epistle of James; The first and second Epistles of Peter; The first, second, and third Epistles of John; The Epistle of Jude; The Revelation of John;

All which are given by inspiration of God to be the rule of faith and life.

3. The books commonly called *Apocrypha*, not being of divine inspiration, are no part of the canon of the Scripture, and therefore are of no authority in the church of God, nor to be any otherwise approved, or made use of, than other human writings.
4. The authority of the Holy Scripture, for which it ought to be believed, and obeyed, dependeth not upon the testimony of any man, or church; but wholly upon God (who is truth itself) the author thereof: and therefore it is to be received, because it is the Word of God.
5. We may be moved and induced by the testimony of the church to an high and reverent esteem of the Holy Scripture. And the heavenliness of the matter, the efficacy of the doctrine, the majesty of the style, the consent of all the parts, the scope of the whole (which is, to give all glory to God), the full discovery it makes of the only way of man's salvation, the many other incomparable excellencies, and the entire perfection thereof, are arguments whereby it doth abundantly evidence itself to be the Word of God: yet notwithstanding, our full persuasion and assurance of the infallible truth and divine authority thereof, is from the inward work of the Holy Spirit bearing witness by and with the Word in our hearts.
6. The whole counsel of God concerning all things necessary for his own glory, man's salvation, faith and life, is either expressly set down in Scripture, or by good and necessary consequence may be deduced from Scripture: unto which nothing at any time is to be added, whether by new revelations of the Spirit, or traditions of men. Nevertheless, we acknowledge the inward illumination of the Spirit of God to be necessary for the saving understanding of such things as are revealed in the Word: and that there are some circumstances concerning the worship of God, and government of the church, common to human actions and societies, which are to be ordered by the light of nature, and Christian prudence, according to the general rules of the Word, which are always to be observed.
7. All things in Scripture are not alike plain in themselves, nor alike clear unto all: yet those things which are necessary to be known, believed, and observed for salvation, are so clearly propounded, and opened in some place of Scripture or other, that not only the learned, but the unlearned, in a due use of the ordinary means, may attain unto a sufficient understanding of them.
8. The Old Testament in Hebrew (which was the native language of the people of God of old), and the New Testament in Greek (which, at the time of the writing of it, was most generally known to the nations), being immediately inspired by God, and, by his singular care and providence, kept pure in all ages, are therefore authentical; so as, in all controversies of religion, the church is finally to appeal unto them. But, because these original tongues are not known to all the people of God, who have right unto, and interest in the Scriptures, and are commanded, in the fear of God, to read and search them, therefore they are to be translated into the vulgar language of every nation unto which they come, that, the Word of God dwelling plentifully in all, they may worship him in an acceptable manner; and, through patience and comfort of the Scriptures, may have hope.

9. The infallible rule of interpretation of Scripture is the Scripture itself: and therefore, when there is a question about the true and full sense of any Scripture (which is not manifold, but one), it must be searched and known by other places that speak more clearly.

10. The supreme judge by which all controversies of religion are to be determined, and all decrees of councils, opinions of ancient writers, doctrines of men, and private spirits, are to be examined, and in whose sentence we are to rest, can be no other but the Holy Spirit speaking in the Scripture.

Prayer:

God of Truth, I praise thy mercy, in Jesus Christ, that thou hast not left the human race to the blind gropings of unaided reason, in seeking a knowledge of thy will; but that thou hast given us the Scriptures of truth, which holy men of old spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost. I would thank thee for their precepts, which are incentives to good — for their examples, which are monitors of duty — for their threatenings, which are merciful warnings against evil — and for their promises, which are the beacons of hope. Thy testimonies are sure, making wise the simple; and thy law is perfect, converting the soul.

Lord, grant me an affecting sense of thy condescending goodness in the gift of the volume of revelation. Give me the teachings of thy Spirit, that I may understand and love the things of thy word. Incline me, I pray thee, to keep thy statutes; since he only that doth thy will, shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God: while he is cursed, who continueth not in all things written in the book of the law, to do them. O make the Scriptures profitable to me for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, and for instruction in righteousness; that I may be thoroughly furnished unto every good work. Incline me to search them for the truth as it is in Jesus; and may I find there that pearl of great price, which is the only passport to heaven. When my soul cleaveth to the dust, quicken thou me according to thy word; and cause it to dwell in me richly, in all wisdom. Enable me to draw lessons of wisdom and holiness from its blessed pages, wherewith to guide my judgment, and direct my steps, in all the ways of life. Sanctify me by thy truth; thy word is truth.

Giver of Mercies, I thank thee for that bright cluster of evidences of the truth of the Bible, which the researches of the wise and good have gathered over its sacred leaves. O that every skeptic, and every infidel, would learn from them the folly and wickedness of their unbelief, and come with broken hearts and submissive minds, to the throne of thy mercy, crying, "Lord, we would believe; help thou our unbelief."

Lord, bring thy truth with convincing, and persuading, and controlling power, to the hearts and consciences of the ungodly. O make it an effectual means of converting sinners, and of building them up, in holiness and comfort, through faith, unto salvation.—May thy saints attend thereunto, with diligence, preparation, and prayer; receiving it with faith and love, laying it up in their hearts, and practicing it in their lives.

Bestow, I pray thee, thy rich favour on Bible classes. Thou hast been pleased to make them, in many instances, the instruments of turning the hearts of the disobedient. Establish them in every community. Let them be conducted in wisdom and grace, and result in multiplying greatly the trophies of redeeming love.

God of Truth, prosper with thy blessing, the efforts which have been made, and are now making, to give the word of life to those who, in our own, and in other countries, are perishing for lack of knowledge. I would extol thy mercy, that the sacred volume has been transmitted through so many generations, without corruption; and that it has been translated, and published,

and multiplied, in so many tongues and nations of the earth. O reanimate, and strengthen, and extend these labours, until thy word shall have free course in every family throughout the world, and be glorified in bringing multitudes of souls into the kingdom of God. And to thee, O Lord, shall be ascribed the power, and dominion, and glory, forever.

The Promise of God:

“As for God, His way is perfect; the word of the LORD is proven; He is a shield to all who trust in Him.”

Psalm 18:30

November 2

Call to Worship: Psalm 93:1ab, 2, 5b

“The LORD reigns, He is clothed with majesty; the LORD is clothed, He has girded Himself with strength...Your throne *is* established from of old; You *are* from everlasting...holiness adorns Your house, O LORD, forever.”

Psalm 119:121-128

Scripture Reading:

1 Corinthians 9-11

Confession of Faith: Westminster Confession of Faith

CHAPTER II - Of God and of the Holy Trinity

1. There is but one only, living, and true God, who is infinite in being and perfection, a most pure spirit, invisible, without body, parts, or passions; immutable, immense, eternal, incomprehensible, almighty, most wise, most holy, most free, most absolute; working all things according to the counsel of his own immutable and most righteous will, for his own glory; most loving, gracious, merciful, long-suffering, abundant in goodness and truth, forgiving iniquity, transgression, and sin; the rewarder of them that diligently seek him; and withal, most just, and terrible in his judgments, hating all sin, and who will by no means clear the guilty.

2. God hath all life, glory, goodness, blessedness, in and of himself; and is alone in and unto himself all-sufficient, not standing in need of any creatures which he hath made, nor deriving any glory from them, but only manifesting his own glory in, by, unto, and upon them. He is the alone fountain of all being, of whom, through whom, and to whom are all things; and hath most sovereign dominion over them, to do by them, for them, or upon them whatsoever himself pleaseth. In his sight all things are open and manifest, his knowledge is infinite, infallible, and independent upon the creature, so as nothing is to him contingent, or uncertain. He is most holy in all his counsels, in all his works, and in all his commands. To him is due from angels and men, and every other creature, whatsoever worship, service, or obedience he is pleased to require of them.

3. In the unity of the Godhead there be three persons, of one substance, power, and eternity: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost: the Father is of none, neither begotten, nor proceeding; the Son is eternally begotten of the Father; the Holy Ghost eternally proceeding from the Father and the Son.

Prayer:

Great God, cause my understanding to acknowledge, and my heart to adore, the mystery of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, who are the same in substance, equal in power and glory, and who constitute the infinite, eternal, and unchangeable Godhead. Lord, let not my feeble and erring judgment stagger at nor exalt itself against the testimony of thy word: but what thou hast

revealed, that may I receive with a willing mind. O do thou enable me to receive the Father, in all the fulness of his love—the Son, in all the riches of his atonement—and the Spirit, in all the sanctifying power of his grace.

God of Truth, banish that heresy, which, in the pride of human reason, would vainly seek to pervert the doctrine of the Unity of the Godhead, so as to destroy the belief of the glorious Trinity. May all men learn that there are three that bear record in heaven, and that these three are one. May they honour the Son, even as they honour the Father; and worship that Spirit, whose ministrations are life because of righteousness!

The Promise of God:

“Be still, and know that I *am* God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!”

Psalm 46:10

November 3

Call to Worship: Psalm 96:1-6

“Oh, sing to the LORD a new song! Sing to the LORD, all the earth. Sing to the LORD, bless His name; proclaim the good news of His salvation from day to day. Declare His glory among the nations, His wonders among all peoples. For the LORD *is* great and greatly to be praised; He *is* to be feared above all gods. For all the gods of the peoples *are* idols, but the LORD made the heavens. Honor and majesty *are* before Him; strength and beauty *are* in His sanctuary.”

Psalm 119:129-136

Scripture Reading:

1 Corinthians 12-14

Confession of Faith: Westminster Confession of Faith

CHAPTER III - Of God's Eternal Decree

1. God, from all eternity, did, by the most wise and holy counsel of his own will, freely, and unchangeably ordain whatsoever comes to pass: yet so, as thereby neither is God the author of sin, nor is violence offered to the will of the creatures; nor is the liberty or contingency of second causes taken away, but rather established.
2. Although God knows whatsoever may or can come to pass upon all supposed conditions, yet hath he not decreed anything because he foresaw it as future, or as that which would come to pass upon such conditions.
3. By the decree of God, for the manifestation of his glory, some men and angels are predestinated unto everlasting life; and others foreordained to everlasting death.
4. These angels and men, thus predestinated, and foreordained, are particularly and unchangeably designed, and their number so certain and definite, that it cannot be either increased or diminished.
5. Those of mankind that are predestinated unto life, God, before the foundation of the world was laid, according to his eternal and immutable purpose, and the secret counsel and good pleasure of his will, hath chosen, in Christ, unto everlasting glory, out of his mere free grace and love, without any foresight of faith, or good works, or perseverance in either of them, or any other thing in the creature, as conditions, or causes moving him thereunto; and all to the praise of his glorious grace.
6. As God hath appointed the elect unto glory, so hath he, by the eternal and most free purpose of his will, foreordained all the means thereunto. Wherefore, they who are elected, being fallen in Adam, are redeemed by Christ, are effectually called unto faith in Christ by his Spirit working in due season, are justified, adopted, sanctified, and kept by his power, through faith, unto

salvation. Neither are any other redeemed by Christ, effectually called, justified, adopted, sanctified, and saved, but the elect only.

7. The rest of mankind God was pleased, according to the unsearchable counsel of his own will, whereby he extendeth or withholdeth mercy, as he pleaseth, for the glory of his sovereign power over his creatures, to pass by; and to ordain them to dishonor and wrath for their sin, to the praise of his glorious justice.

8. The doctrine of this high mystery of predestination is to be handled with special prudence and care, that men, attending the will of God revealed in his Word, and yielding obedience thereunto, may, from the certainty of their effectual vocation, be assured of their eternal election. So shall this doctrine afford matter of praise, reverence, and admiration of God; and of humility, diligence, and abundant consolation to all that sincerely obey the gospel.

Prayer:

Lord, thou dost according to thy will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of earth; and none can stay thy hand, or say unto thee, "What dost thou?" Thou workest all things after the counsel of thine own will. A man's heart deviseth his way, but thou directest his steps. Thou hast chosen our inheritance, and determined our changes, and fixed the number of our days. We are in thy hands, as clay in the hands of the potter. — Lord, I would adore the mystery of thy sovereignty in the works of grace. Thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and revealed them unto babes. Thou hast mercy on whom thou wilt have mercy; and whom thou wilt thou hardenest. Even so, Father; for so it seemed good in thy sight.

Great God, I rejoice that thy dominion is built on power and wisdom, righteousness and mercy. Thou alone mayest exercise it; for thou art the Maker, Governor, Benefactor, and Judge of all things. — O do thou work in me, to will and to do, of thy good pleasure. Let me not be the slave of sin, but the servant of Jesus; for his yoke is easy, and his burden is light, to all who put their trust in thee. Thy statutes are right, and thy law is perfect. Because the Lord reigneth, let the earth rejoice; let the multitude of isles be glad thereof. Though clouds and darkness are round about thee, justice and judgment are the habitation of thy throne.

Lord, do good in thy good pleasure unto Zion. Build thou the walls of Jerusalem. Be thou her king, to govern, to defend, and to lead her forward, conquering and to conquer. May that stone which was cut out without hands, become a great mountain, and fill the whole earth.

Sovereign of the Universe, teach all men that it is lawful for thee to do what thou wilt with thine own. Wo unto him that striveth with his Maker. Let the potsherd of the earth strive with the potsherd of the earth; but let not the thing formed say to him that formed it, "Why hast thou made me thus?"—Lord, bring the hearts of the ungodly to bow in quiet and confiding submission to thy will. Make them willing in the day of thy power. May they know that thy dominion will be an everlasting dominion, even though they may never become the subjects of thy heavenly kingdom. Thou makest the wrath of men to praise thee: and when the smoke of their torment ascendeth up forever and ever, then shall be heard the voice of a great multitude, as the voice of many waters, and of mighty thunderings, saying, "Alleluia; for the Lord God, Omnipotent, reigneth."

The Promise of God:

“But our God *is* in heaven; He does whatever He pleases...The LORD has been mindful of *us*; He will bless us; He will bless the house of Israel; He will bless the house of Aaron. He will bless those who fear the LORD, *both* small and great.”

Psalm 115:3, 12-13

November 4

Call to Worship: Psalm 77:11-12, 14a

“I will remember the works of the LORD; surely I will remember Your wonders of old. I will also meditate on all your work, and talk of Your deeds....You *are* the God who does wonders....”

Psalm 119:137-144

Scripture Reading:

1 Corinthians 15-16
2 Corinthians 1

Confession of Faith: Westminster Confession of Faith

CHAPTER IV - Of Creation

1. It pleased God the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, for the manifestation of the glory of his eternal power, wisdom, and goodness, in the beginning, to create, or make of nothing, the world, and all things therein whether visible or invisible, in the space of six days; and all very good.

2. After God had made all other creatures, he created man, male and female, with reasonable and immortal souls, endued with knowledge, righteousness, and true holiness, after his own image; having the law of God written in their hearts, and power to fulfill it: and yet under a possibility of transgressing, being left to the liberty of their own will, which was subject unto change. Beside this law written in their hearts, they received a command, not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil; which while they kept, they were happy in their communion with God, and had dominion over the creatures.

Prayer:

Great Builder of the Universe, in the beginning thou didst make the heaven and the earth; and by thee were all things created, that are in heaven and earth, whether they be thrones or dominions, or principalities, or powers. Thou didst speak, and it was done: thou didst command, and it stood fast.—Lord, thou didst make man in thine own image, in knowledge, righteousness and holiness, with dominion over the creatures. But man being in honour abode not. He fell from that holy and happy estate, in which he was created, by sinning against God; and now all that dwell upon the face of the earth are by nature the children of wrath: yea, the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain, because of transgression. O God, redeem the works of thy power from their degeneracy. May this earth be renewed with the beauty of Eden. Breathe thou into man the breath of life, and make him a new creature in Christ Jesus.

Lord, assist me to acknowledge thy power, wisdom, and goodness, as they are shown in the works of thy hands. The heavens declare thy glory, and the firmament showeth thy handy-work. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night showeth knowledge. There is no speech nor language where their voice is not heard. Their line is gone out through all the earth; and their words to the end of the world! All thy works praise thee. O let my tongue and my soul join the chorus of creation; and praise thee in songs of rejoicing, and in newness of life.

Great God, make me thoughtful of the truth, that the heavens and earth, which are now, are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment, and perdition of ungodly men. Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of person ought I to be, in all holy conversation and godliness — looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God; wherein the heavens, being on fire, shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?—Nevertheless, may I, according to thy promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

The Promise of God:

“Among the gods *there is* none like You, O Lord; nor *are there any works* like Your works. All nations whom You have made shall come and worship before You, O Lord, and shall glorify Your name.”
Psalm 86:8-9

November 5

Call to Worship: Psalm 98:1-2

“Oh, sing to the LORD a new song! For He has done marvelous things; His right hand and His holy arm have gained Him the victory. The LORD has made known His salvation; His righteousness He has revealed in the sight of the nations.”

Psalm 119:145-152

Scripture Reading:

2 Corinthians 2-4

Confession of Faith: Westminster Confession of Faith

CHAPTER V - Of Providence

1. God the great Creator of all things doth uphold, direct, dispose, and govern all creatures, actions, and things, from the greatest even to the least, by his most wise and holy providence, according to his infallible foreknowledge, and the free and immutable counsel of his own will, to the praise of the glory of his wisdom, power, justice, goodness, and mercy.
2. Although, in relation to the foreknowledge and decree of God, the first Cause, all things come to pass immutably, and infallibly; yet, by the same providence, he ordereth them to fall out, according to the nature of second causes, either necessarily, freely, or contingently.
3. God, in his ordinary providence, maketh use of means, yet is free to work without, above, and against them, at his pleasure.
4. The almighty power, unsearchable wisdom, and infinite goodness of God so far manifest themselves in his providence, that it extendeth itself even to the first fall, and all other sins of angels and men; and that not by a bare permission, but such as hath joined with it a most wise and powerful bounding, and otherwise ordering, and governing of them, in a manifold dispensation, to his own holy ends; yet so, as the sinfulness thereof proceedeth only from the creature, and not from God, who, being most holy and righteous, neither is nor can be the author or approver of sin.
5. The most wise, righteous, and gracious God doth oftentimes leave, for a season, his own children to manifold temptations, and the corruption of their own hearts, to chastise them for their former sins, or to discover unto them the hidden strength of corruption and deceitfulness of their hearts, that they may be humbled; and, to raise them to a more close and constant dependence for their support upon himself, and to make them more watchful against all future occasions of sin, and for sundry other just and holy ends.
6. As for those wicked and ungodly men whom God, as a righteous Judge, for former sins, doth blind and harden, from them he not only withholdeth his grace whereby they might have been enlightened in their understandings, and wrought upon in their hearts; but sometimes also

withdraweth the gifts which they had, and exposeth them to such objects as their corruption makes occasions of sin; and, withal, gives them over to their own lusts, the temptations of the world, and the power of Satan, whereby it comes to pass that they harden themselves, even under those means which God useth for the softening of others.

7. As the providence of God doth, in general, reach to all creatures; so, after a most special manner, it taketh care of his church, and disposeth all things to the good thereof.

Prayer:

Great Sovereign, thou hast prepared thy throne in the heavens, and thy kingdom ruleth over all. Thou dost thy will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of earth; and none can stay thy hand, nor say unto thee, "What dost thou?" Thou callest the stars by name, and numberest the hairs of our heads: thou upholdest the sparrow, and givest strength to the seraph. Lord, I would praise thee for thy most holy, wise, and powerful preserving and governing all thy creatures. If thou shouldst withdraw the energies of thy power from the works of thy hands, they would all fall back at once into non-existence. But blessed be thy name, thy dominion is an everlasting dominion, and thy kingdom is from generation to generation.

Great God, enable me to see and acknowledge thy hand in all the movements of thy providence. Make me realize my immediate and absolute dependence on thee, and my obligations to thy preserving and governing wisdom. Suffer me not to impeach any of thy ways: for though thy dealings may often seem to the eye of feeble sense to be confused or mysterious, yet in thy sight they stand in perfect order, and are clothed with unshadowed light. Make me submissive to every token of thy will. May I praise thee in joy and in grief: because it is the Lord that giveth, and that taketh away. Thou art indeed wonderful in counsel, and excellent in working. Thou givest the mercies of every day's life to the evil, as well as to the good. But it is only for them that love thee, that thou makest thy providence and grace work together for good. —Exalted Jehovah, may the solemn truth that thy kingdom ruleth over all, lead me to seek thy favour, as the chief blessing of life; and to do thy pleasure, as it is done in heaven.

The Promise of God:

“How precious *is* Your lovingkindness, O God! Therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of Your wings. They are abundantly satisfied with the fullness of Your house, and You give them drink from the river of Your pleasures.”

Psalm 36:7-8

November 6

Call to Worship: Psalm 101:1

“I will sing of mercy and justice; to You, O LORD, I will sing praises.”

Psalm 119:153-160

Scripture Reading:

2 Corinthians 5-7

Confession of Faith: Westminster Confession of Faith

CHAPTER VI - Of the Fall of Man, of Sin and of the Punishment Thereof

1. Our first parents, being seduced by the subtlety and temptation of Satan, sinned, in eating the forbidden fruit. This their sin, God was pleased, according to his wise and holy counsel, to permit, having purposed to order it to his own glory.
2. By this sin they fell from their original righteousness and communion with God, and so became dead in sin, and wholly defiled in all the parts and faculties of soul and body.
3. They being the root of all mankind, the guilt of this sin was imputed; and the same death in sin, and corrupted nature, conveyed to all their posterity descending from them by ordinary generation.
4. From this original corruption, whereby we are utterly indisposed, disabled, and made opposite to all good, and wholly inclined to all evil, do proceed all actual transgressions.
5. This corruption of nature, during this life, doth remain in those that are regenerated; and although it be, through Christ, pardoned, and mortified; yet both itself, and all the motions thereof, are truly and properly sin.
6. Every sin, both original and actual, being a transgression of the righteous law of God, and contrary thereunto, doth, in its own nature, bring guilt upon the sinner, whereby he is bound over to the wrath of God, and curse of the law, and so made subject to death, with all miseries spiritual, temporal, and eternal.

Prayer:

Holy One of Israel, teach me the evil nature and fearful consequences of iniquity. It is the transgression of thy law, in doing what thou hast forbidden, and failing to do what thou hast commanded. Lord, every sin deserves thy wrath and curse, both in this life, and in that which is to come.

Assist me, I beseech thee, to feel that it is an evil and bitter thing to sin against the Lord. Thy law, which I and all mankind break, is holy, just, and good. Thy goodness against which we have transgressed has been over us every hour of our lives. Thou hast nourished and brought us up as

children; but we have rebelled against thee. Every sin which we commit includes as many acts of ingratitude as the whole number of thy past mercies to us. Our iniquity has blinded our minds towards truth and has made us the prey of error. It has been the snare that has corrupted and debased our souls and left them increasingly open to temptation and guilt. O make us feel that all the sickness, misery, remorse, and death in the world are the fruits of transgression; and that if sin had not entered into the world this earth would have been, in all its generations, a paradise of happy and holy obedience. Lord, increase our sense of the exceeding sinfulness of sin by heartfelt views of the humiliation, agony, and death of thy Son; and by the revelation thou hast given of that blackness of darkness, and anguish of despair, which it has brought on the finally impenitent, the smoke of whose torment ascendeth forever and ever.

Great God, it becomes me to take shame and confusion of face upon myself; to cry, "Guilty, and unclean;" and to implore thee to be merciful to me, a sinner. Thou art spotless holiness; and thou canst not look upon sin but with abhorrence. If thou shouldst lay judgment to the line and righteousness to the plummet; or if even thou shouldst deal with me for one of a thousand of my transgressions, I would be driven from thy presence in utter despair. But, thanks be to thy name, the blood of Christ cleanseth from all sin. Though I should be condemned without hope if I dared to stand before thee in my own strength, yet in the righteousness of my Surety I may approach thee and receive remission of sins. Lord, preserve me from the dominion of unholiness, whether it spring from the world, the flesh, or the devil. May the grace that bringeth salvation so teach me to deny ungodliness and to fear and loathe iniquity, that I shall constantly die unto sin and live unto righteousness.

The Promise of God:

“Blessed *is he* whose transgression *is* forgiven, *whose* sin is covered. Blessed *is* the man to whom the LORD does not impute iniquity, and in whose spirit *there is* no deceit.”

Psalm 32:1-2

November 7

Call to Worship: Psalm 103:1

“Bless the LORD, O my soul; and all that is within me, *bless* His holy name!”

Psalm 119:161-168

Scripture Reading:

2 Corinthians 8-10

Confession of Faith: Westminster Confession of Faith

CHAPTER VII - Of God's Covenant with Man

1. The distance between God and the creature is so great, that although reasonable creatures do owe obedience unto him as their Creator, yet they could never have any fruition of him as their blessedness and reward, but by some voluntary condescension on God's part, which he hath been pleased to express by way of covenant.
2. The first covenant made with man was a covenant of works, wherein life was promised to Adam; and in him to his posterity, upon condition of perfect and personal obedience.
3. Man, by his fall, having made himself incapable of life by that covenant, the Lord was pleased to make a second, commonly called the covenant of grace; wherein he freely offereth unto sinners life and salvation by Jesus Christ; requiring of them faith in him, that they may be saved, and promising to give unto all those that are ordained unto eternal life his Holy Spirit, to make them willing, and able to believe.
4. This covenant of grace is frequently set forth in Scripture by the name of a testament, in reference to the death of Jesus Christ the Testator, and to the everlasting inheritance, with all things belonging to it, therein bequeathed.
5. This covenant was differently administered in the time of the law, and in the time of the gospel: under the law, it was administered by promises, prophecies, sacrifices, circumcision, the paschal lamb, and other types and ordinances delivered to the people of the Jews, all foreshadowing Christ to come; which were, for that time, sufficient and efficacious, through the operation of the Spirit, to instruct and build up the elect in faith in the promised Messiah, by whom they had full remission of sins, and eternal salvation; and is called the old testament.
6. Under the gospel, when Christ, the substance, was exhibited, the ordinances in which this covenant is dispensed are the preaching of the Word, and the administration of the sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper: which, though fewer in number, and administered with more simplicity, and less outward glory, yet, in them, it is held forth in more fullness, evidence and spiritual efficacy, to all nations, both Jews and Gentiles; and is called the new testament. There are not therefore two covenants of grace, differing in substance, but one and the same, under various dispensations.

Prayer:

Adorable Jehovah, I would praise thee that, in thy sovereign mercy, thou didst from eternity enter into a covenant of grace, to deliver men out of their estate of sin and misery, and to bring them into an estate of salvation by a Redeemer. Lord, make with me this everlasting covenant, even the sure mercies of David. Call me with a holy calling, not according to works, but according to thy purpose, which was given in Christ Jesus before the world began; but has now been made manifest by his appearing, who hath brought life and immortality to light through thy gospel: and in whom we have redemption, through his blood. O bind me to thee in the adoption of thy children, wherein thou makest them accepted in the Beloved.

Lord, assist me to remember and keep all my engagements to thee. In the silence of retirement and communion with thee—in the acts of social and public prayer—in the hearing of thy word and the singing of thy praise—and in the solemn sacrament, where thy saints subscribe with the hand unto the Lord—I have again and again pledged myself unto thee. My vows are written in my conscience, and in the book of thy remembrance. Help me, I beseech thee, to shun all that I promised to forsake: help me, I pray thee, to perform all that I promised to do. Put thy law into my mind, and write it in my heart; and be my God, that I may be of thy people, chosen according to thy covenant of grace. Make my heart and life abundant in the fruits of that holy relation. Let me not forsake thy love, nor turn from thy ways, but press on towards the mark for the prize of that high calling which is in Christ Jesus.

Merciful God, regard with compassion those who are aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise. Make them feel the deep and radical depravity of their hearts. Convince them of sin, as committed against a holy God. Show them the danger to which they are exposed while they refuse to forsake their transgressions. Exhibit to them Christ crucified, as him by whom alone they can escape from the dominion, the guilt, and the retribution of their sins. O may thy Spirit give them grace to receive and rest upon him for pardon and acceptance. And grant that they may enjoy a union with him as close and fruitful as the branch which abideth in the vine.

The Promise of God:

“Happy *is he* who *has* the God of Jacob for his help, whose hope *is* in the LORD his God....”
Psalm 146:5

November 8

Call to Worship: Psalm 104:1,33-34

“Bless the LORD, O my soul! O LORD my God, You are very great; You are clothed with honor and majesty....I will sing to the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have my being. May my meditation be sweet to Him; I will be glad in the LORD.”

Psalm 119:169-176

Scripture Reading:

2 Corinthians 11-13

Confession of Faith: Westminster Confession of Faith

CHAPTER VIII – Of Christ the Mediator

1. It pleased God, in his eternal purpose, to choose and ordain the Lord Jesus, his only begotten Son, to be the Mediator between God and man, the Prophet, Priest, and King, the Head and Savior of his church, the Heir of all things, and Judge of the world: unto whom he did from all eternity give a people, to be his seed, and to be by him in time redeemed, called, justified, sanctified, and glorified.
2. The Son of God, the second person in the Trinity, being very and eternal God, of one substance and equal with the Father, did, when the fullness of time was come, take upon him man's nature, with all the essential properties, and common infirmities thereof, yet without sin; being conceived by the power of the Holy Ghost, in the womb of the virgin Mary, of her substance. So that two whole, perfect, and distinct natures, the Godhead and the manhood, were inseparably joined together in one person, without conversion, composition, or confusion. Which person is very God, and very man, yet one Christ, the only Mediator between God and man.
3. The Lord Jesus, in his human nature thus united to the divine, was sanctified, and anointed with the Holy Spirit, above measure, having in him all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge; in whom it pleased the Father that all fullness should dwell; to the end that, being holy, harmless, undefiled, and full of grace and truth, he might be thoroughly furnished to execute the office of a mediator, and surety. Which office he took not unto himself, but was thereunto called by his Father, who put all power and judgment into his hand, and gave him commandment to execute the same.
4. This office the Lord Jesus did most willingly undertake; which that he might discharge, he was made under the law, and did perfectly fulfill it; endured most grievous torments immediately in his soul, and most painful sufferings in his body; was crucified, and died, was buried, and remained under the power of death, yet saw no corruption. On the third day he arose from the dead, with the same body in which he suffered, with which also he ascended into heaven, and there sitteth at the right hand of his Father, making intercession, and shall return, to judge men and angels, at the end of the world.

5. The Lord Jesus, by his perfect obedience, and sacrifice of himself, which he, through the eternal Spirit, once offered up unto God, hath fully satisfied the justice of his Father; and purchased, not only reconciliation, but an everlasting inheritance in the kingdom of heaven, for all those whom the Father hath given unto him.

6. Although the work of redemption was not actually wrought by Christ till after his incarnation, yet the virtue, efficacy, and benefits thereof were communicated unto the elect, in all ages successively from the beginning of the world, in and by those promises, types, and sacrifices, wherein he was revealed, and signified to be the seed of the woman which should bruise the serpent's head; and the Lamb slain from the beginning of the world; being yesterday and today the same, and forever.

7. Christ, in the work of mediation, acts according to both natures, by each nature doing that which is proper to itself; yet, by reason of the unity of the person, that which is proper to one nature is sometimes in Scripture attributed to the person denominated by the other nature.

8. To all those for whom Christ hath purchased redemption, he doth certainly and effectually apply and communicate the same; making intercession for them, and revealing unto them, in and by the Word, the mysteries of salvation; effectually persuading them by his Spirit to believe and obey, and governing their hearts by his Word and Spirit; overcoming all their enemies by his almighty power and wisdom, in such manner, and ways, as are most consonant to his wonderful and unsearchable dispensation.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, I would praise and magnify thy name, that thou hast laid help upon One, who is mighty to save, unto the uttermost, all who come unto thee by him. Though the human race was at enmity with thee, and lay exposed to thy curse, thou didst, in infinite mercy, appoint an Interposer between thee and us, that we, who were alienated and enemies by wicked works, might be reconciled in the body of his flesh, through death. We thank thee that we are not called to that mountain which burned with fire, and was clouded with darkness and tempest; but to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to that blood of sprinkling, which speaketh better things than that of Abel. O, it was needful that he should be the Son of God; for no other sacrifice could satisfy the demands of infinite justice—and he must needs be the Son of man; since without the shedding of blood, there is no remission of sins. He who is our eternal Daysman, has infinite fitness for his high and holy office: for in him dwells the fulness of power, wisdom, and mercy!

Blessed Jesus, be thou the propitiation for my sins; and not for mine only, but also for the whole world. O thou who didst become the High-Priest of thine own sacrifice, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people, do thou blot out the handwriting of ordinances that was recorded against me, for my transgressions—procure for me, by thine intercession, the loving kindness of Jehovah—and bind all my affections to the throne of grace, by that new, and better, and everlasting covenant, which is the fruit of thy wisdom and mercy, and the work of thy power and grace, unto salvation.—Heavenly Father, make the words of my mouth, and the meditations of my heart, and the service of my life, acceptable to thee, through him who is my Strength and my Redeemer.

The Promise of God:

“But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, to the general assembly and church of the firstborn *who* are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect, to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than *that of Abel.*”

Hebrews 12:22-24

November 9

Call to Worship: Psalm 105:1-5

“Oh, give thanks to the LORD! Call upon His name; make known His deeds among the peoples! Sing to Him, sing psalms to Him; talk of all His wondrous works! Glory in His holy name; let the hearts of those rejoice who seek the LORD! Seek the LORD and His strength; seek His face evermore! Remember His marvelous works which He has done, His wonders, and the judgments of His mouth....”

Psalm 120

Scripture Reading:

Galatians 1-3

Confession of Faith: Westminster Confession of Faith

CHAPTER IX – Of Free Will

1. God hath endued the will of man with that natural liberty, that it is neither forced, nor, by any absolute necessity of nature, determined to good, or evil.
2. Man, in his state of innocency, had freedom, and power to will and to do that which was good and well pleasing to God; but yet, mutably, so that he might fall from it.
3. Man, by his fall into a state of sin, hath wholly lost all ability of will to any spiritual good accompanying salvation: so as, a natural man, being altogether averse from that good, and dead in sin, is not able, by his own strength, to convert himself, or to prepare himself thereunto.
4. When God converts a sinner, and translates him into the state of grace, he freeth him from his natural bondage under sin; and, by his grace alone, enables him freely to will and to do that which is spiritually good; yet so, as that by reason of his remaining corruption, he doth not perfectly, nor only, will that which is good, but doth also will that which is evil.
5. The will of man is made perfectly and immutably free to good alone, in the state of glory only.

Prayer:

Sovereign of the Universe, sanctify my will. Give it grace always to choose that which is good, and to reject that which is evil. I would lament before thee its proneness to forsake thy holy law, and to follow after selfish pleasure. That faculty which thou didst put within me, to guide me to righteous obedience, alas! How often does it urge me on to unholy rebellion. Lord, restore it to that strength and purity, which it enjoyed when thou didst first send forth man from thy creating power, in thine own blessed image. O let me not choose any thing that is opposed to thy holy will. Cleanse thou the fountain of my desires, and make it as a well of living water, springing up into everlasting life.

The Promise of God:

“O God, *You are* more awesome than Your holy places. The God of Israel *is* He who gives strength and power to *His* people. Blessed *be* God!”

Psalm 68:35

November 10

Call to Worship: Psalm 106:1

“Praise the LORD! Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for *He is* good! For His mercy *endures* forever!”

Psalm 121

Scripture Reading:

Galatians 4-6

Confession of Faith: Westminster Confession of Faith

CHAPTER X – Of Effectual Calling

1. All those whom God hath predestinated unto life, and those only, he is pleased, in his appointed and accepted time, effectually to call, by his Word and Spirit, out of that state of sin and death, in which they are by nature, to grace and salvation, by Jesus Christ; enlightening their minds spiritually and savingly to understand the things of God, taking away their heart of stone, and giving unto them a heart of flesh; renewing their wills, and, by his almighty power, determining them to that which is good, and effectually drawing them to Jesus Christ: yet so, as they come most freely, being made willing by his grace.
2. This effectual call is of God's free and special grace alone, not from anything at all foreseen in man, who is altogether passive therein, until, being quickened and renewed by the Holy Spirit, he is thereby enabled to answer this call, and to embrace the grace offered and conveyed in it.
3. Elect infants, dying in infancy, are regenerated, and saved by Christ, through the Spirit, who worketh when, and where, and how he pleaseth: so also are all other elect persons who are incapable of being outwardly called by the ministry of the Word.
4. Others, not elected, although they may be called by the ministry of the Word, and may have some common operations of the Spirit, yet they never truly come unto Christ, and therefore cannot be saved: much less can men, not professing the Christian religion, be saved in any other way whatsoever, be they never so diligent to frame their lives according to the light of nature, and the laws of that religion they do profess. And, to assert and maintain that they may, is very pernicious, and to be detested.

Prayer:

Lord, I would come to thee in the name of Christ that I may learn the necessity, the nature, and the fruits of regeneration. O do thou fasten on my mind abiding convictions that the carnal mind is enmity against thee and that all mankind are by nature the children of wrath and receive not the things of the Spirit, for they are foolishness to them; neither can they learn them, for they are spiritually discerned. Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

Show me, O Lord, that if any man be in Christ Jesus, he is a new creature; old things are passed away; all things are become new. He has put on the new man, which is renewed in

knowledge, after the image of him who created him, in righteousness and true holiness. It is thou, God of Mercy, who workest in such to will and to do of thine own good pleasure; not by works which they have done; but according to thy mercy; by the washing of regeneration and the renewing of the Holy Ghost. They are born not of blood, nor of the will of man, but of God who only giveth repentance unto life, and the earnest of that Spirit whereby they are sealed until the day of redemption.

Teach me, O Lord, that they who have been born from above bring forth fruits meet for repentance; that they add to faith virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness, and charity; and that these, abounding in them, cause them that they be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of the Saviour. They are made free from sin and have become servants unto God; having their fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.

Blessed Saviour, give me evidence in my heart and conduct that I have passed from death unto life; that having been convinced of my sin and misery, I have had my mind enlightened in the knowledge of thee, my will renewed, and have been persuaded and enabled to embrace thee as thou art freely offered in the gospel. Let me not be satisfied with the form of godliness without its life-giving power. Search me, O Lord, and try me; and see if there be any evil way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting. Make me watchful against temptation; quick to retrace my way when I fall into evil; ready to confess my trespasses; and earnest in purposes of new obedience. Create in me a new heart and renew a right spirit within me. Grant me forgiveness of sins and enable me to look forward with a rejoicing hope to an inheritance among them that are sanctified. Vouchsafe unto me, I pray thee, the testimony of thy Spirit, that I have been redeemed by thy grace. O, if thou hast begun a good work in me, continue it unto the end; and let thy grace be in me as a well of living water, springing up into everlasting life.

Lord, convince the impenitent of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment. Thou hast no pleasure in the death of him that dieth, and thou art not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. O lead many to inquire what they must do to be saved. Show them that they who are in the flesh cannot please God. Set before them distinctly, life and good; death and evil. May thy law be a schoolmaster to bring them to Christ that they may be justified by faith. Persuade them to believe in that only name by which sinners can be saved. May they be born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible; by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever.

The Promise of God:

“But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren, beloved by the Lord, because God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth, to which He called you by our gospel, for the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

2 Thessalonians 2:13-14

November 11

Call to Worship: Psalm 107:1

“Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for *He is* good! For His mercy *endures* forever.”

Psalm 122

Scripture Reading:

Ephesians 1-3

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CHAPTER XI – Of Justification

1. Those whom God effectually calleth, he also freely justifieth: not by infusing righteousness into them, but by pardoning their sins, and by accounting and accepting their persons as righteous; not for anything wrought in them, or done by them, but for Christ's sake alone; nor by imputing faith itself, the act of believing, or any other evangelical obedience to them, as their righteousness; but by imputing the obedience and satisfaction of Christ unto them, they receiving and resting on him and his righteousness, by faith; which faith they have not of themselves, it is the gift of God.
2. Faith, thus receiving and resting on Christ and his righteousness, is the alone instrument of justification: yet is it not alone in the person justified, but is ever accompanied with all other saving graces, and is no dead faith, but worketh by love.
3. Christ, by his obedience and death, did fully discharge the debt of all those that are thus justified, and did make a proper, real, and full satisfaction to his Father's justice in their behalf. Yet, inasmuch as he was given by the Father for them; and his obedience and satisfaction accepted in their stead; and both, freely, not for anything in them; their justification is only of free grace; that both the exact justice and rich grace of God might be glorified in the justification of sinners.
4. God did, from all eternity, decree to justify all the elect, and Christ did, in the fullness of time, die for their sins, and rise again for their justification: nevertheless, they are not justified, until the Holy Spirit doth, in due time, actually apply Christ unto them.
5. God doth continue to forgive the sins of those that are justified; and, although they can never fall from the state of justification, yet they may, by their sins, fall under God's fatherly displeasure, and not have the light of his countenance restored unto them, until they humble themselves, confess their sins, beg pardon, and renew their faith and repentance.
6. The justification of believers under the old testament was, in all these respects, one and the same with the justification of believers under the new testament.

Prayer:

Blessed Lord, give me clear, and scriptural, and saving views of that justification, which is a cardinal doctrine of the gospel, and an essential and lifegiving principle of personal piety. Teach me that it is an act of thy free grace, wherein thou pardonest all our sins, and acceptest us as righteous, in thy sight, only for the righteousness of Christ, imputed to us, and received by faith alone. Show me that in it thou hast displayed thy holiness, satisfied thy justice, and magnified thy law—Christ being made the end of the law, to every one that believeth. Instruct me that by the deeds of the law, no flesh living shall be justified; but only by the faith of Jesus; in whom thou art reconciling the world unto thyself, not imputing unto them their trespasses and sins.

Lord, justify me freely by thy grace, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. In his merits, acquit me from the punishment I deserve for my transgressions, and give me a title to those blessings which I would have received through thy law, if I had fulfilled it in sinless obedience. O may I ever be found in him, not having on mine own righteousness, which is of the law; but that which is by the faith of him, unto all and upon all that believe. Grant that I may have peace with thee, and access to thy throne, with confidence of acceptance, in the Beloved. Give me faith in him as a living, as well as a dying Saviour—he being risen again for our justification. May I know him in whom I have believed, as my atoning sacrifice; and be persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him. And grant, O Lord, that my hope of forgiveness and favour, in the blood of the Redeemer, may result in that open acknowledgment and acquittal, in the day of judgment, which will be followed by everlasting glory.

Lord, let the question, "How shall men be just with God?" agitate the minds of those that have not made their peace with thee. May thy Spirit answer it, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved." And do thou give this truth such convincing and persuading power, that many shall accept and rest on Christ, as the only and all sufficient hope of salvation.

The Promise of God:

“But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.”

Ephesians 2:13

November 12

Call to Worship: Psalm 108:1-5

“O God, my heart is steadfast; I will sing and give praise, even with my glory. Awake, lute and harp! I will awaken the dawn. I will praise You, O LORD, among the peoples, and I will sing praises to You among the nations. For Your mercy *is* great above the heavens, and Your truth *reaches* to the clouds. Be exalted, O God, above the heavens, and Your glory above all the earth....”

Psalm 123

Scripture Reading:

Ephesians 4-6

Confession of Faith: Westminster Confession of Faith

CHAPTER XII – Of Adoption

1. All those that are justified, God vouchsafeth, in and for his only Son Jesus Christ, to make partakers of the grace of adoption, by which they are taken into the number, and enjoy the liberties and privileges of the children of God, have his name put upon them, receive the Spirit of adoption, have access to the throne of grace with boldness, are enabled to cry, Abba, Father, are pitied, protected, provided for, and chastened by him, as by a father: yet never cast off, but sealed to the day of redemption; and inherit the promises, as heirs of everlasting salvation.

Prayer:

Lord, wilt thou give me the Spirit of adoption, by which I may cry "Abba, Father?" I am indeed thine offspring by creation. May I be thine by adoption: and be thou my parent in that nobler relation of a reconciled God and Father in the Lord Jesus. Make me one of the number and give me, through the merits of Christ, a title to the privileges of thy dear children. Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed on them, that they should be called the sons of God!

O grant that in indulging this hope, I may purify myself even as thou art pure. Make it a spirit of tenderness and reverence, of gratitude and love, of obedience and zeal. May it give me access to thy throne with an humble confidence in the faith of Christ, of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named; and keep me from that spirit of bondage, that servile fear and slavish formality in duty, which will make me as a hired servant, instead of an heir, in my Father's house. May it enable me in all the vicissitudes of life to look up to thee as infinitely able and willing to bless me with thy paternal gifts: for if earthly parents know how to give good gifts to their children, much more will our heavenly Father give his Holy Spirit to them that ask him. Grant that thy Spirit may bear witness with mine that I am thy child; and if a child then an heir, and a joint-heir with Christ, in that inheritance which fadeth not away.

Look in mercy, O God, on thy children by nature who are wandering as prodigals from their home and are living without God in the world. Touch their hearts with a feeling of their wants and their apostasy; and do thou bring many back who shall say they have sinned against heaven

and in thy sight, and are not worthy to be called thy children. Establish them in the fellowship of thy saints, and make them heirs of the grace of life through the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Promise of God:

“Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief *cornerstone*, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.”

Ephesians 2:19-22

November 13

Call to Worship: Psalm 111:3-5

“The works of the LORD *are* great, studied by all who have pleasure in them. His work *is* honorable and glorious, and His righteousness endures forever. He has made His wonderful works to be remembered; the LORD *is* gracious and full of compassion, He has given food to those who fear Him; He will ever be mindful of His covenant.”

Psalm 124

Scripture Reading:

Philippians 1-3

Confession of Faith: Westminster Confession of Faith

CHAPTER XIII – Of Sanctification

1. They, who are once effectually called, and regenerated, having a new heart, and a new spirit created in them, are further sanctified, really and personally, through the virtue of Christ's death and resurrection, by his Word and Spirit dwelling in them: the dominion of the whole body of sin is destroyed, and the several lusts thereof are more and more weakened and mortified; and they more and more quickened and strengthened in all saving graces, to the practice of true holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord.
2. This sanctification is throughout, in the whole man; yet imperfect in this life, there abiding still some remnants of corruption in every part; whence ariseth a continual and irreconcilable war, the flesh lusting against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh.
3. In which war, although the remaining corruption, for a time, may much prevail; yet, through the continual supply of strength from the sanctifying Spirit of Christ, the regenerate part doth overcome; and so, the saints grow in grace, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

Prayer:

O Most Holy, how impure is this heart which thou didst make to be the temple of the living God. But, thanks be to thy name, thou canst make me clean. Thy Spirit can sanctify me by thy truth, and by thy providence, and can change me into thine own image; making my powers fit for thy service, and my soul meet to be thy dwelling.

Lord, grant me that work of thy free grace, by which I shall be enabled, more and more, to die unto sin, and to live unto righteousness. May I remember that thou art holy; and that this is thy will, even our sanctification. May I look upon Jesus, in his character as a Saviour from sin. Show me in his sufferings and death, the guilt of man's sinfulness. Teach me by the rebellion of my own heart, its stubbornness and deformity. Convince me of its demerit, by vivid views of the unending punishment of the lost. O make me loathe transgression. Paralyze its power over my judgment, conscience, and affections; that the body of sin being destroyed, henceforth I may not serve sin, but be the servant of righteousness.

Great God, preserve the hearts of thy chosen generation from sinful thoughts, words, and actions; and do thou cause them to abound in the fruits of holiness. May thy grace sanctify them by a hope that purifieth, even as Christ is pure; by a love which seeks conformity to thine own image; and by a faith which looks at things that are not seen, and that are eternal.—Make them living epistles, seen and read of all men. Make them the salt of the earth—the means of leading a wicked and perverse generation, by the power of a good example, to glorify their Father in heaven. Gracious Sovereign, enable them to adorn the doctrine of God, their Saviour, in all things. Imbue them with that holiness without which no man can see the Lord.

The Promise of God:

“I am the vine, you *are* the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.”

John 15:5

November 14

Call to Worship: Psalm 113:2-3

“Blessed be the name of the LORD from this time forth and forevermore! From the rising of the sun to its going down the LORD’s name *is* to be praised.”

Psalm 125

Scripture Reading:

Philippians 4
Colossians 1-2

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CHAPTER XIV – Of Saving Faith

1. The grace of faith, whereby the elect are enabled to believe to the saving of their souls, is the work of the Spirit of Christ in their hearts, and is ordinarily wrought by the ministry of the Word, by which also, and by the administration of the sacraments, and prayer, it is increased and strengthened.
2. By this faith, a Christian believeth to be true whatsoever is revealed in the Word, for the authority of God himself speaking therein; and acteth differently upon that which each particular passage thereof containeth; yielding obedience to the commands, trembling at the threatenings, and embracing the promises of God for this life, and that which is to come. But the principal acts of saving faith are accepting, receiving, and resting upon Christ alone for justification, sanctification, and eternal life, by virtue of the covenant of grace.
3. This faith is different in degrees, weak or strong; may be often and many ways assailed, and weakened, but gets the victory: growing up in many to the attainment of a full assurance, through Christ, who is both the author and finisher of our faith.

Prayer:

Lord, increase my faith. I would believe: help thou mine unbelief. Give me unwavering trust in thee as infinite, eternal, and unchangeable, in all thine attributes. Cause me to repose with implicit confidence in thy purposes and dispensations towards thy creatures. Enable me to confide all my interests, for time and eternity, to thy keeping. Be thou, O God, the strength of my heart, and my portion forever!

Let me not stagger at thy word through unbelief; for without faith it is impossible to please thee. May I trust thee in all thou hast spoken, as well as in all thou hast done. Let me not hold thy truth in unrighteousness; but do thou make it profitable to me for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, and for instruction in righteousness; that thereby I may be thoroughly furnished unto every good work. Teach me to confide in its precious promises, to heed its solemn warnings, to follow its sacred examples, and to obey its holy precepts.

Lead me, blessed God, to look unto Jesus, the author and finisher of faith. To him give all the

prophets witness, that through him, whosoever believeth on his name, shall have remission of sins: while he that believeth not shall be damned. O may he be my Teacher, my Saviour, and my Ruler; and may I receive and rest upon him alone for salvation, as he is offered in the gospel.

Heavenly Father, excite my trust in thee by the examples of the saints, who by faith wrought righteousness, obtained promises, and out of weakness were made strong. Wherefore seeing that I am compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, may I also, for the joy set before me, endure the cross, and run my race with patience, striving against sin.

Lord, enable me to exercise faith in prayer. Give me an abiding conviction, that thou art the rewarder of all that diligently seek thee. May I ask of thee the things that are according to thy will, trusting that I shall receive them. May I knock at the door of thy mercy, believing that thou wilt open unto me. O grant me access with confidence to the throne of thy grace, in the strength of Christ's merits, and of that intercession which he ever liveth to make for those that come unto thee by him.

Lord, give me grace to show my faith by my works; for as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also. May I add to it virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly-kindness, and charity. May it so work by love, that I may realize the iniquity and danger of those who are strangers to thy covenants of promise, and have the energies of my soul and body stirred up, to pluck them as brands from the burning.

Heavenly Father, give me the evidence of things not seen, and the substance of things hoped for. May I walk by faith, and not by sight; looking not at the things which are seen and temporal, but at those that are not seen, and are eternal. O may it please thee to give me that victory which overcometh the world; and to grant that in all the trials of life, and amid the struggles of death, I may come off more than conqueror, through him who is the end of the law for righteousness, to all that believe on him!

The Promise of God:

“In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, *being* much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see *Him*, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of *your* souls.”

1 Peter 1:6-9

November 15

Call to Worship: Psalm 118:1,14, 28

“Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for *He is* good! For His mercy endures forever....The LORD *is* my strength and song, and He has become my salvation....You *are* my God, and I will praise You; *You are* my God, I will exalt You.”

Psalm 126

Scripture Reading:

Colossians 3-4
1 Thessalonians 1

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CHAPTER XV – Of Repentance unto Life

1. Repentance unto life is an evangelical grace, the doctrine whereof is to be preached by every minister of the gospel, as well as that of faith in Christ.

2. By it, a sinner, out of the sight and sense not only of the danger, but also of the filthiness and odiousness of his sins, as contrary to the holy nature, and righteous law of God; and upon the apprehension of his mercy in Christ to such as are penitent, so grieves for, and hates his sins, as to turn from them all unto God, purposing and endeavoring to walk with him in all the ways of his commandments.

3. Although repentance be not to be rested in, as any satisfaction for sin, or any cause of the pardon thereof, which is the act of God's free grace in Christ; yet it is of such necessity to all sinners, that none may expect pardon without it.

4. As there is no sin so small, but it deserves damnation; so there is no sin so great, that it can bring damnation upon those who truly repent.

5. Men ought not to content themselves with a general repentance, but it is every man's duty to endeavor to repent of his particular sins, particularly.

6. As every man is bound to make private confession of his sins to God, praying for the pardon thereof; upon which, and the forsaking of them, he shall find mercy; so, he that scandalizeth his brother, or the church of Christ, ought to be willing, by a private or public confession, and sorrow for his sin, to declare his repentance to those that are offended, who are thereupon to be reconciled to him, and in love to receive him.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, grant me repentance unto life through the merits of the Saviour. Give me, I beseech thee, a true sense of my sin. It is against thee, O Lord, I have sinned. I have broken thy

holy, wise, and benevolent law ways and times beyond number. I have sinned against the teachings of thy word, against the testimonies of conscience, against the drawings of thy love, and against the strivings of thy Spirit. My transgressions may have led others into the paths of evil, and thus have been instrumental in loading their souls with guilt. Mine iniquities have cast reproach on thy cause in the world; and they have shut out the precious light of thy countenance from my soul. O God, make me feel how hateful my sin is in thy sight, and that the perfections of thy nature are pledged for its punishment. O thou hast spread wide and deep the lake of unquenchable fire—thou hast built, with everlasting strength, the prison-walls of hell—where the unrepenting sinner will dwell in torment forever.

Lord, I implore thee to give me deep convictions of the atrocious guilt and soul-destroying danger of sin. Grant me feelings of strong abhorrence towards it. Incline me to mourn with bitterness of heart over my transgressions. Imbue me with courage to resolve to forsake them, and with strength to turn from them unto thee with earnest endeavours after new obedience. Teach me that he who turns not away from every sin turns not aright from any sin. O let not mine be the sorrow of the world that worketh death; but a godly sorrow that worketh repentance to salvation, not to be repented of. Bring me to thee crying, "Lord, save me, or I perish." And say to me in thy mercy, "Son, be of good cheer; thy sins be forgiven thee."

O God, kindle a fire in the consciences of the impenitent that shall cleanse them from the love of sin, and purify them unto thee in holiness of heart and life. Convince them of the evil nature and fearful consequences of their iniquity. Show them that thou art waiting to be gracious and that thou hast no pleasure in the death of them that die, but that they turn and live. Turn them from the error of their ways and lead them into the path of the just. Induce them to forsake their sins and to bring forth fruits meet for repentance. Incline them to obey thy will from the heart, not that they may seek, by the deeds of the law, to be justified in thy sight; but that he who was delivered for their offences may be made their justification and complete salvation.

The Promise of God:

“The Lord is not slack concerning *His* promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.”

2 Peter 3:9

November 16

Call to Worship: Psalm 119:7, 10, 12, 108

“I will praise You with uprightness of heart, when I learn Your righteous judgments....With my whole heart I have sought You; oh, let me not wander from Your commandments....Blessed *are* You, O LORD! Teach me Your statutes....Accept, I pray, the freewill offerings of my mouth, O LORD, and teach me Your judgments.”

Psalm 127

Scripture Reading:

1 Thessalonians 2-4

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CHAPTER XVI – Of Good Works

1. Good works are only such as God hath commanded in his holy Word, and not such as, without the warrant thereof, are devised by men, out of blind zeal, or upon any pretense of good intention.
2. These good works, done in obedience to God's commandments, are the fruits and evidences of a true and lively faith: and by them believers manifest their thankfulness, strengthen their assurance, edify their brethren, adorn the profession of the gospel, stop the mouths of the adversaries, and glorify God, whose workmanship they are, created in Christ Jesus thereunto, that, having their fruit unto holiness, they may have the end, eternal life.
3. Their ability to do good works is not at all of themselves, but wholly from the Spirit of Christ. And that they may be enabled thereunto, beside the graces they have already received, there is required an actual influence of the same Holy Spirit, to work in them to will, and to do, of his good pleasure: yet are they not hereupon to grow negligent, as if they were not bound to perform any duty unless upon a special motion of the Spirit; but they ought to be diligent in stirring up the grace of God that is in them.
4. They who, in their obedience, attain to the greatest height which is possible in this life, are so far from being able to supererogate, and to do more than God requires, as that they fall short of much which in duty they are bound to do.
5. We cannot by our best works merit pardon of sin, or eternal life at the hand of God, by reason of the great disproportion that is between them and the glory to come; and the infinite distance that is between us and God, whom, by them, we can neither profit, nor satisfy for the debt of our former sins, but when we have done all we can, we have done but our duty, and are unprofitable servants: and because, as they are good, they proceed from his Spirit; and as they are wrought by us, they are defiled, and mixed with so much weakness and imperfection, that they cannot endure the severity of God's judgment.

6. Notwithstanding, the persons of believers being accepted through Christ, their good works also are accepted in him; not as though they were in this life wholly unblamable and unprovable in God's sight; but that he, looking upon them in his Son, is pleased to accept and reward that which is sincere, although accompanied with many weaknesses and imperfections.

7. Works done by unregenerate men, although for the matter of them they may be things which God commands; and of good use both to themselves and others: yet, because they proceed not from an heart purified by faith; nor are done in a right manner, according to the Word; nor to a right end, the glory of God, they are therefore sinful, and cannot please God, or make a man meet to receive grace from God: and yet, their neglect of them is more sinful and displeasing unto God.

Prayer:

Blessed God, make me understand the imperfection of human obedience. There is not a just man on earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not. Even when I most fulfil thy will, I am an unprofitable servant. Lord, keep me from thoughts and boastings of merit: for it is not by works of righteousness I have done, that I shall be justified, but by thy grace, through Jesus Christ, the Saviour. And yet, O Lord, do thou make me careful to maintain good works: for thou requirest me to work that which is well pleasing in thy sight; and thou hast an infinite right to my service, as my Creator, Ruler, and Redeemer. Create me, therefore, in Christ Jesus, unto good works, and make me as the branch which abideth in the vine, bearing fruit. May thy word be in my heart; as good seed, which springeth up, and beareth an hundred fold. May I do thy will with a heart of love, with faith unfeigned, and with desire that all I do may be for thy glory. Grant me the renewing of the Holy Spirit, and that faith which works by love, and is accepted by thee, in Christ's name, for righteousness. Teach me, O Lord, that whatsoever a man soweth that shall he also reap. If he sow to the flesh, he shall of the flesh reap corruption: but if he sow to the Spirit, he shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting. I pray thee, therefore, let me not be weary in well-doing; for in due season I shall reap, if I faint not.

The Promise of God:

“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus, for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.”

Ephesians 2:10

November 17

Call to Worship: Psalm 136:1-4, 26

“Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for *He* is good! For His mercy *endures* forever. Oh, give thanks to the God of gods! For His mercy *endures* forever. Oh, give thanks to the Lord of lords! For His mercy *endures* forever: to Him who alone does great wonders, for His mercy *endures* forever....Oh, give thanks to the God of heaven! For His mercy *endures* forever.”

Psalm 128

Scripture Reading:

1 Thessalonians 5
2 Thessalonians 1-2

Confession of Faith: Westminster Confession of Faith

CHAPTER XVII – Of the Perseverance of the Saints

1. They, whom God hath accepted in his Beloved, effectually called, and sanctified by his Spirit, can neither totally nor finally fall away from the state of grace, but shall certainly persevere therein to the end, and be eternally saved.
2. This perseverance of the saints depends not upon their own free will, but upon the immutability of the decree of election, flowing from the free and unchangeable love of God the Father; upon the efficacy of the merit and intercession of Jesus Christ, the abiding of the Spirit, and of the seed of God within them, and the nature of the covenant of grace: from all which ariseth also the certainty and infallibility thereof.
3. Nevertheless, they may, through the temptations of Satan and of the world, the prevalency of corruption remaining in them, and the neglect of the means of their preservation, fall into grievous sins; and, for a time, continue therein: whereby they incur God's displeasure, and grieve his Holy Spirit, come to be deprived of some measure of their graces and comforts, have their hearts hardened, and their consciences wounded; hurt and scandalize others, and bring temporal judgments upon themselves.

Prayer:

God of Salvation, let me not be of those that draw back unto perdition, but of them that believe unto the saving of the soul. Make me steadfast in the pursuit of knowledge, and performance of duty. Teach me that the race is not to the swift, but to them who cast aside every weight, and the sin that doth so easily beset them; and who look to Jesus, as the Author and Finisher of faith. Blessed be God, the way I am called to run in, is not an unbeaten path; for thy people on earth are now walking in it as the highway to heaven; the saints in glory have followed it unto life eternal; yea, even the High Priest of our profession, Christ the Righteous, hath made it smooth by his glorious footsteps. Lord, give me a warmer zeal, and a holier strength, to run that heavenly road.

O God, set clearly and strongly before my mind, that exceeding and eternal weight of glory, which is laid up for those that endure unto the end. May I so run, that I shall obtain it. Enable me to continue in all things which are written in the book of the law, to do them. O teach me the duty of perseverance, by a conviction of the uncertainty of life. Those servants only shall be blessed, whom when the Lord cometh, he shall find watching.—Give me, I beseech thee, such views of the foes that are within and around me, as shall lead me to continual dependence on thy grace, and unremitting diligence in thy will. Imbue me with courage of mind and strength of heart, to overcome all the hinderances which Satan, or the world, or my own passions, may cast in my way.—Heavenly Father, let nothing be able to separate me from thy love in Christ Jesus. O, love me with an everlasting love. May he that is the Ransom of sinners, save me unto the uttermost. May thy Holy Spirit seal me unto the day of redemption, and be my Comforter, to abide with me forever. And then, in that inheritance which is incorruptible, and that fadeth not away, I will praise thee for the power of thy grace, by which I shall have been kept, through faith, unto salvation.

The Promise of God:

“Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you *is* faithful, who also will do *it*.”

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

November 18

Call to Worship: Psalm 138:1a, 2c

“I will praise You with my whole heart...for Your lovingkindness and Your truth....”

Psalm 129

Scripture Reading:

2 Thessalonians 3

1 Timothy 1-2

Confession of Faith: Westminster Confession of Faith

CHAPTER XVIII – Of the Assurance of Grace and Salvation

1. Although hypocrites and other unregenerate men may vainly deceive themselves with false hopes and carnal presumptions of being in the favor of God, and estate of salvation (which hope of theirs shall perish): yet such as truly believe in the Lord Jesus, and love him in sincerity, endeavoring to walk in all good conscience before him, may, in this life, be certainly assured that they are in the state of grace, and may rejoice in the hope of the glory of God, which hope shall never make them ashamed.

2. This certainty is not a bare conjectural and probable persuasion grounded upon a fallible hope; but an infallible assurance of faith founded upon the divine truth of the promises of salvation, the inward evidence of those graces unto which these promises are made, the testimony of the Spirit of adoption witnessing with our spirits that we are the children of God, which Spirit is the earnest of our inheritance, whereby we are sealed to the day of redemption.

3. This infallible assurance doth not so belong to the essence of faith, but that a true believer may wait long, and conflict with many difficulties before he be partaker of it: yet, being enabled by the Spirit to know the things which are freely given him of God, he may, without extraordinary revelation, in the right use of ordinary means, attain thereunto. And therefore it is the duty of everyone to give all diligence to make his calling and election sure, that thereby his heart may be enlarged in peace and joy in the Holy Ghost, in love and thankfulness to God, and in strength and cheerfulness in the duties of obedience, the proper fruits of this assurance; so far is it from inclining men to looseness.

4. True believers may have the assurance of their salvation divers ways shaken, diminished, and intermitted; as, by negligence in preserving of it, by falling into some special sin which woundeth the conscience and grieveth the Spirit; by some sudden or vehement temptation, by God's withdrawing the light of his countenance, and suffering even such as fear him to walk in darkness and to have no light: yet are they never utterly destitute of that seed of God, and life of faith, that love of Christ and the brethren, that sincerity of heart, and conscience of duty, out of which, by the operation of the Spirit, this assurance may, in due time, be revived; and by the which, in the meantime, they are supported from utter despair.

Prayer:

Lord, grant me a well-grounded assurance of a personal interest in thy favour. Comfort me by the persuasion that my many offences have been remitted. Enable me to gather satisfactory evidence from my feelings and conduct that I have passed from death unto life; and may thy Spirit bear witness with mine that I am numbered with thy children. Give me the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Christ, that I may know what is the hope of his calling and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints. Cause me to feel that it is my duty to aim at the attainment of this grace, and my privilege to enjoy it, in the exercise of faith, prayer, and zeal. Enable me to say—"Though thou wast angry with me, thine anger is turned away; and thou comfortest me."

Blessed God, grant me the full assurance of hope unto the end:—a hope that I am accepted before thee for the merits of Christ; that through his grace I shall be saved; and that though worms may devour this body, yet in my flesh I shall see thee, and be satisfied when I awake in thy likeness.

The Promise of God:

"But the Lord is faithful, who will establish you and guard *you* from the evil one."
2 Thessalonians 3:3

November 19

Call to Worship: Psalm 144:1a, 2abc

“Blessed *be* the LORD my Rock...my lovingkindness and my fortress, my high tower and my deliverer, my shield and *the One* in whom I take refuge....”

Psalm 130

Scripture Reading:

1 Timothy 3-5

Confession of Faith: Westminster Confession of Faith

CHAPTER XIX – Of the Law of God

1. God gave to Adam a law, as a covenant of works, by which he bound him and all his posterity to personal, entire, exact, and perpetual obedience, promised life upon the fulfilling, and threatened death upon the breach of it, and endued him with power and ability to keep it.

2. This law, after his fall, continued to be a perfect rule of righteousness; and, as such, was delivered by God upon Mount Sinai, in ten commandments, and written in two tables: the first four commandments containing our duty towards God; and the other six, our duty to man.

3. Beside this law, commonly called moral, God was pleased to give to the people of Israel, as a church under age, ceremonial laws, containing several typical ordinances, partly of worship, prefiguring Christ, his graces, actions, sufferings, and benefits; and partly, holding forth divers instructions of moral duties. All which ceremonial laws are now abrogated, under the new testament.

4. To them also, as a body politic, he gave sundry judicial laws, which expired together with the State of that people; not obliging any other now, further than the general equity thereof may require.

5. The moral law doth forever bind all, as well justified persons as others, to the obedience thereof; and that, not only in regard of the matter contained in it, but also in respect of the authority of God the Creator, who gave it. Neither doth Christ, in the gospel, any way dissolve, but much strengthen this obligation.

6. Although true believers be not under the law, as a covenant of works, to be thereby justified, or condemned; yet is it of great use to them, as well as to others; in that, as a rule of life informing them of the will of God, and their duty, it directs and binds them to walk accordingly; discovering also the sinful pollutions of their nature, hearts, and lives; so as, examining themselves thereby, they may come to further conviction of, humiliation for, and hatred against sin, together with a clearer sight of the need they have of Christ, and the perfection of his obedience. It is likewise of use to the regenerate, to restrain their corruptions, in that it forbids sin: and the threatenings of it serve to show what even their sins deserve; and what afflictions, in

this life, they may expect for them, although freed from the curse thereof threatened in the law. The promises of it, in like manner, show them God's approbation of obedience, and what blessings they may expect upon the performance thereof: although not as due to them by the law as a covenant of works. So as, a man's doing good, and refraining from evil, because the law encourageth to the one, and deterreth from the other, is no evidence of his being under the law; and, not under grace.

7. Neither are the forementioned uses of the law contrary to the grace of the gospel, but do sweetly comply with it; the Spirit of Christ subduing and enabling the will of man to do that freely, and cheerfully, which the will of God, revealed in the law, requireth to be done.

Prayer:

I thank thee, Great God, for that law of nature, impressed on my conscience, by which I am left without excuse, in the transgression of thy will. But I would praise thee still more, that thou hast given me the law of thy word, to convince me of sin, to warn and restrain me, and to lead me in the ways that are well-pleasing in thy sight. Thy commandment, O Lord, is holy, just, and good. Thou art holy; and thy law is perfect, converting the soul—thou art just; wherefore thy judgments are true and righteous altogether—thou art good; and thy statutes rejoice the heart; for in keeping them there is great reward. Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in nowise pass from the law, until all be fulfilled.

Incline me, O Lord, to take heed to my ways, according to thy word. Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law. Make thou thy testimonies my delight and counsellors; my songs in the house of my pilgrimage, and the daily monitors of my conduct. May I make thy will my meditation by day, and my remembrance in the night. Make it a lamp to my feet, and a light to my path; and do thou incline my heart to perform thy statutes always, even to the end. Impress deeply on my mind that solemn truth—whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, is guilty of all.

Lord, teach me that thy commandment is exceeding broad and deep: that it has relation not only to the actions of life, but to the hidden workings of thought and feeling. For though the sound of my lips, and the work of my hands, may be right before men; yet thy statutes may condemn the thoughts of my heart; and I may stand more guilty in thy sight, for secret sin, than for open violations of thy will.

Heavenly Father, let not my regard for thy commandment create within me a spirit of self-righteousness: for in the trial of thy justice, every mouth shall be stopped, and all the world become guilty before God. Make it a schoolmaster to bring me to Christ, as my only hope of justification. May I remember, that while it is the rule of my obedience, it is not the plan of salvation. He who came to fulfil it, is himself the end of the law for righteousness, to every one that believeth.

O Lord, make thy law the sword of the Spirit in thy dealings with the impenitent. May it awaken and alarm their consciences, enlighten and convince their minds, and persuade and sanctify their wills; so that they may be born, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible; by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever.

The Promise of God:

“But the mercy of the LORD *is* from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear Him, and His righteousness to children’s children, to such as keep His covenant, and to those who remember His commandments to do them.”

Psalm 103:17-18

November 20

Call to Worship: Psalm 145:1-3

“I will extol You, my God, O King; and I will bless Your name forever and ever. Every day I will bless You, and I will praise Your name forever and ever. Great *is* the LORD, and greatly to be praised; and His greatness *is* unsearchable.”

Psalm 131

Scripture Reading:

1 Timothy 6

2 Timothy 1-2

Confession of Faith: Westminster Confession of Faith

CHAPTER XX – Of Christian Liberty and Liberty of Conscience

1. The liberty which Christ hath purchased for believers under the gospel consists in their freedom from the guilt of sin, the condemning wrath of God, the curse of the moral law; and, in their being delivered from this present evil world, bondage to Satan, and dominion of sin; from the evil of afflictions, the sting of death, the victory of the grave, and everlasting damnation; as also, in their free access to God, and their yielding obedience unto him, not out of slavish fear, but a childlike love and willing mind. All which were common also to believers under the law. But, under the new testament, the liberty of Christians is further enlarged, in their freedom from the yoke of the ceremonial law, to which the Jewish church was subjected; and in greater boldness of access to the throne of grace, and in fuller communications of the free Spirit of God, than believers under the law did ordinarily partake of.
2. God alone is Lord of the conscience, and hath left it free from the doctrines and commandments of men, which are, in anything, contrary to his Word; or beside it, if matters of faith, or worship. So that, to believe such doctrines, or to obey such commands, out of conscience, is to betray true liberty of conscience: and the requiring of an implicit faith, and an absolute and blind obedience, is to destroy liberty of conscience, and reason also.
3. They who, upon pretense of Christian liberty, do practice any sin, or cherish any lust, do thereby destroy the end of Christian liberty, which is, that being delivered out of the hands of our enemies, we might serve the Lord without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him, all the days of our life.
4. And because the powers which God hath ordained, and the liberty which Christ hath purchased, are not intended by God to destroy, but mutually to uphold and preserve one another, they who, upon pretense of Christian liberty, shall oppose any lawful power, or the lawful exercise of it, whether it be civil or ecclesiastical, resist the ordinance of God. And, for their publishing of such opinions, or maintaining of such practices, as are contrary to the light of nature, or to the known principles of Christianity (whether concerning faith, worship, or conversation), or to the power of godliness; or, such erroneous opinions or practices, as either in

their own nature, or in the manner of publishing or maintaining them, are destructive to the external peace and order which Christ hath established in the church, they may lawfully be called to account, and proceeded against, by the censures of the church.

Prayer:

God of Judgment, I thank thee that thou hast given me an inward monitor, to warn me against iniquity, and to smite me when I transgress. May I regard its testimony as a proof of a future judgment; when the righteous shall receive the recompense of reward, and the wicked the retribution of wo. Enable me, I pray thee, to nourish and culture this plant of thy hand. Show me that my happiness and welfare, and the enjoyment of thy life-giving countenance, will depend on the activity, strength, and purity of my conscience. If the light that is in me be darkness, how great is that darkness! May thy will, as exhibited in thy word, be the supreme rule of its actings. May thy Spirit cleanse it from error and sin, and animate it with right knowledge and holy power. Lord, give it peace through the justifying merits of Jesus Christ, and purge it from dead works to serve the living God. Make it tender and watchful, and a faithful index of thy sovereign will; that it may be void of offence towards God and man.

Lord, stimulate and give a wholesome vigour to the conscience of all men. May it exercise a controlling and righteous influence over their inmost thoughts and their outward actions. Teach them that though they may turn away from its testimonies, and stifle its chidings, yet there is a day coming when, if they continue impenitent, it will rise up in judgment against them; when he that sitteth upon the throne will confirm its testimony, by pronouncing the verdict "Depart, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels."

The Promise of God:

“Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.”

Galatians 5:1

November 21

Call to Worship: Psalm 146:1-2

“Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD, O my soul! While I live I will praise the LORD; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.”

Psalm 132

Scripture Reading:

2 Timothy 3-4
Titus 1

Confession of Faith: Westminster Confession of Faith

CHAPTER XXI – Of Religious Worship and the Sabbath Day

1. The light of nature showeth that there is a God, who hath lordship and sovereignty over all, is good, and doth good unto all, and is therefore to be feared, loved, praised, called upon, trusted in, and served, with all the heart, and with all the soul, and with all the might. But the acceptable way of worshiping the true God is instituted by himself, and so limited by his own revealed will, that he may not be worshiped according to the imaginations and devices of men, or the suggestions of Satan, under any visible representation, or any other way not prescribed in the Holy Scripture.

2. Religious worship is to be given to God, the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost; and to him alone; not to angels, saints, or any other creature: and, since the fall, not without a Mediator; nor in the mediation of any other but of Christ alone.

3. Prayer, with thanksgiving, being one special part of religious worship, is by God required of all men: and, that it may be accepted, it is to be made in the name of the Son, by the help of his Spirit, according to his will, with understanding, reverence, humility, fervency, faith, love, and perseverance; and, if vocal, in a known tongue.

4. Prayer is to be made for things lawful; and for all sorts of men living, or that shall live hereafter: but not for the dead, nor for those of whom it may be known that they have sinned the sin unto death.

5. The reading of the Scriptures with godly fear, the sound preaching and conscionable hearing of the Word, in obedience unto God, with understanding, faith, and reverence, singing of psalms with grace in the heart; as also, the due administration and worthy receiving of the sacraments instituted by Christ, are all parts of the ordinary religious worship of God: beside religious oaths, vows, solemn fastings, and thanksgivings upon special occasions, which are, in their several times and seasons, to be used in an holy and religious manner.

6. Neither prayer, nor any other part of religious worship, is now, under the gospel, either tied unto, or made more acceptable by any place in which it is performed, or towards which it is

directed: but God is to be worshiped everywhere, in spirit and truth; as, in private families daily, and in secret, each one by himself; so, more solemnly in the public assemblies, which are not carelessly or willfully to be neglected, or forsaken, when God, by his Word or providence, calleth thereunto.

7. As it is the law of nature, that, in general, a due proportion of time be set apart for the worship of God; so, in his Word, by a positive, moral, and perpetual commandment binding all men in all ages, he hath particularly appointed one day in seven, for a Sabbath, to be kept holy unto him: which, from the beginning of the world to the resurrection of Christ, was the last day of the week; and, from the resurrection of Christ, was changed into the first day of the week, which, in Scripture, is called the Lord's day, and is to be continued to the end of the world, as the Christian Sabbath.

8. This Sabbath is then kept holy unto the Lord, when men, after a due preparing of their hearts, and ordering of their common affairs beforehand, do not only observe an holy rest, all the day, from their own works, words, and thoughts about their worldly employments and recreations, but also are taken up, the whole time, in the public and private exercises of his worship, and in the duties of necessity and mercy.

Prayer:

Adorable Jehovah, thou art exalted above principalities and powers, that at thy name every knee should bow, and every tongue confess. All thy works praise thee. Bestow on me, in the name of Jesus, that grace which will qualify me to worship thee in spirit and in truth. Let me not seek to draw nigh to thee with my lips, while my heart is far from thee; nor take the attitude of devotion, while my thoughts wander among the cares and pleasures of life. If the language of insincerity be offensive when offered to a fellow-being, how much more when it is presented to the God of Truth! May strong convictions of thy greatness and presence rest upon me, and make me suitably afraid. Make me feel that I am unworthy of the least of thy mercies, and that if thou wert strict to mark iniquity, I dare not come before thee, but should take up my abode where there is no mercy-seat, and no answer of peace to the cry of despairing want.

Gracious God, let all my approaches to thee be in humble reliance upon the merits of Christ. Give me such an impression of thy goodness, in the bounties of thy providence and the covenant of thy grace, that I shall go to thee with the love and confidence of a child to its father; for if earthly parents know how to give good gifts to their children, much more will our Heavenly Father give his Holy Spirit to them that ask him. Lord, grant me such views of thy character, and of my own wants and those of mankind, as shall dispose me to magnify thy name, with an adoring and grateful spirit, and lead me to seek thy favour by fervent and believing supplication.

Lord, bless the assemblies of thy saints. May reverence, love, and faith, animate their devotions. May thy praise be sung with holy affections; thy favour be sought with believing hearts; thy word be preached in the demonstration of the Spirit, and be heard as a message of divine wisdom and mercy. Bring into thy sanctuaries those who neglect thy worship; and fill thy courts with such as live regardless of thy statutes. Grant, O Lord, that all the solemn feasts of thy house may be seasons of refreshing from thy presence, in which saints shall grow in grace, and many prodigals be brought into the adoption of the sons of God; to the glory of thy mercy in Jesus, both now and forever.

The Promise of God:

“But *it is* good for me to draw near to God; I have put my trust in the Lord GOD, that I may declare all Your works.”

Psalm 73:28

November 22

Call to Worship: Psalm 150:1a, 2

“Praise the LORD!...Praise Him for His mighty acts; praise Him according to His excellent greatness!”

Psalm 133

Scripture Reading:

Titus 2-3
Philemon

Confession of Faith: Westminster Confession of Faith

CHAPTER XXII – Of Lawful Oaths and Vows

1. A lawful oath is a part of religious worship, wherein, upon just occasion, the person swearing solemnly calleth God to witness what he asserteth, or promiseth, and to judge him according to the truth or falsehood of what he sweareth.

2. The name of God only is that by which men ought to swear, and therein it is to be used with all holy fear and reverence. Therefore, to swear vainly, or rashly, by that glorious and dreadful Name; or, to swear at all by any other thing, is sinful, and to be abhorred. Yet, as in matters of weight and moment, an oath is warranted by the Word of God, under the new testament as well as under the old; so a lawful oath, being imposed by lawful authority, in such matters, ought to be taken.

3. Whosoever taketh an oath ought duly to consider the weightiness of so solemn an act, and therein to avouch nothing but what he is fully persuaded is the truth: neither may any man bind himself by oath to anything but what is good and just, and what he believeth so to be, and what he is able and resolved to perform.

4. An oath is to be taken in the plain and common sense of the words, without equivocation, or mental reservation. It cannot oblige to sin; but in anything not sinful, being taken, it binds to performance, although to a man's own hurt. Nor is it to be violated, although made to heretics, or infidels.

5. A vow is of the like nature with a promissory oath, and ought to be made with the like religious care, and to be performed with the like faithfulness.

6. It is not to be made to any creature, but to God alone: and, that it may be accepted, it is to be made voluntarily, out of faith, and conscience of duty, in way of thankfulness for mercy received, or for the obtaining of what we want, whereby we more strictly bind ourselves to necessary duties; or, to other things, so far and so long as they may fitly conduce thereunto.

7. No man may vow to do anything forbidden in the Word of God, or what would hinder any duty therein commanded, or which is not in his own power, and for the performance whereof he hath no promise of ability from God. In which respects, popish monastical vows of perpetual single life, professed poverty, and regular obedience, are so far from being degrees of higher perfection, that they are superstitious and sinful snares, in which no Christian may entangle himself.

Prayer:

O Thou Judge of the quick and the dead, make me realize that I am responsible to thee for all my thoughts, words, and actions; and in all my duties and privileges. Thou knowest all the thoughts of my mind, with all the works of my life; and thou makest record of them:—and for all these thou wilt bring me into judgment, whether they be good or evil. Then there shall be nothing that now is covered, that shall not be revealed; and hid, that shall not be made known: and it shall be more tolerable for Sodom and Gomorrah than for my soul, if I fail to serve thee now in reverence and godly fear. For even the earth that drinketh in the rain, that cometh oft upon it, and bringeth forth herbs meet for them by whom it is dressed, receiveth blessing from God; but that which beareth thorns and briers is rejected, and is nigh unto cursing; whose end is to be burned. O let not my stewardship of thy mercies be one of wilful sin, of abused privileges, and neglected duties; but grant that in all things I may strive, in the grace of Christ, to work out my salvation with fear and trembling.

Lord, excite me to diligent labour on behalf of thy church and of sinners. May I feel that I am bound to do good as I have opportunity; looking diligently to the judgment of that day, when the unprofitable servant shall be cast into outer darkness, while he that has been faithful shall enter, through the atonement of Christ, into the joy of his Lord. And unto him that is able to keep me from falling, and to present me faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy; to the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever.

The Promise of God:

“For men indeed swear by the greater, and an oath for confirmation *is* for them an end of all dispute. Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, confirmed *it* by an oath, that by two immutable things, in which it *is* impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before *us*.”

Hebrews 6:16-18

November 23

Call to Worship: Psalm 5:1-2

“Give ear to my words, O LORD, consider my meditation. Give heed to the voice of my cry, my King and my God, for to You I will pray.”

Psalm 134

Scripture Reading:

Hebrews 1-3

Confession of Faith: Westminster Confession of Faith

CHAPTER XXIII – Of the Civil Magistrate

1. God, the supreme Lord and King of all the world, hath ordained civil magistrates, to be, under him, over the people, for his own glory, and the public good: and, to this end, hath armed them with the power of the sword, for the defense and encouragement of them that are good, and for the punishment of evildoers.

2. It is lawful for Christians to accept and execute the office of a magistrate, when called thereunto: in the managing whereof, as they ought especially to maintain piety, justice, and peace, according to the wholesome laws of each commonwealth; so, for that end, they may lawfully, now under the new testament, wage war, upon just and necessary occasion.

3. Civil magistrates may not assume to themselves the administration of the Word and sacraments; or the power of the keys of the kingdom of heaven; or, in the least, interfere in matters of faith. Yet, as nursing fathers, it is the duty of civil magistrates to protect the church of our common Lord, without giving the preference to any denomination of Christians above the rest, in such a manner that all ecclesiastical persons whatever shall enjoy the full, free, and unquestioned liberty of discharging every part of their sacred functions, without violence or danger. And, as Jesus Christ hath appointed a regular government and discipline in his church, no law of any commonwealth should interfere with, let, or hinder, the due exercise thereof, among the voluntary members of any denomination of Christians, according to their own profession and belief. It is the duty of civil magistrates to protect the person and good name of all their people, in such an effectual manner as that no person be suffered, either upon pretense of religion or of infidelity, to offer any indignity, violence, abuse, or injury to any other person whatsoever: and to take order, that all religious and ecclesiastical assemblies be held without molestation or disturbance.

4. It is the duty of people to pray for magistrates, to honor their persons, to pay them tribute or other dues, to obey their lawful commands, and to be subject to their authority, for conscience' sake. Infidelity, or difference in religion, doth not make void the magistrates' just and legal authority, nor free the people from their due obedience to them: from which ecclesiastical persons are not exempted, much less hath the pope any power and jurisdiction over them in their

dominions, or over any of their people; and, least of all, to deprive them of their dominions, or lives, if he shall judge them to be heretics, or upon any other pretense whatsoever.

Prayer:

King of Kings and Lord of Lords, dispose me to pray for all that are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life, in all honesty and godliness. May I remember that the powers that be are ordained of God, and that by thee kings reign and princes decree justice. Make me grateful to thee that thou hast put the restraints of law upon mankind. O do thou make every rule of administration throughout the world, conform to thy benevolent will. Make those that bear the sword a terror to evil-doers, and a praise to them that do well. Make our officers peace, and our exactors righteousness. Let our lawgivers be men that fear God and hate covetousness. Though thou canst make the wrath of tyrants to praise thee; yet do thou so order the means and objects of human government, that thy glory may be advanced by the holiness and happiness of rulers and people.

Lord, I thank thee for that form of government which has been, under thy hand, a protection and blessing to this nation. Reform its evils, and spread its blessings, until every country shall rejoice in the sovereignty of useful and just laws. But, O Lord, may we not forget that it is righteousness which exalteth a nation; while sin is a reproach to any people. Deal not with us according to our transgressions. Say not in thy wrath, that thy kingdom shall be taken from us, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof. Make this land Immanuel's land, where peace will have her dwelling, liberty her home, and piety her abode; until this world, and all the works therein, shall be burned up, and there be new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness!

The Promise of God:

“Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin *is* a reproach to *any* people.”

Proverbs 14:34

November 24

Call to Worship: Psalm 7:17

“I will praise the LORD according to His righteousness, and will sing praise to the name of the LORD Most High.”

Psalm 135

Scripture Reading:

Hebrews 4-6

Confession of Faith: Westminster Confession of Faith

CHAPTER XXIV – Of Marriage and Divorce

1. Marriage is to be between one man and one woman: neither is it lawful for any man to have more than one wife, nor for any woman to have more than one husband, at the same time.
2. Marriage was ordained for the mutual help of husband and wife, for the increase of mankind with legitimate issue, and of the church with an holy seed; and for preventing of uncleanness.
3. It is lawful for all sorts of people to marry, who are able with judgment to give their consent. Yet it is the duty of Christians to marry only in the Lord. And therefore such as profess the true reformed religion should not marry with infidels, papists, or other idolaters: neither should such as are godly be unequally yoked, by marrying with such as are notoriously wicked in their life, or maintain damnable heresies.
4. Marriage ought not to be within the degrees of consanguinity or affinity forbidden by the Word. Nor can such incestuous marriages ever be made lawful by any law of man or consent of parties, so as those persons may live together as man and wife.
5. Adultery or fornication committed after a contract, being detected before marriage, giveth just occasion to the innocent party to dissolve that contract. In the case of adultery after marriage, it is lawful for the innocent party to sue out a divorce: and, after the divorce, to marry another, as if the offending party were dead.
6. Although the corruption of man be such as is apt to study arguments unduly to put asunder those whom God hath joined together in marriage: yet, nothing but adultery, or such willful desertion as can no way be remedied by the church, or civil magistrate, is cause sufficient of dissolving the bond of marriage: wherein, a public and orderly course of proceeding is to be observed; and the persons concerned in it not left to their own wills, and discretion, in their own case.

Prayer:

Heavenly Parent, thou hast shown both thy wisdom and goodness in the institution of marriage. Thou hast sought by it to increase the happiness and promote the virtue of mankind. The works of thy creation, though good in thy sight, were unfinished, while man dwelt alone; and thy last and best gift to earth, was she that should be a fountain of joy, a partner of pleasure, and a solace of sorrow. Lord, teach all men that this relation of life is still (and must be throughout the annals of time) identified with the comfort and welfare of our race. O let none with ruthless and impious hand, undermine nor overthrow this ordinance of God; but may all regard and sustain it as the safeguard of purity, the pledge of social bliss, and the bond of public good.

Lord, reform the opinions and correct the practice of Christians in relation to unhallowed marriages. Let none such be unequally yoked with unbelievers. May they marry only in the Lord. Show them that those who ally themselves in sacred ties with the ungodly, rebel against the will of God, cast snares and unhappiness in their way through life, and fearfully hinder the grace of God in their own hearts.

Lord, govern by the dictates of affection, prudence, and piety, those who would enter on the duties and pleasures of matrimony.—Bless all who have embarked on them. May their relations be characterized by mutual love, esteem, forbearance, assistance, and sympathy. May the same sincere, ardent, unchangeable, protecting, and providing love, which the Saviour manifests to his spouse, the church, be shown by the husband to his wife. And do thou direct her conduct to him in subjection, reverence, prudence, and love. Lord, make their union conducive to every rational good of human life. Let it be an emblem of the union between Christ and his church; that they may walk in all the statutes and ordinances of the Lord, blameless, and be made mutual helpers in the fellowship of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

The Promise of God:

“Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.”

Ephesians 5:25-27

November 25

Call to Worship: Psalm 9:1-2

“I will praise *You*, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will tell of all Your marvelous works. I will be glad and rejoice in You; I will sing praise to Your name, O Most High.”

Psalm 136

Scripture Reading:

Hebrews 7-9

Confession of Faith: Westminster Confession of Faith

CHAPTER XXV – Of the Church

1. The catholic or universal church, which is invisible, consists of the whole number of the elect, that have been, are, or shall be gathered into one, under Christ the Head thereof; and is the spouse, the body, the fullness of him that filleth all in all.
2. The visible church, which is also catholic or universal under the gospel (not confined to one nation, as before under the law), consists of all those throughout the world that profess the true religion; and of their children: and is the kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ, the house and family of God, out of which there is no ordinary possibility of salvation.
3. Unto this catholic visible church Christ hath given the ministry, oracles, and ordinances of God, for the gathering and perfecting of the saints, in this life, to the end of the world: and doth, by his own presence and Spirit, according to his promise, make them effectual thereunto.
4. This catholic church hath been sometimes more, sometimes less visible. And particular churches, which are members thereof, are more or less pure, according as the doctrine of the gospel is taught and embraced, ordinances administered, and public worship performed more or less purely in them.
5. The purest churches under heaven are subject both to mixture and error; and some have so degenerated, as to become no churches of Christ, but synagogues of Satan. Nevertheless, there shall be always a church on earth, to worship God according to his will.
6. There is no other head of the church but the Lord Jesus Christ. Nor can the pope of Rome, in any sense, be head thereof.

Prayer:

Great Shepherd of Israel, I thank thee that thou hast established thy church on the earth, and hast put the seal of thy redeeming grace on it, and hast promised that the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. I would praise thee that he who is thy fulness, has been made head over all things to his church, which is his body, and which he has redeemed by his blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation.

Lord, dispose me to sustain all the relations which I bear to thy heritage. Suffer me not to withdraw, in any degree, from the fellowship of the saints, in their profession of faith in the Lord Jesus. Thou hast commanded that fellowship; thou hast adapted it to our social nature; thou hast made it the stream of our consolation, the wall of our safety, and the field of our usefulness. May I love to seek thy face in the tabernacles of the righteous, and to worship thee there in spirit and in truth. May I cherish the reputation, and welcome the instructions, and encourage the labours of those whom thou hast set to minister in holy things. Lead me, O Lord, to seek the interest of thy church, in its purity, peace, knowledge, and universal dominion.

Lord, cause all thy people to strive for the welfare of Zion. May they mourn over her desolations, and rejoice when her righteousness goes forth as brightness, and her salvation as a lamp that burneth. Baptize them by one spirit, into one body; and make them all one in Christ Jesus. May they feel deeply humbled at their want of personal holiness, and at their neglect in extending the blessings of salvation to a perishing world. Let every one that nameth the name of Christ, depart from iniquity. May the sons of God be blameless, and harmless, and without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation; among whom may they shine, as lights in the world, holding forth the word of life. Make them a peculiar people, zealous of good works. Let utterance be given to them, that they may open their mouths boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel. Let not the ingratitude nor hostility of sinners discourage their efforts to win them to thy service. May they have the pleasure of seeing thy work prospering in their hands, and multitudes added to their number, of such as shall be saved.

Arise, and have mercy on Zion: let the time to favour her, yea, the set time come. Bring her up from the wilderness, leaning on her Beloved; and make her the perfection of beauty. When her enemy comes in like a flood, do thou lift up a standard against him. Be thou as a wall of fire round about her, and a glory in the midst of her. Hast thou not purchased her with thy blood; and wilt thou not grave her on the palms of thy hands, and set her walls continually before thee? O, King of Kings, do thou marshal, and discipline, and strengthen, and multiply the sacramental host, and lead it on conquering and to conquer, until the kingdoms of this world shall become the kingdoms of our Lord and his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever.

The Promise of God:

“I will hear what God the LORD will speak, for He will speak peace to His people and to His saints; but let them not turn back to folly. Surely His salvation *is* near to those who fear Him, that glory may dwell in our land.”

Psalm 85:8-9

November 26

Call to Worship: Psalm 13:6

“I will sing to the LORD, because He has dealt bountifully with me.”

Psalm 137

Scripture Reading:

Hebrews 10-12

Confession of Faith: Westminster Confession of Faith

CHAPTER XXVI – Of the Communion of Saints

1. All saints, that are united to Jesus Christ their Head, by his Spirit, and by faith, have fellowship with him in his graces, sufferings, death, resurrection, and glory: and, being united to one another in love, they have communion in each other's gifts and graces, and are obliged to the performance of such duties, public and private, as do conduce to their mutual good, both in the inward and outward man.

2. Saints by profession are bound to maintain an holy fellowship and communion in the worship of God, and in performing such other spiritual services as tend to their mutual edification; as also in relieving each other in outward things, according to their several abilities and necessities. Which communion, as God offereth opportunity, is to be extended unto all those who, in every place, call upon the name of the Lord Jesus.

3. This communion which the saints have with Christ, doth not make them in any wise partakers of the substance of his Godhead; or to be equal with Christ in any respect: either of which to affirm is impious and blasphemous. Nor doth their communion one with another, as saints, take away, or infringe the title or propriety which each man hath in his goods and possessions.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, dispose me, in gladness and singleness of heart, to keep the fellowship of the saints. May I have more relish for their company, though they may be poor and unhonoured, than for intercourse with those who are lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God. Make my communion with them pleasant and profitable to my soul; and do thou come and be in the midst of us, to bless us. Let our bonds of union have the strength and beauty of those that bind the happy throng above, in their perpetual fellowship of bliss. May I feel that we are all children of the same Parent; brethren of the same family; subjects of the same discipline of trials and duties; and heirs of the same inheritance beyond the grave. Incline me to love their persons, their character, and their interests—rejoicing with them that do rejoice, and weeping with them that weep—ministering to their necessities—holding converse with them in the grace of God—seeking not to please myself, but bearing their infirmities and burdens—and so fulfilling the law of Christ, who hath given us a new commandment, that we love one another.

The Promise of God:

“Behold, how good and how pleasant *it is* for brethren to dwell together in unity!”
Psalm 133:1

November 27

Call to Worship: Psalm 18:1-3a

“I will love You, O LORD, my strength. The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. I will call upon the LORD, *who is worthy* to be praised....”

Psalm 138

Scripture Reading:

Hebrews 13

James 1-2

Confession of Faith: Westminster Confession of Faith

CHAPTER XXVII – Of the Sacraments

1. Sacraments are holy signs and seals of the covenant of grace, immediately instituted by God, to represent Christ, and his benefits; and to confirm our interest in him: as also, to put a visible difference between those that belong unto the church, and the rest of the world; and solemnly to engage them to the service of God in Christ, according to his Word.
2. There is, in every sacrament, a spiritual relation, or sacramental union, between the sign and the thing signified: whence it comes to pass, that the names and effects of the one are attributed to the other.
3. The grace which is exhibited in or by the sacraments rightly used, is not conferred by any power in them; neither doth the efficacy of a sacrament depend upon the piety or intention of him that doth administer it: but upon the work of the Spirit, and the word of institution, which contains, together with a precept authorizing the use thereof, a promise of benefit to worthy receivers.
4. There be only two sacraments ordained by Christ our Lord in the Gospel; that is to say, baptism, and the Supper of the Lord: neither of which may be dispensed by any, but by a minister of the Word lawfully ordained.
5. The sacraments of the old testament, in regard of the spiritual things thereby signified and exhibited, were, for substance, the same with those of the new.

Prayer:

Adorable Jehovah, I would praise thee that, in thy sovereign mercy, thou didst from eternity enter into a covenant of grace, to deliver men out of their estate of sin and misery, and to bring them into an estate of salvation by a Redeemer. Lord, make with me this everlasting covenant, even the sure mercies of David. Call me with a holy calling, not according to works, but according to thy purpose, which was given in Christ Jesus before the world began; but has now been made manifest by his appearing, who hath brought life and immortality to light through thy

gospel: and in whom we have redemption, through his blood. O bind me to thee in the adoption of thy children, wherein thou makest them accepted in the Beloved.

Lord, assist me to remember and keep all my engagements to thee. In the silence of retirement and communion with thee—in the acts of social and public prayer—in the hearing of thy word and the singing of thy praise—and in the solemn sacrament, where thy saints subscribe with the hand unto the Lord—I have again and again pledged myself unto thee. My vows are written in my conscience, and in the book of thy remembrance. Help me, I beseech thee, to shun all that I promised to forsake: help me, I pray thee, to perform all that I promised to do. Put thy law into my mind, and write it in my heart; and be my God, that I may be of thy people, chosen according to thy covenant of grace. Make my heart and life abundant in the fruits of that holy relation. Let me not forsake thy love, nor turn from thy ways, but press on towards the mark for the prize of that high calling which is in Christ Jesus. Merciful God, regard with compassion those who are aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise. Make them feel the deep and radical depravity of their hearts. Convince them of sin, as committed against a holy God. Show them the danger to which they are exposed while they refuse to forsake their transgressions. Exhibit to them Christ crucified, as him by whom alone they can escape from the dominion, the guilt, and the retribution of their sins. O may thy Spirit give them grace to receive and rest upon him for pardon and acceptance. And grant that they may enjoy a union with him as close and fruitful as the branch which abideth in the vine.

The Promise of God:

“Jesus answered and said to her, “Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life.”

John 4:13-14

November 28

Call to Worship: Psalm 18:46

“The LORD lives! Blessed be my Rock! Let the God of my salvation be exalted.”

Psalm 139

Scripture Reading:

James 3-5

Confession of Faith: Westminster Confession of Faith

CHAPTER XXVIII – Of Baptism

1. Baptism is a sacrament of the new testament, ordained by Jesus Christ, not only for the solemn admission of the party baptized into the visible church; but also, to be unto him a sign and seal of the covenant of grace, of his ingrafting into Christ, of regeneration, of remission of sins, and of his giving up unto God, through Jesus Christ, to walk in newness of life. Which sacrament is, by Christ's own appointment, to be continued in his church until the end of the world.
2. The outward element to be used in this sacrament is water, wherewith the party is to be baptized, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, by a minister of the gospel, lawfully called thereunto.
3. Dipping of the person into the water is not necessary; but baptism is rightly administered by pouring, or sprinkling water upon the person.
4. Not only those that do actually profess faith in and obedience unto Christ, but also the infants of one, or both, believing parents, are to be baptized.
5. Although it be a great sin to contemn or neglect this ordinance, yet grace and salvation are not so inseparably annexed unto it, as that no person can be regenerated, or saved, without it; or, that all that are baptized are undoubtedly regenerated.
6. The efficacy of baptism is not tied to that moment of time wherein it is administered; yet, notwithstanding, by the right use of this ordinance, the grace promised is not only offered, but really exhibited, and conferred, by the Holy Ghost, to such (whether of age or infants) as that grace belongeth unto, according to the counsel of God's own will, in his appointed time.
7. The sacrament of baptism is but once to be administered unto any person.

Prayer:

Gracious God, help me to consecrate myself to thee, with full purpose of soul, and with endeavours after new obedience. Make me feel that if I could offer thee a world, and yet hold back the gift of my heart, my oblation would be but a worthless and odious thing in thy sight. Lord, I am thine by creation, and by constant benefaction. O has not Christ died for me, that I

should be thine, in the purchase of his atoning blood? Let me, therefore, not live unto myself, but unto him. Enable me to say from my heart, "Here, Lord, I give myself to thee; it is all that I can do." Accept, I pray thee, that offering, in the name of Jesus, the Ransom of sinners.

I would take thee, O Lord, as my portion—thy law as my rule—thy service as my meat and drink—and thy purposes as the ground of my faith and hope. Bring all my expectations, wishes, and intentions into conformity with thy will; and let me live, and move, and have my being in a covenant of full-hearted and never-failing devotion to thee, and the interests of thy kingdom.

The Promise of God:

“For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body – whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free – and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.”

1 Corinthians 12:13

November 29

Call to Worship: Psalm 16:5-6

“O LORD, *You* are the portion of my inheritance and my cup; You maintain my lot. The lines have fallen to me in pleasant *places*; Yes, I have a good inheritance.”

Psalm 140

Scripture Reading:

1 Peter 1-3

Confession of Faith: Westminster Confession of Faith

CHAPTER XXIX – Of the Lord’s Supper

1. Our Lord Jesus, in the night wherein he was betrayed, instituted the sacrament of his body and blood, called the Lord's Supper, to be observed in his church, unto the end of the world, for the perpetual remembrance of the sacrifice of himself in his death; the sealing all benefits thereof unto true believers, their spiritual nourishment and growth in him, their further engagement in and to all duties which they owe unto him; and, to be a bond and pledge of their communion with him, and with each other, as members of his mystical body.

2. In this sacrament, Christ is not offered up to his Father; nor any real sacrifice made at all, for remission of sins of the quick or dead; but only a commemoration of that one offering up of himself, by himself, upon the cross, once for all: and a spiritual oblation of all possible praise unto God, for the same: so that the popish sacrifice of the mass (as they call it) is most abominably injurious to Christ's one, only sacrifice, the alone propitiation for all the sins of his elect.

3. The Lord Jesus hath, in this ordinance, appointed his ministers to declare his word of institution to the people; to pray, and bless the elements of bread and wine, and thereby to set them apart from a common to an holy use; and to take and break the bread, to take the cup, and (they communicating also themselves) to give both to the communicants; but to none who are not then present in the congregation.

4. Private masses, or receiving this sacrament by a priest, or any other, alone; as likewise, the denial of the cup to the people, worshiping the elements, the lifting them up, or carrying them about, for adoration, and the reserving them for any pretended religious use; are all contrary to the nature of this sacrament, and to the institution of Christ.

5. The outward elements in this sacrament, duly set apart to the uses ordained by Christ, have such relation to him crucified, as that, truly, yet sacramentally only, they are sometimes called by the name of the things they represent, to wit, the body and blood of Christ; albeit, in substance and nature, they still remain truly and only bread and wine, as they were before.

6. That doctrine which maintains a change of the substance of bread and wine, into the substance of Christ's body and blood (commonly called transubstantiation) by consecration of a priest, or by any other way, is repugnant, not to Scripture alone, but even to common sense, and reason; overthroweth the nature of the sacrament, and hath been, and is, the cause of manifold superstitions; yea, of gross idolatries.

7. Worthy receivers, outwardly partaking of the visible elements, in this sacrament, do then also, inwardly by faith, really and indeed, yet not carnally and corporally but spiritually, receive, and feed upon, Christ crucified, and all benefits of his death: the body and blood of Christ being then, not corporally or carnally, in, with, or under the bread and wine; yet, as really, but spiritually, present to the faith of believers in that ordinance, as the elements themselves are to their outward senses.

8. Although ignorant and wicked men receive the outward elements in this sacrament; yet, they receive not the thing signified thereby; but, by their unworthy coming thereunto, are guilty of the body and blood of the Lord, to their own damnation. Wherefore, all ignorant and ungodly persons, as they are unfit to enjoy communion with him, so are they unworthy of the Lord's table; and cannot, without great sin against Christ, while they remain such, partake of these holy mysteries, or be admitted thereunto.

Prayer:

Compassionate Jehovah, give me lively perceptions of the nature and uses of that holy Supper, which thou hast instituted in memory of the dying Saviour. May it always be to the eye of my faith, a token and pledge of a covenant of mercy, in the blood of Christ. Let it ever be my Eucharist—my giving of thanks to thee, from a heart overflowing with gratitude, that thou didst recover man from his condition of sin and misery, by the gift of a Redeemer. Make it my Passover, in which my soul shall be made joyful, in being exempted from the wrath which abideth on the ungodly. O let it be the Sacrament of that allegiance to thy cause, which will lead me to rejoice when I am counted worthy to suffer shame for thy name's sake; and to glory in nothing, save in the cross of Christ. Make it a Feast, at which he shall sup with me, and I with him; and in which my heart shall be refreshed by his spiritual presence. And O do thou make it a precious season of Communion, wherein I shall hold fellowship with the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost; and be knit, with closer bands of unity, to them that are of the household of faith.

Lord Jesus, help me to keep this ordinance in remembrance of thee. Give me knowledge to discern thy body, and faith to feed upon thee. Grant me repentance, love, and new obedience; lest coming unworthily, I eat and drink judgment to myself. Make me a partaker of thy body and blood, not after a corporal and carnal manner, but by faith; with all thy benefits, to my spiritual nourishment and growth in grace. Grant me comfort from this feast, when I am wounded by a sense of sin; for thou wast revealed to take away sin: give me patience in trials and afflictions, by looking at thee, enduring the contradiction of sinners, and the hidings of thy Father's love: and O grant that I may imbibe a holy hatred for transgression, when I look at thy body broken and thy blood shed, because I have sinned.—Blessed Jesus, crowned in light and glory, dost thou indeed desire us sinners to remember thee? O that we should ever forget thy matchless, unspeakable claims to our love! O help me to remember the glory thou didst leave, the flesh thou didst adopt, the reproach thou didst meet, and the sufferings thou didst endure, that I might be redeemed from the curse of the law, and be made a partner of thine inheritance in glory! I would learn of thee, as

my Prophet; I would rely on thee, as my Priest; I would follow thee, as my Example; I would obey thee, as my King!

Heavenly Father, make thy people feel their obligation to celebrate the Supper of the Lord. Thou hast commanded it. Thou hast set it forth to be the memorial of a Saviour's love, in which they show forth his death, before heaven and earth. And thou hast made it a special season of communion with thee, in thy banqueting-house, where thy banner over them is love.—O may they always be prepared for this service, by self-examination, by meditation, and by prayer: and so let them eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. May they resolve, upon that sacred altar, that they will renounce every transgression, and live only for that which is good in thy sight. Give them an affectionate and confiding trust in thy covenant of grace; and build them up, by means of this ordinance, through faith, unto salvation.—God forbid that there should be any hand on the table which will betray the Son of man. Let none who thus profess thy name, be cast forth as a branch that is withered, and cast into the fire, and burned; but make them all branches, that shall abide in thee, bringing forth much fruit, that thy name may be glorified.

Lord, grant that the impenitent may reflect, that if they eat not the flesh of the Son of man, and drink not his blood, they shall have no part nor lot in his salvation. May thy Spirit reveal Christ to them in the breaking of bread, in all his fulness and willingness as a Saviour. O may they be persuaded to make with him a covenant of mercy and obedience, which shall never be revoked nor forsaken.

These petitions I offer thee, Gracious Father, through him whose blood speaketh better things than that of Abel; and who sitteth at thy right hand, to make intercession, and receive the service and adoration of saints and angels, forever.

The Promise of God:

“He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed *us* into the kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.”

Colossians 1:13-14

November 30

Call to Worship: Psalm 19:14

“Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my strength and my Redeemer.”

Psalm 141

Scripture Reading:

1 Peter 4-5

2 Peter 1

Confession of Faith: Westminster Confession of Faith

CHAPTER XXX – Of Church Censures

1. The Lord Jesus, as King and Head of his church, hath therein appointed a government, in the hand of church officers, distinct from the civil magistrate.
2. To these officers the keys of the kingdom of heaven are committed; by virtue whereof, they have power, respectively, to retain, and remit sins; to shut that kingdom against the impenitent, both by the Word, and censures; and to open it unto penitent sinners, by the ministry of the gospel; and by absolution from censures, as occasion shall require.
3. Church censures are necessary, for the reclaiming and gaining of offending brethren, for deterring of others from the like offenses, for purging out of that leaven which might infect the whole lump, for vindicating the honor of Christ, and the holy profession of the gospel, and for preventing the wrath of God, which might justly fall upon the church, if they should suffer his covenant, and the seals thereof, to be profaned by notorious and obstinate offenders.
4. For the better attaining of these ends, the officers of the church are to proceed by admonition; suspension from the sacrament of the Lord's Supper for a season; and by excommunication from the church; according to the nature of the crime, and demerit of the person.

Prayer:

Lord, grant me, through the mediation of Jesus, the grace of submission. I pray thee let me never murmur nor rebel against either thy word or providence. Thou hast an infinite right to reign in me, and to rule over me, and to do with me, as seemeth good in thy sight. Thou canst not devise any statute, which is not founded on infinite wisdom and goodness. Thou canst not execute any measure, that is not sanctioned by righteousness and grace.

O strengthen me by faith and love, that I may bow to every token of thy will—which is indeed the perfection of knowledge, holiness, and mercy. I thank thee, Lord, for that full expression of it, which thou hast bequeathed in thy word. There thou hast given line upon line, and precept upon precept, that none may err therein. And yet how often does my heart forget and forsake, and sometimes contend against thy law. How prone is it to be unsubmitive when thou layest thy hand upon me in correction or displeasure.—O God, assist me to recognise thy hand in

all the workings of thy providence; and lead me to concur cheerfully, with every intimation which thou givest in these things, of thy sovereign pleasure. Incline me, I pray thee, to receive thy commandment as the law of my language, feelings, and conduct. Let me not despise thy chastenings, nor faint at thy rebukes. May I be still, and know that thou art God.

Saviour of Man, bring the impenitent to submit to thy will. Thou wouldst indeed have them forsake their rebellion, and obey thy law; and thou art seeking to win them to obedience, by the promises of thy grace, and the warnings of thy wrath. O convince them that thy judgments are round about them, and that the second death is before them. Show them that their unreserved submission to thee, is their only wisdom and safety: for then, instead of being exposed to thy sore displeasure, they will be received into thy favour, and enjoy the perfect peace of him whose heart is stayed on thee.

The Promise of God:

““And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.””

Matthew 16:19

December 1

Call to Worship: Psalm 25:1, 4-5b

“To You, O LORD, I lift up my soul....Show me Your ways, O LORD; teach me Your paths. Lead me in Your truth and teach me, for You *are* the God of my salvation....”

Psalm 142

Scripture Reading:

2 Peter 2-3

1 John 1

Confession of Faith: Westminster Confession of Faith

CHAPTER XXXI – Of Synods and Councils

1. For the better government, and further edification of the church, there ought to be such assemblies as are commonly called synods or councils: and it belongeth to the overseers and other rulers of the particular churches, by virtue of their office, and the power which Christ hath given them for edification and not for destruction, to appoint such assemblies; and to convene together in them, as often as they shall judge it expedient for the good of the church.

2. It belongeth to synods and councils, ministerially to determine controversies of faith, and cases of conscience; to set down rules and directions for the better ordering of the public worship of God, and government of his church; to receive complaints in cases of maladministration, and authoritatively to determine the same: which decrees and determinations, if consonant to the Word of God, are to be received with reverence and submission; not only for their agreement with the Word, but also for the power whereby they are made, as being an ordinance of God appointed thereunto in his Word.

3. All synods or councils, since the Apostles' times, whether general or particular, may err; and many have erred. Therefore they are not to be made the rule of faith, or practice; but to be used as a help in both.

4. Synods and councils are to handle, or conclude nothing, but that which is ecclesiastical: and are not to intermeddle with civil affairs which concern the commonwealth, unless by way of humble petition in cases extraordinary; or, by way of advice, for satisfaction of conscience, if they be thereunto required by the civil magistrate.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, dispel every form of error by the power of uncorrupted truth. Lord, thy word is truth. Give it, therefore, free course that it may be glorified in redeeming the corrupt and wandering minds of men from the deceptions of prejudice and error. Bring all mankind to a knowledge of it, and especially of the truth as it is in Jesus, which only is able to make them wise unto salvation. Instruct them in that mystery which was hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to the saints; which is Christ in them, the hope of glory.

Lord, assist me to love thy truth and to seek its promotion, even though it may cover me with rebuke and shame. May it turn me from every refuge of lies and bring me to trust in thee with all my heart. May sincerity dwell in my soul, and truth have its image in my heart, and verity be found on my lips. Teach me to abhor deceit in every possible form. May I remember that nothing can enter the holy city that maketh or loveth a lie; and that the lip of truth shall be established forever.

Great God, thou art the fountain of untarnished truth, and with thee there is no variableness nor shadow of turning. No form of deceit has ever cast a stain on the purity of thy purposes and dealings. Though the mountains depart and the hills be removed, thy kindness doth not depart from thee; neither is the covenant of thy peace removed. Thy word is the counsels of faithfulness; thy promises are all Yea and Amen; and thy threatenings, though they be not speedily executed, shall be fulfilled in righteousness. O Lord, give me such a persuasion of thy faithfulness as shall encourage and strengthen my heart in every endurance of trial and in every performance of duty. Help me to commit the keeping of my soul unto thee in well-doing as unto a faithful Creator.

The Promise of God:

“And He Himself gave some *to be* apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ; that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head – Christ – from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.”

Ephesians 4:11-16

December 2

Call to Worship: Psalm 27:4

“One *thing* I have desired of the LORD, that will I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in His temple.”

Psalm 143

Scripture Reading:

1 John 2-4

Confession of Faith: Westminster Confession of Faith

CHAPTER XXXII – Of the State of Men after Death, and of the Resurrection of the Dead

1. The bodies of men, after death, return to dust, and see corruption: but their souls, which neither die nor sleep, having an immortal subsistence, immediately return to God who gave them: the souls of the righteous, being then made perfect in holiness, are received into the highest heavens, where they behold the face of God, in light and glory, waiting for the full redemption of their bodies. And the souls of the wicked are cast into hell, where they remain in torments and utter darkness, reserved to the judgment of the great day. Besides these two places, for souls separated from their bodies, the Scripture acknowledgeth none.

2. At the last day, such as are found alive shall not die, but be changed: and all the dead shall be raised up, with the selfsame bodies, and none other (although with different qualities), which shall be united again to their souls forever.

3. The bodies of the unjust shall, by the power of Christ, be raised to dishonor: the bodies of the just, by his Spirit, unto honor; and be made conformable to his own glorious body.

Prayer:

God of the living, thou hast revealed the doctrine that thou wilt raise these mortal frames, at the day of judgment, from their long decay of death, and make them joint-heirs with our spirits in the retributions of eternity. All that are in the graves shall hear thy voice, and shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.

Lord, I thank thee that our Blessed Saviour became the first-fruits of them that slept; thus setting the seal of heaven to the truth of his gospel, and to the hope of our resurrection. If Christ be not risen, then is our faith vain. But, thanks be to thy name, he has the keys of death, and could not be holden of it: and as we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus, will God bring with him. O may I rejoice in the hope, that though after my skin, worms destroy my body, yet in my flesh, I shall see God, and be forever with the Lord. O grant that when the earth shall cast forth her dead, this corruptible may put on incorruption, and this mortality put on immortality, and be fashioned like unto Christ's glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able to subdue all things to himself.

The Promise of God:

“But God will redeem my soul from the power of the grave, for He shall receive me.”
Psalm 49:15

December 3

Call to Worship: Psalm 144:1a, 2abc

“Blessed *be* the LORD my Rock...my lovingkindness and my fortress, my high tower and my deliverer, my shield and *the One* in whom I take refuge....”

Psalm 144

Scripture Reading:

1 John 5
2 John
3 John
Jude

Confession of Faith: Westminster Confession of Faith

CHAPTER XXXIII – Of the Last Judgment

1. God hath appointed a day, wherein he will judge the world, in righteousness, by Jesus Christ, to whom all power and judgment is given of the Father. In which day, not only the apostate angels shall be judged, but likewise all persons that have lived upon earth shall appear before the tribunal of Christ, to give an account of their thoughts, words, and deeds; and to receive according to what they have done in the body, whether good or evil.

2. The end of God's appointing this day is for the manifestation of the glory of his mercy, in the eternal salvation of the elect; and of his justice, in the damnation of the reprobate, who are wicked and disobedient. For then shall the righteous go into everlasting life, and receive that fullness of joy and refreshing, which shall come from the presence of the Lord; but the wicked who know not God, and obey not the gospel of Jesus Christ, shall be cast into eternal torments, and be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power.

3. As Christ would have us to be certainly persuaded that there shall be a day of judgment, both to deter all men from sin; and for the greater consolation of the godly in their adversity: so will he have that day unknown to men, that they may shake off all carnal security, and be always watchful, because they know not at what hour the Lord will come; and may be ever prepared to say, Come Lord Jesus, come quickly, Amen.

Prayer:

Great God, thou hast appointed unto men once to die, and after this the judgment, when every one of us shall give account of himself to God; and when thou wilt display to an assembled universe, the righteousness of thy justice, and the glory of thy holiness. Of that day and that hour knoweth no man; but it shall be the end of the world, when all the works therein shall be burnt up, the heavens pass away with a great noise, and the elements melt with fervent heat. Lord, make me mindful of that awful day, and of the solemn truths thou hast revealed concerning it. Then the Lord Jesus will come with his holy angels, and sit on his great white throne, and open

the books of remembrance—the testimonies of creation, of providence, of scripture, and of conscience. The quick and dead shall stand before him, to be judged out of those things that are written in the books, according to their works, with every secret thing, whether it be good or evil; and also for every thing which thou didst command to be done, but which they left undone. Lord, make me realize that men will then be judged also for the privileges they have enjoyed; for of them unto whom much has been given, much will be required. O, even the best of thy saints will then need the atonement of Christ: they could not stand before thee, if thou shouldst mark their iniquities. But, blessed be thy name, there will be no condemnation to them that are in Christ Jesus: they shall receive the promise of a new heaven and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness. But then the judge will say to them on his left hand—“Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:” and the wicked shall be turned into hell, with all the nations that forget God. O God of infinite compassion, grant that in that fearful day of trial, my name may be found written in the Lamb's book of life, and that my unworthy, hell-deserving spirit may be received, through the merits of Christ, into the habitations of eternal life.

The Promise of God:

“Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is man’s all. For God will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing, whether good or evil.”

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14

December 4

Call to Worship: Psalm 145:1-3

“I will extol You, my God, O King; and I will bless Your name forever and ever. Every day I will bless You, and I will praise Your name forever and ever. Great *is* the LORD, and greatly to be praised; and His greatness *is* unsearchable.”

Psalm 145

Scripture Reading:

Revelation 1

Confession of Faith: The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty. From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayer:

From everlasting to everlasting, thou art God. The number of thy years cannot be searched out; for thou hast no beginning of days, nor end of years. Thou art Alpha and Omega; the beginning and ending; which is, and which was, and which is to come; with whom the past, the present, and the future are one eternal now. Thou hast life in thyself; and all thy creatures have their being in thee. Heaven and earth shall perish, but thou shalt endure: they shall wax old like a garment; as a vesture shalt thou change them, and they shall be changed; but thou art the same, and thy years shall have no end.

Lord, may the solemn truth that thou art *eternal* suitably affect my heart and control my conduct. Thou hast undying power, to make me happy or wretched forever. Throughout the ceaseless ages of eternity, thy hand will be on me for weal or wo. O do thou enable me to shun the wrath to come, and to lay hold on eternal life. Make with me now thine everlasting covenant; and be the strength of my heart, and my portion forever.

The Promise of God:

“...Grace to you and peace from Him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him *be* glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.”

Revelation 1:4b-6

December 5

Call to Worship: Psalm 146:1-2

“Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD, O my soul! While I live I will praise the LORD; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.”

Psalm 146

Scripture Reading:

Revelation 2-3

Confession of Faith: The Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds; God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God; begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made. Who, for us men for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again, with glory, to judge the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord and Giver of Life; who proceeds from the Father [and the Son]; who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe one holy catholic and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayer:

Lord, I pray thee, through thy grace in Jesus, to preserve me from lukewarmness in my religious duties. Make me feel an interest in them proportioned to their unspeakable importance. Let no worldly influence, no allurements of Satan, no selfish desires, lower the tone of my religious feeling and activity. How long, O Lord, shall I serve thee with an indifferent heart— thee, who hast infinite claims on my most ardent attachment, and whose service should be my chief delight. O rebuke my apathy, and fill me with a holy zeal. Make me fervent in spirit; and whatsoever my hand finds to do, dispose me to do it with my might. Let thy Spirit that quickeneth, give me life, and cause me to mount up with wings, as eagles; to run, and not be weary; to walk, and not faint.

The Promise of God:

“To him who overcomes, I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.”

Revelation 3:21

December 6

Call to Worship: Psalm 28:6-7

“Blessed *be* the LORD, because He has heard the voice of my supplications! The LORD *is* my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in Him, and I am helped; therefore my heart greatly rejoices, and with my song I will praise Him.”

Psalm 147

Scripture Reading:

Revelation 4-5

Confession of Faith: The Chalcedonian Creed

We, then, following the holy Fathers, all with one consent, teach men to confess one and the same Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, the same perfect in Godhead and also perfect in manhood; truly God and truly man, of a reasonable soul and body; consubstantial with the Father according to the Godhead, and consubstantial with us according to the manhood; in all things like unto us, without sin; begotten before all ages of the Father according to the Godhead, and in these latter days, for us and for our salvation, born of the virgin Mary, the mother of God, according to the manhood; one and the same Christ, Son, Lord, Only-Begotten, to be acknowledged in two natures, inconfusedly, unchangeably, indivisibly, inseparably; the distinction of natures being by no means taken away by the union, but rather the property of each nature being preserved, and concurring in one Person and one Subsistence, not parted or divided into two persons, but one and the same Son, and Only-Begotten, God the Word, the Lord Jesus Christ; as the prophets from the beginning have declared concerning Him, and the Lord Jesus Christ Himself has taught us, and the Creed of the holy Fathers has handed down to us.

Prayer:

O God, help me to dwell, by faith and prayer, on the solemn realities of the world to come. Thou hast made me in the image of thine own eternity, with powers that are capable of eternal progress in holiness, knowledge, and happiness—or in sin, error, and wo: and thou hast filled my soul with hopes and fears that travel far beyond the narrow limits of this life, and find their home in the future state of endless being. My condition will be fixed either in heaven or hell—enjoying the light of thy countenance, or cast out from thy presence for ever—rejoicing in the company of the good, or enduring the fellowship of the wicked—bathing in the fountain of eternal bliss, or plunging in the burning lake of undying wo.

Lord, I thank thee that thou hast revealed eternal things to me, and hast shown me how I may escape everlasting death, and obtain eternal life. Give me a firm belief of their reality, and a deep conviction of their importance. Teach me, God of Mercy, that life, and time, and means are given me to prepare for eternity—that there is but a step between me and death—and that according to my character then, will be my destiny forever. O seal me now by thy Spirit until the day of redemption; and then let an entrance be ministered unto me, abundantly, into the everlasting kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ, where my tongue shall utter a ceaseless anthem of praise, my

understanding enjoy an unclouded knowledge of truth, and my soul delight in a perpetual feast of love.

The Promise of God:

“Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. And they sang a new song, saying: ‘You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals; for You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, and have made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth.’”

Revelation 5:8-10

December 7

Call to Worship: Psalm 29:2

“Give unto the LORD the glory due to His name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.”

Psalm 148

Scripture Reading:

Revelation 6

Confession of Faith: The Athanasian Creed

Whoever wills to be in a state of salvation, before all things it is necessary that he hold the catholic faith, which except everyone shall have kept whole and undefiled without doubt he will perish eternally.

Now the catholic faith is that we worship One God in Trinity and Trinity in Unity, neither confounding the Persons nor dividing the substance. For there is one Person of the Father, another of the Son, another of the Holy Spirit. But the Godhead of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, is One, the Glory equal, the Majesty coeternal. Such as the Father is, such is the Son, and such is the Holy Spirit; the Father uncreated, the Son uncreated, and the Holy Spirit uncreated; the Father infinite, the Son infinite, and the Holy Spirit infinite; the Father eternal, the Son eternal, and the Holy Spirit eternal. And yet not three eternal, but one eternal, as also not three infinite, nor three uncreated, but one uncreated, and one infinite. So, likewise, the Father is almighty, the Son almighty, and the Holy Spirit almighty; and yet not three almighties but one almighty. So the Father is God, the Son God, and the Holy Spirit God; and yet not three Gods but one God. So the Father is Lord, the Son Lord, and the Holy Spirit Lord; and yet not three Lords but one Lord. For like as we are compelled by Christian truth to acknowledge every Person by Himself to be both God and Lord; so are we forbidden by the catholic religion to say, there be three Gods or three Lords. The Father is made of none, neither created nor begotten. The Son is of the Father alone, not made nor created but begotten. The Holy Spirit is of the Father and the Son, not made nor created nor begotten but proceeding. So there is one Father not three Fathers, one Son not three Sons, and one Holy Spirit not three Holy Spirits. And in this Trinity there is nothing before or after, nothing greater or less, but the whole three Persons are coeternal together and coequal. So that in all things, as is aforesaid, the Trinity in Unity and the Unity in Trinity is to be worshipped. He therefore who wills to be in a state of salvation, let him think thus of the Trinity.

But it is necessary to eternal salvation that he also believe faithfully the Incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ. The right faith therefore is that we believe and confess that our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is God and Man. He is God of the substance of the Father begotten before the worlds, and He is man of the substance of His mother born in the world; perfect God, perfect man subsisting of a reasoning soul and human flesh; equal to the Father as touching His Godhead, inferior to the Father as touching His Manhood. Who although He be God and Man yet He is not two but one Christ; one however not by conversion of the Godhead in the flesh, but by

taking of the Manhood in God; one altogether not by confusion of substance but by unity of Person. For as the reasoning soul and flesh is one man, so God and Man is one Christ. Who suffered for our salvation, descended into hell, rose again from the dead, ascended into heaven, sits at the right hand of the Father, from whence He shall come to judge the living and the dead. At whose coming all men shall rise again with their bodies and shall give account for their own works. And they that have done good shall go into life eternal, and they who indeed have done evil into eternal fire.

This is the catholic faith, which except a man shall have believed faithfully and firmly he cannot be in a state of salvation.

Prayer:

Shepherd of Israel, I would praise thy name for that comparative exemption from persecution, which we enjoy in this highly favoured land. Yet perhaps we owe our peaceful security to our conformity with the world. It becomes us to inquire, whether the world arrays itself not against us, because we have not fearlessly borne our testimony against it, that its deeds are evil; or because we have not rebuked its practices by a high standard of holy living.—Lord, let me not desire exemption from the enmity of the wicked, at the expense of duty. Make me willing to suffer persecution for righteousness' sake: yea, thou hast said that they shall suffer it, who live godly, in Christ Jesus. If our Blessed Lord was reviled, scourged, and persecuted, and his noble cloud of witnesses, of whom the world was not worthy, had trial of cruel mockings, and bonds, and death, why should I hope to escape? Lord, enable me so to act, that whether men may devise evil or good concerning me, my conscience shall be free from guilt towards thee and all mankind.

O thou who art a very present help in trouble, remember those who fall into persecution. Overrule the trial of their faith and patience, for their good and thy glory. Abate its severity, or open a door of deliverance from it, or enable them to bear it as good soldiers of Christ. While they suffer according to thy will, may they commit the keeping of their souls to thee, in well-doing, as unto a faithful Creator. Let them not wonder nor complain, as though some strange thing had happened unto them; but rejoice inasmuch as they are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that when his glory shall be revealed, they may be glad also with exceeding joy.

The Promise of God:

“He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.”

Revelation 3:5

December 8

Call to Worship: Isaiah 61:10

“I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks *himself* with ornaments, and as a bride adorns *herself* with her jewels.”

Psalm 149

Scripture Reading:

Revelation 7

Confession of Faith: The Heidelberg Catechism

Q. 29. *Why is the Son of God called Jesus, that is, a Savior?*

A. Because He saveth us, and delivereth us from our sins; and likewise, because we ought not to seek, neither can find salvation in any other.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, grant me just and full views of the plan of salvation by a Redeemer. Give me, I pray thee, an understanding to know, and a heart to feel, what thou hast done for the redemption of sinners.—In the counsels of eternity, thou didst foresee that estate of sin and misery into which mankind should be brought by the fall; and thou didst not leave them to perish in it; for in thy wisdom and mercy, thou didst devise a scheme, by which they might be delivered from it, and be brought into an estate of salvation, through the atoning blood of thy Son. Thou didst send him, in the fulness of time, to save that which was lost—to ransom those who were under the curse of the law—to redeem them who were subject to the world, the flesh, and the devil; and over whom were hanging the terrors of the second death. And, O, that redemption which he brought, not only saves from these fearful evils, but exalts those who were by nature and practice the heirs of wo, to be the objects of God's favour in this life, and the joint heirs of Christ's inheritance in the world to come!

O Lord, give me an ever-present conviction that this salvation is not by human wisdom or power; for it was thy mercy that procured it, and it is thy Spirit that induces and enables me to accept it. Direct all my hopes to the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world; and assist me to realize that there is no other name given under heaven, among men, whereby sinners can be saved. Enable me, I beseech thee, to believe in him with my heart unto righteousness, and to make confession of him with my mouth unto salvation. Teach me that it is by grace we are saved: for thou wouldst not defile the excellency and glory of thy plan, by making our deliverance the fruit of our works of righteousness, which are indeed, of themselves, as filthy rags. Thou wilt suffer none to glory in redemption, but through the cross of Jesus Christ. Lead me, I pray thee, in that highway of holiness, thy sacred word; which thou hast given us, that the man of God may be perfect, and thoroughly furnished unto all good works. Seal me by thy Spirit of promise; and if thou hast begun a good work in me, perform it unto the day of Christ.

O Most High, if the righteous be scarcely saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear? For thy great name's sake, show the power and fitness of thy salvation on the wicked. Arouse them from their false and guilty peace, by some bereavement of their comforts, or some

disaster of life; by the startling terrors of thy law, or by the clear shining of thy love. Make them feel that the redemption of the soul is precious, and that it ceaseth forever. Persuade them to flee for refuge to a crucified Saviour. Take them from the horrible pit and the miry clay; and set their feet upon the Rock of safety and blessedness; and put a new song into their mouths, even of praise to him, who so loved the world, as to give himself for it, that he might redeem unto himself a peculiar people, who should serve him in newness of life, and enjoy with him the blessings of an everlasting salvation.

The Promise of God:

“He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. I will write on him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God. And *I will write on him* My new name.”

Revelation 3:12

December 9

Call to Worship: Psalm 150:1a, 2

“Praise the LORD!...Praise Him for His mighty acts; praise Him according to His excellent greatness!”

Psalm 150

Scripture Reading:

Revelation 8-9

Confession of Faith: The Heidelberg Catechism

Q. 30. *Do such then believe in Jesus the only Savior, who seek their salvation and welfare of saints, of themselves, or anywhere else?*

A. They do not; for though they boast of Him in words, yet in deeds they deny Jesus the only deliverer and Savior; for one of these two things must be true, that either Jesus is not a complete Savior or that they, who by a true faith receive this Savior, must find all things in Him necessary to their salvation.

Prayer:

Blessed Father, teach me thy truth as it is in Jesus. Grant that I may love it, and feed upon it; and that I may teach it by my lips, and manifest it by my conduct to others.—Alas, our race, which thou didst make but a little lower than the angels, fell from the noble and happy condition in which it was created, by sinning against thee: and when thou didst look from heaven, upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, or seek after God; behold! They were altogether become filthy: there was none that did good; no not one. Yet thou didst not cast them off; but in the counsels of thy mercy, didst enter into a covenant of grace, to bring them into an estate of salvation by a Redeemer; even the Lord Jesus Christ, who, being the eternal Son of God, became man, that he might redeem us from the curse of the law, in being made a curse for us; and that we might have salvation through his blood.—O Lord, we exercised no penitence of heart that could have prompted thee to this display of compassion; and there was nothing in our character which could give thee any delight. It was sovereign, unsearchable, unmerited grace that formed and perfected the plan of redemption. Thou didst indeed commend thy love to us, in that while we were sinners, Christ died for us!

Help me, I pray thee, to receive Jesus as the High-Priest of my profession. May I look on him as offering up himself a sacrifice, to satisfy divine justice, and reconcile us to God; and as ever living to make intercession for his chosen people. He who was the brightness of the Father's glory, and who thought it not robbery to be equal with God, took upon himself the form of a servant, that he might put away sin, by the sacrifice of himself, in his own body, on the tree. Yea, it pleased thee to bruise him, to put him to grief, to make his soul an offering for sin, that he might justify many, and that the pleasure of the Lord might prosper in his hand. In due time, when we were without strength, Christ died for the ungodly; taking away the handwriting of ordinances that was against us; suffering the just for the unjust; that he might bring us to God.—Lord, I would praise thee that by him we have received the atonement. Thou hast set him

forth to be a propitiation, through faith in his blood, for the remission of sins. He has given his life a ransom for many. He who knew no sin, was made sin for us, that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

O Lord, convince me that forgiveness is granted only for his sake: there being no other name given among men whereby they can be saved. Teach me that his costly sacrifice was not needed to make thee willing to be reconciled to us; for it was the fruit of thy love: but because thou wouldst maintain thy justice, and still be the justifier of him that believeth in Jesus, and his deliverer from the wrath to come. Heavenly Father, show me by this office of Christ's mission, the lost condition of human nature, and the wonders of thy justice and love. May it be the most cherished object of my contemplation, and fill my spirit with adoration and thanksgiving, love and obedience. May I thus judge, that if Christ has died for me, I should henceforth live, not unto myself, but unto him; and that both living and dying I should be the Lord's.

The Promise of God:

“In God *is* my salvation and my glory; the rock of my strength, *and* my refuge, *is* in God.”

Psalm 62:7

December 10

Call to Worship: Psalm 34:1

“I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise *shall* continually *be* in my mouth.”

Psalm 2

Scripture Reading:

Revelation 10-11

Confession of Faith: The Heidelberg Catechism

Q. 31. *Why is He called Christ, that is, anointed?*

A. Because He is ordained of God the Father, and anointed with the Holy Ghost, to be our chief Prophet and Teacher, who has fully revealed to us the secret counsel and will of God concerning our redemption; and to be our only High Priest, who by the one sacrifice of His body, has redeemed us, and makes continual intercession with the Father for us; and also to be our eternal King, who governs us by His word and Spirit, and who defends and preserves us in the enjoyment of that salvation He has purchased for us.

Prayer:

Lord, assist me to receive Christ as my Teacher. May he reveal to me, by his word and Spirit, the will of God for my salvation. May I learn of him, who spake as never man spake, and who taught as one having authority. Let me remember that if I hearken not to his words, thou wilt require it of me: for if they escaped not, who refused him that spake on earth, much more shall not I escape, if I turn from him that speaketh from heaven. O put his law into my mind, and write it in my heart. Let its entrance give light and love, zeal and purity to my soul. Lord, let it not be a savour of death unto death, but of life unto life.

Help me, I pray thee, to receive Jesus as the High-Priest of my profession. May I look on him as offering up himself a sacrifice, to satisfy divine justice, and reconcile us to God; and as ever living to make intercession for his chosen people. He who was the brightness of the Father's glory, and who thought it not robbery to be equal with God, took upon himself the form of a servant, that he might put away sin, by the sacrifice of himself, in his own body, on the tree. Yea, it pleased thee to bruise him, to put him to grief, to make his soul an offering for sin, that he might justify many, and that the pleasure of the Lord might prosper in his hand. In due time, when we were without strength, Christ died for the ungodly; taking away the handwriting of ordinances that was against us; suffering the just for the unjust; that he might bring us to God.— Lord, I would praise thee that by him we have received the atonement. Thou hast set him forth to be a propitiation, through faith in his blood, for the remission of sins. He has given his life a ransom for many. He who knew no sin, was made sin for us, that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

Great God, I pray thee, make me willing to receive Christ not only as my Saviour, but as my Sovereign, to subdue me to himself, to rule and defend me, and to restrain and conquer all his and my enemies. O may I regard his service greater riches than the treasures of Egypt. Thou hast set him at thy right hand, that at his name every knee should bow, and every tongue confess; and hast given unto him the keys of death and hell, with all power in heaven and earth. His throne is

forever and ever. Thou wilt break them with a rod of iron, who will not have thy Son to reign over them, and wilt dash them in pieces, as a potter's vessel. Thou wilt make him Governor among the nations, and give him the heathen for his inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for a possession. O hasten that day.—Lord, lead my thoughts often to that consummation of Christ's sovereignty, when he shall come in his glory, to judge the quick and the dead. O may he then be my Saviour King, and I be a redeemed vassal of his everlasting kingdom.

The Promise of God:

“I will cry out to God Most High, to God who performs *all things* for me.”

Psalm 57:2

December 11

Call to Worship: Psalm 57:11

“Be exalted, O God, above the heavens; *let Your glory be above all the earth.*”

Psalm 8

Scripture Reading:

Revelation 12

Confession of Faith: The Heidelberg Catechism

Q. 32. *But why art thou called a Christian?*

A. Because I am a member of Christ by faith, and thus am partaker of His anointing; that so I may confess His name, and present myself a living sacrifice of thankfulness to Him; and also that with a free and good conscience I may fight against sin and Satan in this life, and afterwards reign with Him eternally, over all creatures.

Prayer:

Lord, unite me to Christ by a living faith, even as the branch is united to the vine. Make me a new creature in him. May I receive of his fulness, and grace for grace. May he be to me that bread from heaven that giveth eternal life; and be formed in my heart the hope of glory. Make me a member of that body, of which Christ is the head. Build me upon the foundation of the Apostles and Prophets, Jesus Christ being the chief corner-stone; in whom the whole building, fitly framed together, groweth unto a holy temple of the Lord. O may my life be hid with Christ in God; that he may be made unto me, wisdom and righteousness, sanctification and redemption.

The Promise of God:

“And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations – *“He shall rule them with a rod of iron; they shall be dashed to pieces like the potter’s vessels”* – as I also have received from My Father; and I will give him the morning star.”

Revelation 2:26-28

December 12

Call to Worship: Psalm 16:5-6

“O LORD, *You* are the portion of my inheritance and my cup; You maintain my lot. The lines have fallen to me in pleasant *places*; Yes, I have a good inheritance.”

Psalm 16

Scripture Reading:

Revelation 13

Confession of Faith: The Heidelberg Catechism

Q. 33. *Why is Christ called the only begotten Son of God, since we are also the children of God?*

A. Because Christ alone is the eternal and natural Son of God; but we are children adopted of God, by grace, for His sake.

Prayer:

Great God, enable me to make Christ, and him crucified, the primary object of study and faith. Give me heartfelt and precious views of his character and offices. May I regard him as that Word, which was in the beginning with God, and was GOD; and which was made flesh, and dwelt on earth, full of grace and truth. O suffer me never to doubt that in him dwells all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. To him belongs eternity; for he was before all things. He is the Creator; for without him was not any thing made that was made. To him pertains dominion; he upholds all things by the word of his power. He is everywhere present; since where two or three are gathered together in his name, he is in the midst of them. His understanding is infinite; for he knows the hearts of all men.—He that honoureth not the Son, honoureth not the Father, which hath sent him.—Blessed Jesus, if thy disciples worshipped thee, as the Searcher of hearts and the Saviour of souls—if all the angels of heaven cry unto thee, "Blessing and honour, glory and power"—well may I acknowledge and proclaim thee, as the living and true God!

The Promise of God:

“In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him.”

1 John 4:9

December 13

Call to Worship: Psalm 43:3-4

“Oh, send out Your light and Your truth! Let them lead me; let them bring me to Your holy hill and to Your tabernacle. Then I will go to the altar of God, to God my exceeding joy; and on the harp I will praise You, O God, my God.”

Psalm 22

Scripture Reading:

Revelation 14

Confession of Faith: The Heidelberg Catechism

Q. 34. *Wherefore callest thou Him our Lord?*

A. Because He hath redeemed us, both soul and body, from all our sins, not with gold or silver, but with His precious blood, and hath delivered us from all the power of the devil; and thus hath made us His own property.

Prayer:

Great God, I rejoice that thy dominion is built on power and wisdom, righteousness and mercy. Thou alone mayest exercise it; for thou art the Maker, Governor, Benefactor, and Judge of all things. — O do thou work in me, to will and to do, of thy good pleasure. Let me not be the slave of sin, but the servant of Jesus; for his yoke is easy, and his burden is light, to all who put their trust in thee. Thy statutes are right, and thy law is perfect. Because the Lord reigneth, let the earth rejoice; let the multitude of isles be glad thereof. Though clouds and darkness are round about thee, justice and judgment are the habitation of thy throne.

Lord, do good in thy good pleasure unto Zion. Build thou the walls of Jerusalem. Be thou her king, to govern, to defend, and to lead her forward, conquering and to conquer. May that stone which was cut out without hands, become a great mountain, and fill the whole earth.

The Promise of God:

“Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth – to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people – saying with a loud voice, ‘Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water.’”

Revelation 14:6-7

December 14

Call to Worship: Psalm 59:16-17

“But I will sing of Your power; Yes, I will sing aloud of Your mercy in the morning; for You have been my defense and refuge in the day of my trouble. To You, O my Strength, I will sing praises; for God is my defense, my God of mercy.”

Psalm 31

Scripture Reading:

Revelation 15

Confession of Faith: The Heidelberg Catechism

Q. 35. *What is the meaning of these words —“He was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary”?*

A. That God’s eternal Son, who is, and continueth true and eternal God, took upon Him the very nature of man, of the flesh and blood of the Virgin Mary, by the operation of the Holy Ghost; that He might also be the true seed of David, like unto His brethren in all things, sin excepted.

Prayer:

Lord, what is man, that thou art mindful of him; or the son of man, that thou visitest him? Thou art infinite in all thy perfections, and needest not our praises nor services to increase thy happiness and glory. If our guilty race had continued even as thou didst create it (but a little lower than the angels), we must have praised thee for thy condescension in nourishing and governing us; but now, that we have lifted the arm of rebellion against thee, and have steeped our souls in transgression, how greatly is thy condescension magnified, in pursuing us with thy mercies, in providing for our wants, in protecting and delivering us from evil; and above all, in offering to redeem us from our lost estate by the sacrifice of thy Son. He, who knew no sin, was made sin for us, that we might be made the righteousness of God in him. He, who was rich, yet for our sakes became poor, that we through his poverty might be made rich. He, who from eternity knew no pain, sweat great drops of blood, and suffered unspeakable agony, that we might escape the wrath to come—the worm that never dieth, and the fire that is never quenched. O help me, God of Grace, to acknowledge thine undeserved and astonishing mercy. May it draw me closer to thee in the bonds of love and confidence, and seal me for thy service, in a covenant never to be forsaken.

The Promise of God:

“Incline your ear, and come to Me. Hear, and your soul shall live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you – the sure mercies of David.”

Isaiah 55:3

December 15

Call to Worship: Psalm 34:1

“I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise *shall* continually *be* in my mouth.”

Psalm 34

Scripture Reading:

Revelation 16

Confession of Faith: The Heidelberg Catechism

Q. 36. *What profit dost thou receive by Christ’s holy conception and nativity?*

A. That He is our Mediator, and with His innocence and perfect holiness, covers in the sight of God, my sins, wherein I was conceived and brought forth.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, I would praise and magnify thy name that thou hast laid help upon One who is mighty to save unto the uttermost all who come unto thee by him. Though the human race was at enmity with thee and lay exposed to thy curse, thou didst in infinite mercy appoint an Interposer between thee and us, that we, who were alienated and enemies by wicked works, might be reconciled in the body of his flesh through death. We thank thee that we are not called to that mountain which burned with fire and was clouded with darkness and tempest; but to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to that blood of sprinkling which speaketh better things than that of Abel. O, it was needful that he should be the Son of God; for no other sacrifice could satisfy the demands of infinite justice—and he must needs be the Son of man; since without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sins. He who is our eternal Daysman has infinite fitness for his high and holy office: for in him dwells the fulness of power, wisdom, and mercy!

Blessed Jesus, be thou the propitiation for my sins; and not for mine only, but also for the whole world. O thou who didst become the High-Priest of thine own sacrifice to make reconciliation for the sins of the people, do thou blot out the handwriting of ordinances that was recorded against me for my transgressions—procure for me by thine intercession the loving kindness of Jehovah—and bind all my affections to the throne of grace by that new, and better, and everlasting covenant which is the fruit of thy wisdom and mercy and the work of thy power and grace unto salvation.—Heavenly Father, make the words of my mouth, and the meditations of my heart, and the service of my life, acceptable to thee through him who is my Strength and my Redeemer.

The Promise of God:

“Seek the LORD while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, and He will have mercy on him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon.”

Isaiah 55:6-7

December 16

Call to Worship: Psalm 63:3-5

“Because Your lovingkindness *is* better than life, my lips shall praise You. Thus I will bless You while I live; I will lift up my hands in Your name. My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness, and my mouth shall praise You with joyful lips.”

Psalm 40

Scripture Reading:

Revelation 17

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 36. *Who is the Mediator of the covenant of grace?*

A. The only Mediator of the covenant of grace is the Lord Jesus Christ, who, being the eternal Son of God, of one substance and equal with the Father, in the fulness of time became man, and so was and continues to be God and man, in two entire distinct natures, and one person, forever.

Prayer:

God of Salvation, I thank and adore thee that in the counsels of eternity thou didst devise a plan by which rebellious, guilty, and hell-deserving man might receive thy forgiveness, be reconciled to thee, and enjoy thy favour; and that in the fulness of time thou didst finish thy decree of mercy by sending thine only-begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on him should not perish, but have everlasting life. O it was matchless compassion that made the ruins of our apostasy the theatre on which to display the wonders of redeeming love! When we lay in the open field, and were polluted in our own blood, thou didst bid us live: yea, thou didst bid us live! Scarcely for a righteous man would one die; peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die: but thou hast commended thy love to us, in that while we were sinners, Christ died for us. Thou didst set him forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood for the remission of sins in order that thou mightest be just and be the justifier of him that believeth in Jesus. Make me understand that it was his divinity that made this offering a perfect work: for Lebanon was not sufficient to burn; nor the beasts thereof sufficient for a burnt offering; nor could the fruit of the body atone for the sin of the soul: but lo, the blood of Christ cleanseth from all sin!

Lord, may I have an ever-present conviction that there is no other name by which I can be saved. May I seek redemption only through his blood, the remission of sins, according to the riches of his grace. Purge thou my conscience from dead works to serve the living God; and may I thus judge, that if Christ has died for me, I should henceforth live not unto myself, but unto him. Let the blessings of this atonement rest on me in sins pardoned, in punishment averted, in fear pacified, in the soul reconciled, in the heart sanctified, and in the spirit made joyful in an endless hope. O Lord, grant that at last I may be found among those that have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

O may there be many who shall go into all the world and preach this blessed gospel to every creature. May men every where learn their guilt and danger and see the fitness of the Saviour thou hast provided for them. May multitudes thirst after righteousness and be led to that fountain

which has been opened in the house of David, where whosoever will may take of the waters of life freely. Grant, in thy mercy, that all the ends of the earth may look unto Christ and be saved.

The Promise of God:

““These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those *who are* with Him *are* called, chosen, and faithful.””

Revelation 17:14

December 17

Call to Worship: Psalm 71:8, 15, 23

“Let my mouth be filled *with* Your praise *and with* Your glory all the day....My mouth shall tell of Your righteousness *and* Your salvation all the day....My lips shall greatly rejoice when I sing to You, and my soul, which You have redeemed.”

Psalm 41

Scripture Reading:

Revelation 18

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 37. *How did Christ, being the Son of God, become man?*

A. Christ the Son of God became man, by taking to himself a true body, and a reasonable soul, being conceived by the power of the Holy Ghost in the womb of the virgin Mary, of her substance, and born of her, yet without sin.

Prayer:

Lord, what is man, that thou art mindful of him; or the son of man, that thou visitest him? Thou art infinite in all thy perfections, and needest not our praises nor services to increase thy happiness and glory. If our guilty race had continued even as thou didst create it, (but a little lower than the angels,) we must have praised thee for thy condescension in nourishing and governing us; but now, that we have lifted the arm of rebellion against thee, and have steeped our souls in transgression, how greatly is thy condescension magnified, in pursuing us with thy mercies, in providing for our wants, in protecting and delivering us from evil; and above all, in offering to redeem us from our lost estate by the sacrifice of thy Son. He, who knew no sin, was made sin for us, that we might be made the righteousness of God in him. He, who was rich, yet for our sakes became poor, that we through his poverty might be made rich. He, who from eternity knew no pain, sweat great drops of blood, and suffered unspeakable agony, that we might escape the wrath to come—the worm that never dieth, and the fire that is never quenched. O help me, God of Grace, to acknowledge thine undeserved and astonishing mercy. May it draw me closer to thee in the bonds of love and confidence, and seal me for thy service, in a covenant never to be forsaken.

The Promise of God:

“In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son *to be* the propitiation for our sins.”

1 John 4:9

December 18

Call to Worship: Psalm 73:25, 26, 28

“Whom have I in heaven *but You?* And *there is* none upon earth *that* I desire besides You. My flesh and my heart fail; *but God is* the strength of my heart and my portion forever. But *it is* good for me to draw near to God; I have put my trust in the LORD GOD, that I may declare all Your works.”

Psalm 45

Scripture Reading:

Revelation 19

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 38. *Why was it requisite that the Mediator should be God?*

A. It was requisite that the Mediator should be God, that he might sustain and keep the human nature from sinking under the infinite wrath of God, and the power of death; give worth and efficacy to his sufferings, obedience, and intercession; and to satisfy God’s justice, procure his favor, purchase a peculiar people, give his Spirit to them, conquer all their enemies, and bring them to everlasting salvation.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, grant me repentance unto life, through the merits of the Saviour. Give me, I beseech thee, a true sense of my sin. It is against thee, O Lord, I have sinned. I have broken thy holy, wise, and benevolent law, ways and times beyond number. I have sinned against the teachings of thy word, against the testimonies of conscience, against the drawings of thy love, and against the strivings of thy Spirit. My transgressions may have led others into the paths of evil, and thus have been instrumental in loading their souls with guilt. Mine iniquities have cast reproach on thy cause in the world; and they have shut out the precious light of thy countenance from my soul. O God, make me feel how hateful my sin is in thy sight, and that the perfections of thy nature are pledged for its punishment. O thou hast spread wide and deep, the lake of unquenchable fire—thou hast built, with everlasting strength, the prison-walls of hell—where the unrepenting sinner will dwell in torment forever.

Lord, I implore thee to give me deep convictions of the atrocious guilt and soul-destroying danger of sin. Grant me feelings of strong abhorrence towards it. Incline me to mourn, with bitterness of heart, over my transgressions. Imbue me with courage, to resolve to forsake them, and with strength, to turn from them unto thee, with earnest endeavours after new obedience. Teach me, that he who turns not away from every sin, turns not aright from any sin. O let not mine be the sorrow of the world, that worketh death; but a godly sorrow, that worketh repentance to salvation, not to be repented of. Bring me to thee, crying, "Lord, save me, or I perish." And say to me in thy mercy, "Son, be of good cheer; thy sins be forgiven thee."

O God, kindle a fire in the consciences of the impenitent, that shall cleanse them from the love of sin, and purify them unto thee, in holiness of heart and life. Convince them of the evil nature, and fearful consequences of their iniquity. Show them that thou art waiting to be gracious, and that thou hast no pleasure in the death of them that die, but that they turn and live. Turn them

from the error of their ways, and lead them into the path of the just. Induce them to forsake their sins, and to bring forth fruits meet for repentance. Incline them to obey thy will from the heart, not that they may seek, by the deeds of the law, to be justified in thy sight; but that he who was delivered for their offences, may be made their justification and complete salvation.

The Promise of God:

“Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him *was* called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. His eyes *were* like a flame of fire, and on His head *were* many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. He *was* clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses.

Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And He has on *His* robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.”

Revelation 19:11-16

December 19

Call to Worship: Psalm 68:4

“Sing to God, sing praises to His name; extol Him who rides on the clouds, by His name YAH, and rejoice before Him.”

Psalm 68

Scripture Reading:

Revelation 20

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 39. *Why was it requisite that the Mediator should be man?*

A. It was requisite that the Mediator should be man, that he might advance our nature, perform obedience to the law, suffer and make intercession for us in our nature, have a fellow-feeling of our infirmities; that we might receive the adoption of sons, and have comfort and access with boldness unto the throne of grace.

Prayer:

Great God, rejoice my heart with frequent and thankful contemplations of that millennial glory, when thy name shall be great among the heathen, and when thou wilt give them to thy Son, for his inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth, for his possession. Then thou wilt pour out thy Holy Spirit without measure, and darkness and transgression will be supplanted by light and obedience. Love to God and love to man, will fill the hearts of all the dwellers on earth: they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning hooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. Then there will be no clashing of sects; for there will be one Lord, one faith, one baptism. The heavens shall give their dew; the earth shall give her increase; the parched ground shall become a pool; and the desert shall blossom as the rose. They shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, "Know the Lord;" for they shall know thee, from the least of them unto the greatest of them. The mountain of the house of the Lord shall be established in the top of the mountains, and be exalted above the hills. O then there will be great voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdoms of the world are become the kingdoms of the Lord, and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever!"

Lord, teach all thy people the duties that belong to them, in reference to the coming of that glorious season. May they trim their lamps, and keep their lights burning, and be ready at the advent of their Master. But do thou show them that his glorious appearing will be by the instrumentality of the sanctified and intelligent efforts of his church. O induce them to desire it ardently, to pray for it fervently, to hope for it believingly, and to labour for it diligently, in all those measures which thou hast been pleased to institute, as the means of accomplishing it. Bless all their works of faith, and labours of love. O hasten thy glorious dominion. Spread it from pole to pole, from sea to sea, and from the river unto the ends of the earth; and fill the wide world with thy knowledge, even as the waters cover the sea.

The Promise of God:

“Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years....”

Revelation 20:1-2

December 20

Call to Worship: Psalm 69:16, 30

“Here me, O LORD, for Your lovingkindness *is* good; turn to me according to the multitude of Your tender mercies....I will praise the name of God with a song, and will magnify Him with thanksgiving.”

Psalm 69

Scripture Reading:

Revelation 21

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 40. *Why was it requisite that the Mediator should be God and man in one person?*

A. It was requisite that the Mediator, who was to reconcile God and man, should himself be both God and man, and this in one person, that the proper works of each nature might be accepted of God for us, and relied on by us, as the works of the whole person.

Prayer:

O God, Most High, assist my feeble powers to contemplate the bliss of heaven. In that blest land the righteous shall hunger no more; neither thirst any more; and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes. There they shall understand all mysteries and all knowledge. Now they see through a glass darkly; but then they shall see face to face—now they know but in part; but then they shall know even as they are known. There they shall dwell in the city of the living God, the New Jerusalem, with an innumerable company of angels, and spirits of just men made perfect; and shall sing, with unwearied tongues, the new song of praise to the Lamb, who has redeemed them to God by his blood, out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation. There they shall serve God with fulness of joy, holiness of heart, and obedience of will: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them, the Lamb shall feed them, and lead them to living fountains of waters: and thus they shall be forever with the Lord!

I thank thee, O God, that thou hast made known to us the glories of the heavenly state, and that thou hast taught us how we may obtain them. Life and immortality have been brought to light by the gospel; and though the carnal eye hath not seen, nor the ear heard, nor have entered into such heart, the things which thou hast prepared for them that love thee; yet thou hast revealed them to thy children, by thy Spirit, as a foretaste of that glory which shall be made known in the eternal life.—O Lord, shall I be a partaker of that blessedness? Grant that the contemplation of it may make me feel the vanity of earthly things, and lead me to set my affections on things that are heavenly and divine. May I follow after holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord; and seek a building of God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

Lord, grant that visions of heavenly glory may quicken the hopes, and purify the hearts, and animate the zeal of thy chosen people. May they have thy grace in them, as a rich prelude to the joys of everlasting life. May they show by their lives, that here they have no abiding place, no

continuing city; but that they seek a better, even a heavenly.—Lead them, O Lord, while they strive to work out their own salvation, to seek to bring others into the path of eternal life. Make them feel that their own happiness and glory in the future state, will be greatly increased by their turning souls unto righteousness here: for then they shall shine as the brightness of the firmament, and as the stars forever and ever.

Blessed Lord, convince the worldly-minded and sinful, of the depraving and perishing nature of temporal things; and of the exalted and eternal treasures thou hast laid up in the home of the righteous. Induce them, by thy Spirit, to renounce the world, the flesh, and the devil; and to seek that faith in Christ, that purity of heart, and that compliance with thy will, by which they shall be made meet for the inheritance of the saints in light. And to thy name, Father, Son, and Spirit, shall be the glory of their salvation forever.

The Promise of God:

“And He said to me, ‘It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts. He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son.’”

Revelation 21:6-7

December 21

Call to Worship: Psalm 72:18-19b

“Blessed *be* the LORD God, the God of Israel, Who only does wondrous things! And blessed *be* His glorious name forever! And let the whole earth be filled *with* His glory....”

Psalm 72

Scripture Reading:

Revelation 22

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 41. *Why was our Mediator called Jesus?*

A. Our Mediator was called Jesus, because he saveth his people from their sins.

Prayer:

Great God, I have sinned against thee times and ways beyond number. If thou shouldst lay righteousness to the line, and judgment to the plummet, I should be driven from thy presence. Yea, if thou shouldst deal with me for one of a thousand of my transgressions, I could not appear before thee. Yet I praise thee that there is forgiveness with thee, and that thou blottest out the transgressions of thy people. O give me the blessedness of him to whom thou imputest no iniquity; whose sins, though they be as scarlet, shall be as white as snow; and though they be red like crimson, shall be as wool.

Lord, teach me the nature and condition of that pardon which thou art willing and ready to bestow on thy sinful creatures. O, it is sufficient to stay the wrath of thy condemnation, and to take away forever, the sentence which was written against us. Yet it is not procured by our own works of righteousness; but we have this redemption through the blood of Christ, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace. Grant me, I beseech thee, such a conviction of sin, and such a reliance on the atonement of Jesus, as will make it consistent with thy love of justice, and with the security of thy moral government, to remember my transgressions no more against me. Keep me from every effort to bring thee a price in my hand, for this precious boon. O may I seek it as the gift of thy mercy, purchased by the death of thy Son, and made effectual by the application of the Holy Ghost.

Merciful God, grant me the fruits of thy forgiving love, in peace of conscience, a sense of thy favour, a tender penitence for sin, a feeling of deep and lasting gratitude, and a holy, humble, and confiding access to thy throne of grace.

Lord, lead multitudes of the impenitent to seek thy forgiving mercy. May they learn the infinite value of that sacrifice by which it was procured, and the tender solicitude and strivings of thy Spirit, that they should embrace it. Show them from what guilt and punishment it redeems, and to what purity and happiness it leads. Enter not now into judgment with them, for in thy sight shall no man living be justified. O do thou excite many to call on thee whilst thou art waiting to be gracious; and do thou make peace with them through the blood of the cross, and present them holy and unblameable in thy sight. Blot out their iniquities from the book of thy remembrance, and write their names in the Lamb's book of life.

The Promise of God:

“And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward *is* with Me, to give to every one according to his work. I am the Alpha and the Omega, *the* Beginning and *the* End, the First and the Last.’ Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city....‘I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star.’ And the Spirit and the bride say, ‘Come!’ And let him who hears say, ‘Come!’ And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.”

Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17

December 22

Call to Worship: Psalm 89:1

“I will sing of the mercies of the LORD forever; with my mouth will I make known Your faithfulness to all generations.”

Psalm 89

Scripture Reading:

Galatians 3:1-4:7

Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 42. *Why was our Mediator called Christ?*

A. Our Mediator was called Christ, because he was anointed with the Holy Ghost above measure; and so set apart, and fully furnished with all authority and ability, to execute the offices of prophet, priest, and king of his church, in the estate both of his humiliation and exaltation.

Prayer:

Great Fountain of Blessing, I thank thee that thou hast strengthened the faith, and established the hopes, of thy chosen people, throughout all generations, by many precious promises. Even in that day when our first parents forfeited, by iniquity, their birthright to Paradise, thou didst give the pledge of thy truth, that the seed of the woman should bruise the serpent's head, and thus recover our race from the ruins of the apostasy. And ever since, in all thy revelations to men, thou hast been pleased to declare, abundantly, thy rich purposes of mercy. They are scattered over every page of thy word; they are suited to every variety of Christian experience and trial; and they are so plain, that he who runs may read. The history of thy heritage, in all ages, has borne witness that they are steadfast and true; for they are established on the faithfulness of the God of Truth. Lord, I desire to magnify and extol thee for those assurances of comfort in this life, and of bliss in that to come, which gather in countless profusion around the cross of Christ. Blessed be thy name, thy promises are Yea and Amen in him, unto the glory of God.

O that they might be embalmed in my memory, and be cherished in my confidence; for they are more precious than rubies, and more enduring than the foundations of the earth. Make them, I beseech thee, the means of dispelling my sorrows, of scattering my doubts, and of exciting my zeal. May I regard them with overflowing gratitude to thee, as the pledges of thine eternal truth and goodness; as the beacons which thou hast set to light up the gloomy pathways of life, and to throw over the pillow of death, the dawning beams of an unclouded immortality.

O God, fulfil speedily thy promises to the Daughter of Zion. Let not her ways mourn, nor her gates be desolate, nor her priests sigh, nor her people be in bitterness. Put off her sackcloth, and gird her with gladness. Give her the garments of praise for the spirit of heaviness. Cause her righteousness to go forth as brightness, and her salvation as a lamp that burneth. O create her a rejoicing, and thy people a joy, throughout the whole earth.

The Promise of God:

“For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.”

Galatians 3:26

December 23

Call to Worship: Psalm 91:2

“I will say of the LORD, ‘*He is my refuge and my fortress; my God, in Him I will trust.*’”

Psalm 91

Scripture Reading:

John 1:1-18

Confession of Faith: Westminster Confession of Faith, Chapter 8, Section 1:

It pleased God, in his eternal purpose, to choose and ordain the Lord Jesus, his only begotten Son, to be the Mediator between God and man, the Prophet, Priest, and King, the Head and Savior of his church, the Heir of all things, and Judge of the world: unto whom he did from all eternity give a people, to be his seed, and to be by him in time redeemed, called, justified, sanctified, and glorified.

Prayer:

Lord, grant me a good hope through grace. May it be the fruit of thy Spirit, and be rooted and grounded in that faith by which we receive the atonement of the Messiah: for other foundation can no man lay than that which is laid in Jesus Christ. May it be a hope that maketh not ashamed; that purifieth the heart; that is a helmet of salvation; and an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, which enters into that within the veil, and rejoices in the expectation of the glory of God. O may it prompt me to seek to bring others into the same fellowship of joy, that we together may share the promise of life.

Teach the wicked, O God, that a door of hope has been opened for the chief of sinners:—a way of access to pardon, in which thou canst be just, and still be the justifier of them that believe in Jesus. Let not their hearts be deceived by those hopes of earthly good, which are either blasted in their bud, or ripen into bitter fruit. Show them that the expectation of the wicked shall perish, and that the trust of the hypocrite shall be as the spider's web: while the hope of the righteous shall be gladness and assurance forever. I pray thee bring many sinners to the footstool of thy throne, to learn the blessedness of putting their confidence in the blood of the everlasting covenant; from which only can they receive the promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.

The Promise of God:

“He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.”

Psalm 91:1

December 24

Call to Worship: Psalm 96:1-4

“Oh, sing to the LORD a new song! Sing to the LORD, all the earth. Sing to the LORD, bless His name; proclaim the good news of His salvation from day to day. Declare His glory among the nations, His wonders among all peoples.”

Psalm 96

Scripture Reading:

Luke 1:26-56
Matthew 1:18-25

Confession of Faith: Westminster Confession of Faith, Chapter 8, Section 2:

The Son of God, the second person in the Trinity, being very and eternal God, of one substance and equal with the Father, did, when the fullness of time was come, take upon him man's nature, with all the essential properties, and common infirmities thereof, yet without sin; being conceived by the power of the Holy Ghost, in the womb of the virgin Mary, of her substance. So that two whole, perfect, and distinct natures, the Godhead and the manhood, were inseparably joined together in one person, without conversion, composition, or confusion. Which person is very God, and very man, yet one Christ, the only Mediator between God and man.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, grant me just and full views of the plan of salvation by a Redeemer. Give me, I pray thee, an understanding to know and a heart to feel what thou hast done for the redemption of sinners.—In the counsels of eternity, thou didst foresee that estate of sin and misery into which mankind should be brought by the fall; and thou didst not leave them to perish in it; for in thy wisdom and mercy thou didst devise a scheme by which they might be delivered from it and be brought into an estate of salvation through the atoning blood of thy Son. Thou didst send him in the fulness of time to save that which was lost—to ransom those who were under the curse of the law—to redeem them who were subject to the world, the flesh, and the devil; and over whom were hanging the terrors of the second death. And O, that redemption which he brought not only saves from these fearful evils, but exalts those who were by nature and practice the heirs of wo to be the objects of God's favour in this life and the joint heirs of Christ's inheritance in the world to come!

O Lord, give me an ever-present conviction that this salvation is not by human wisdom or power; for it was thy mercy that procured it, and it is thy Spirit that induces and enables me to accept it. Direct all my hopes to the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world; and assist me to realize that there is no other name given under heaven among men whereby sinners can be saved. Enable me, I beseech thee, to believe in him with my heart unto righteousness, and to make confession of him with my mouth unto salvation. Teach me that it is by grace we are saved: for thou wouldst not defile the excellency and glory of thy plan by making our deliverance the fruit of our works of righteousness which are indeed, of themselves, as filthy rags. Thou wilt suffer none to glory in redemption but through the cross of Jesus Christ. Lead me, I pray thee, in that highway of holiness, thy sacred word; which thou hast given us, that the

man of God may be perfect and thoroughly furnished unto all good works. Seal me by thy Spirit of promise; and if thou hast begun a good work in me, perform it unto the day of Christ.

O Most High, if the righteous be scarcely saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear? For thy great name's sake, show the power and fitness of thy salvation on the wicked. Arouse them from their false and guilty peace by some bereavement of their comforts, or some disaster of life; by the startling terrors of thy law, or by the clear shining of thy love. Make them feel that the redemption of the soul is precious and that it ceaseth forever. Persuade them to flee for refuge to a crucified Saviour. Take them from the horrible pit and the miry clay; and set their feet upon the Rock of safety and blessedness; and put a new song into their mouths, even of praise to him, who so loved the world as to give himself for it, that he might redeem unto himself a peculiar people who should serve him in newness of life, and enjoy with him the blessings of an everlasting salvation.

The Promise of God:

“That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life – the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us – that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship *is* with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. And these things we write to you that your joy may be full.”

1 John 1:1-4

December 25

Call to Worship: Psalm 98:1-2

“Oh, sing to the LORD a new song! For He has done marvelous things; His right hand and His holy arm have gained Him the victory. The LORD has made known His salvation; His righteousness He has revealed in the sight of the nations.”

Psalm 98

Scripture Reading:

Luke 2:1-20

Confession of Faith: The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty.

From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, assist me to exercise those feelings of grateful devotion which are suitable to this day, which has been set apart by so many of thy followers, in memory of the birth of thy well-beloved Son. Grant me enlarged and soul-moving views of all that relates to the glorious plan of salvation through a Redeemer. Unfold to my mind, I beseech thee, the deep depravity and lost estate into which our guilty race had fallen. The whole head was sick, and the whole heart faint: and from the sole of the foot even unto the head, there was no moral soundness in it; but wounds, and bruises, and putrefying sores! All flesh had corrupted its way upon the earth; and the whole world was guilty before God. O, if thou hadst not laid help upon One, mighty to save, all men would have had their part in the lake that burneth with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.

Gracious God, make me sensible of that love whereby thou didst give thine only-begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on him should not perish, but have everlasting life—and which thou hast commended to us, in that while we were sinners, Christ died for us. Though thou hast shown thy lovingkindness in the works of creation, and in the developments of providence, in this thou hast gathered, as into a bright and burning centre, the matchless proof of thy good-will to man. O, the breadth, and length, and depth, and height of the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge!

Lord, make me to know the excellencies of Christ's glory, and the depths of his humiliation. Though he dwelt in the bosom of the Father, and inhabited the praises of eternity, and exercised the powers of the Godhead, yet he took upon him our human nature, was born in a low condition, made under the law, undergoing the miseries of this life, the wrath of God, and the cursed death of the cross; and was buried, and continued under the power of death for a time. Teach me that he was thus made sin for me, that I might be made the righteousness of God in him. O God, show me that though he thus gave his life a ransom for many, still there is none who can have redemption through his blood, without the convincing, renewing, and sanctifying power of thy grace. Lord, make me know my sin, and my need of a Saviour; dispose me to turn away from all my transgressions, and to lay hold of the hope set before me in the gospel.

Lord, impress on my heart the features of Christ's lovely and perfect character. May I learn of him who was meek and lowly, kind and patient, obedient and forgiving, wise and holy. Let the same mind which was in him be also in me. Show me that he is glorified in the bodies and spirits of them whom thou hast given to him; and that if any man have not the spirit of Christ, he is none of his. May the grace which has brought salvation, teach me to deny ungodliness and to work righteousness; that his image, destroyed by the fall, may be renewed in me, and that the life also of Jesus may be made manifest in my mortal flesh.

God of Grace, excite my faith in this blessed Saviour, by clear visions of that heavenly glory which he has prepared for those that love him. O, thanks be unto thy name, thou hast not only redeemed thy saints from the wretched dominion of sin and the fearful penalties of guilt, but thou hast given them thine unfailing promise, that they shall go into life eternal, and dwell before thy throne, and serve thee day and night in thy temple. Lord, grant that through his merits, an entrance may be ministered unto me, abundantly, into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Merciful Father, persuade the ungodly, who are rejecting the Saviour, that without his atoning righteousness their souls must endure the perdition of eternal death; while through his blood they may have remission of sins, and an inheritance among them that are sanctified. Reconcile them unto thyself, through him; not imputing their trespasses unto them. O dispose them to join with fulness of heart, that heavenly anthem, which heralded his birth in our nature—"Glory to God in the highest; and on earth peace, good-will towards men!"

The Promise of God:

"For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of *His* government and peace *there will be* no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this."

Isaiah 9:6-7

December 26

Call to Worship: Psalm 85:8a,b

“I will hear what God the LORD will speak, for He will speak peace to His people and to His saints....”

Psalm 102

Scripture Reading:

Luke 2:21-38

Confession of Faith: Westminster Confession of Faith, Chapter 8, Section 3:

The Lord Jesus, in his human nature thus united to the divine, was sanctified, and anointed with the Holy Spirit, above measure, having in him all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge; in whom it pleased the Father that all fullness should dwell; to the end that, being holy, harmless, undefiled, and full of grace and truth, he might be thoroughly furnished to execute the office of a mediator, and surety. Which office he took not unto himself, but was thereunto called by his Father, who put all power and judgment into his hand, and gave him commandment to execute the same.

Prayer:

Lord, enable me, through the adorable Redeemer, to know, and value, and possess the exceeding riches of thy grace. It is rich in its source; for it is the fulness of him that filleth all in all. It is rich in its abundance; since it is given to us for help in every time of need. And, O, it is rich in its unspeakable blessings; for it brings the forgiveness of sins—gives us the washing of regeneration—unites us to Christ by a living faith—justifies us by his merits—bestows on us the witness of the Spirit—gives us the victory over the world and the grave—makes us heirs of God, and joint heirs with Christ, in the enjoyments of heaven forever. Show me, O Lord, that Jesus is the mediator of this blessing: it is he that maketh peace through the blood of his cross: he giveth repentance and remission of sins: and he seals the redeemed soul, by the Spirit, through sanctification, unto eternal life.—Lord, thou couldst have glorified thyself in the destruction of thy rebel creatures; but thou hast chosen, in thy mercy, to win them back to thee by love, that thou mightest glorify thyself in their newness of life on earth, and their eternal bliss in heaven.

The Promise of God:

“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.”

John 1:14

December 27

Call to Worship: Psalm 107:1

“Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for *He is good!* For His mercy *endures* forever.”

Psalm 107

Scripture Reading:

Matthew 2:1-12

Confession of Faith: Westminster Confession of Faith, Chapter 8, Section 4:

This office the Lord Jesus did most willingly undertake; which that he might discharge, he was made under the law, and did perfectly fulfill it; endured most grievous torments immediately in his soul, and most painful sufferings in his body; was crucified, and died, was buried, and remained under the power of death, yet saw no corruption. On the third day he arose from the dead, with the same body in which he suffered, with which also he ascended into heaven, and there sitteth at the right hand of his Father, making intercession, and shall return, to judge men and angels, at the end of the world.

Prayer:

Lord Jehovah, thou art good, and lovest to do good. Thou art the giver of every good and perfect gift. My whole life has been a record of thy mercy. Thou hast given me the blessings of health and peace, food and clothing, home and friends, protection and happiness. Yet all these are but as the small dust of the balance, compared with thy mercy in Christ Jesus. Though the creatures thou hadst made, to be the subjects of thy bounty, had all rebelled against thy law, thou didst so love them, as to give thy Son for them, to bring them back, with an everlasting redemption. And because they still, notwithstanding this matchless offer of compassion, would not come unto thee, that they might have life, thou hast given them the influences of thy Holy Spirit, to persuade them to accept of mercy. And to as many as thou hast given power to become the sons of God, thou hast vouchsafed such measures of thy grace, that they shall be able to persevere in obedience, through faith, unto complete salvation.

The Promise of God:

“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, *though* you are little among the thousands of Judah, *yet* out of you shall come forth to Me the One to be Ruler in Israel, whose goings forth *are* from of old, from everlasting.”

Micah 5:2

December 28

Call to Worship: Psalm 86:11-12

“Teach me Your way, O LORD; I will walk in Your truth; unite my heart to fear Your name. I will praise You, O LORD my God, with all my heart, and I will glorify Your name forevermore.”

Psalm 109

Scripture Reading:

Colossians 1:9-23

Confession of Faith: Westminster Confession of Faith, Chapter 8, Section 5:

The Lord Jesus, by his perfect obedience, and sacrifice of himself, which he, through the eternal Spirit, once offered up unto God, hath fully satisfied the justice of his Father; and purchased, not only reconciliation, but an everlasting inheritance in the kingdom of heaven, for all those whom the Father hath given unto him.

Prayer:

God of Salvation, I thank and adore thee that in the counsels of eternity thou didst devise a plan by which rebellious, guilty, and hell-deserving man might receive thy forgiveness, be reconciled to thee, and enjoy thy favour; and that in the fulness of time thou didst finish thy decree of mercy, by sending thine only-begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on him, should not perish, but have everlasting life. O it was matchless compassion that made the ruins of our apostasy the theatre on which to display the wonders of redeeming love! When we lay in the open field, and were polluted in our own blood, thou didst bid us live: yea, thou didst bid us live! Scarcely for a righteous man would one die; peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die: but thou hast commended thy love to us, in that while we were sinners, Christ died for us. Thou didst set him forth to be a propitiation, through faith in his blood, for the remission of sins, in order that thou mightest be just, and be the justifier of him that believeth in Jesus. Make me understand that it was his divinity that made this offering a perfect work: for Lebanon was not sufficient to burn; nor the beasts thereof sufficient for a burnt offering; nor could the fruit of the body atone for the sin of the soul: but lo, the blood of Christ cleanseth from all sin!

Lord, may I have an ever-present conviction that there is no other name by which I can be saved. May I seek redemption only through his blood, the remission of sins, according to the riches of his grace. Purge thou my conscience from dead works to serve the living God; and may I thus judge, that if Christ has died for me, I should henceforth live not unto myself, but unto him. Let the blessings of this atonement rest on me, in sins pardoned, in punishment averted, in fear pacified, in the soul reconciled, in the heart sanctified, and in the spirit made joyful in an endless hope. O Lord, grant that at last I may be found among those that have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

O may there be many, who shall go into all the world, and preach this blessed gospel to every creature. May men every where learn their guilt and danger, and see the fitness of the Saviour thou hast provided for them. May multitudes thirst after righteousness, and be led to that fountain

which has been opened in the house of David, where whosoever will, may take of the waters of life freely. Grant, in thy mercy, that all the ends of the earth may look unto Christ, and be saved.

The Promise of God:

“For it pleased *the Father that* in Him all the fullness should dwell, and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross.”

Colossians 1:19-20

December 29

Call to Worship: Psalm 93:1ab, 2, 5b

“The LORD reigns, He is clothed with majesty; the LORD is clothed, He has girded Himself with strength...Your throne *is* established from of old; You *are* from everlasting...holiness adorns Your house, O LORD, forever.”

Psalm 110

Scripture Reading:

Philippians 2:5-11

Hebrews 1

Confession of Faith: Westminster Confession of Faith, Chapter 8, Section 6:

Although the work of redemption was not actually wrought by Christ till after his incarnation, yet the virtue, efficacy, and benefits thereof were communicated unto the elect, in all ages successively from the beginning of the world, in and by those promises, types, and sacrifices, wherein he was revealed, and signified to be the seed of the woman which should bruise the serpent's head; and the Lamb slain from the beginning of the world; being yesterday and today the same, and forever.

Prayer:

Gracious Jehovah, assist me to understand, and love, and obey the gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. I would magnify the riches of thy mercy, which devised these glad tidings of great joy for all people. I would praise thee that thou didst send it in due time, in all its fulness of grace and truth, life and immortality. It was not because we deserved thy favour, or sought thy mercy; but because thou didst pity our lost condition, and didst enter into a covenant of grace, to bring us out of an estate of sin and misery, into an estate of salvation, by a Redeemer. Lord, I would praise thee that this word is offered without money and without price; and that whosoever will, may take of the waters of life freely. Thou hast made the plan of redemption commensurate with the wants and sins of our ruined race, and with the claims of thy holy and inflexible justice. I bless thy name that it has brought light for the benighted; joy for the mourner; liberty for the captive; rest for the heavy-laden; plenty for the destitute: pardon for the condemned; purity for the unholy; life for the dead; and the hope of salvation for the heirs of perdition!

Lord, help me to lay hold upon the hope set before me in the gospel. May I receive it as the only savour of life unto life. Let me not be ashamed of the gospel of Jesus Christ; but may I glory in it, as the power of God, unto salvation, to every one that believeth. May it teach me to deny ungodliness, and to live righteously in thy sight. Make it the instrument of building me up in saving knowledge, holy love, and willing obedience, to the praise of Jesus Christ.

O God, make the impenitent feel that they cannot escape thy wrath, if they neglect this great salvation. May it bring them, from being strangers and foreigners, to be fellow-citizens of the household of faith. May it turn their carnal minds from their enmity unto peace with God, and release them, being justified by faith, from that wrath of God which now abideth on them. Blessed Saviour, call them from darkness into marvellous light: free them from the bondage of sin, and cause them to stand fast in the liberty wherewith thou makest thy servants free. Lord,

may the kingdom of thy gospel come, and thy will be done on earth as in heaven. Multiply the number of those who shall run to and fro, increasing knowledge. Make the reading, but especially the preaching of thy word, an effectual means of convincing and converting sinners.— Strengthen the minds, and sanctify the wills, and increase the zeal of thy people. Send the rod of thy strength out of Zion, and make thy people willing in the day of thy power: and may converts be multiplied to them as drops of dew in the morning. O God, redeem thy promise, that at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow, and every tongue confess that he is Lord, to the praise of God, the Father.

The Promise of God:

“The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, ‘Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!’”

John 1:29

December 30

Call to Worship: Psalm 118:1,14, 28

“Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for *He is* good! For His mercy endures forever....The LORD *is* my strength and song, and He has become my salvation....You *are* my God, and I will praise You; *You are* my God, I will exalt You.”

Psalm 118

Scripture Reading:

Titus 2:11-14

Confession of Faith: Westminster Confession of Faith, Chapter 8, Section 7:

Christ, in the work of mediation, acts according to both natures, by each nature doing that which is proper to itself; yet, by reason of the unity of the person, that which is proper to one nature is sometimes in Scripture attributed to the person denominated by the other nature.

Prayer:

O thou that lovest them that obey thee, make me zealous of good works. Grant me that zeal which is according to wisdom, love, and holiness. Reprove my lukewarmness, my instability, and my backsliding. Let not my pursuits of earthly things, which perish in the using, excite me to more energy and perseverance, than the strong and urgent claims of obedience to thy commands. Lead me to inquire diligently, what thou wilt have me to do; for I am bound to glorify thee in my body and spirit which are thine. May I hear the language of thy word, and the voice of thy providence, calling me to gird up my loins in thy service. Stimulate my diligence by the records of thy saints, who have devoted their lives and their all, to doing good. Fix in my memory, I pray thee, the noble example of Christ, who took upon himself the form of a servant, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross, that the culprits of heavenly justice might be saved from their condemnation.—O Lord, enable me to realize the unspeakable value of religious duties, undertaken in thy strength, in saving souls from death, in comforting and strengthening my own heart, and in procuring, through thy mercy in Christ, thy favour in this world, and thy blessedness in that which is to come. What my hand findeth to do, may I do it with my might. Heavenly Father, make me fervent in spirit, serving the Lord. And while the blessing of my zeal in thy service shall be mine, the praise of it shall be thine Father, Son, and Spirit, forever.

The Promise of God:

“But *it is* good for me to draw near to God; I have put my trust in the Lord GOD, that I may declare all Your works.”

Psalm 73:28

December 31

Call to Worship: Psalm 92:1-2

“It is good to give thanks to the LORD, and to sing praises to Your name, O Most High; to declare Your lovingkindness in the morning, and Your faithfulness every night....”

Psalm 132

Scripture Reading:

Revelation 1:4-18

Confession of Faith: Westminster Confession of Faith, Chapter 8, Section 8:

To all those for whom Christ hath purchased redemption, he doth certainly and effectually apply and communicate the same; making intercession for them, and revealing unto them, in and by the Word, the mysteries of salvation; effectually persuading them by his Spirit to believe and obey, and governing their hearts by his Word and Spirit; overcoming all their enemies by his almighty power and wisdom, in such manner, and ways, as are most consonant to his wonderful and unsearchable dispensation.

Prayer:

Lord, keep me from conformity to the world. May I use it, as not abusing it; having my affections set on things above, and not on things on the earth. Show me that its pleasures are few in number, brief in existence, unsatisfying in their nature, and corrupting in their influence. Let me not seek to unite the service of God and mammon. Lord, I would love and hold to thee, and hate and despise the other. O, what is a man profited, if he should gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Assist me, I pray thee, to pass the time of my sojourning here in fear, knowing that it is a sphere of danger, in which my heart is tempted to wander from God, to forget eternity, to neglect my noblest duties, and to live in sense and sin. I cannot, and indeed I should not desire to, withdraw from the business of the world, and from intercourse with worldly men; but I beseech thee, O Lord, that thou wouldst abide with me on all those occasions which require me to mingle with such scenes and companions. Teach me thy way, and lead me in a plain path, for the sake of my own purity, and the welfare of them that observe me. Let me not pollute my own soul, by being a partaker of ungodliness. Make me an epistle of Christ, known and read of all men. May my words be fitly spoken, and my conduct be according to godliness. Give me grace to walk in wisdom to them that are without, persuading them to taste and see that the Lord is good, and teaching them that religion's ways are ways of pleasantness, and that all her paths are peace.

Gracious God, open my eyes to the moral condition of this world, that lieth in wickedness. Unfold to me its Pagan idolatry and Mahomedan delusion; its Jewish unbelief and Papal corruptions; its religious heresies and infidel deceptions; its bloody wars and cruel oppressions; its open wickedness and secret abominations. O that pity, and grief, and zeal might fill my soul as it dwells on these works of evil. Lord, cast them out, and let truth, love, and holiness fill the earth, as the waters cover the sea.

The Promise of God:

“Through the LORD’s mercies we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness. ‘The LORD is my portion,’ says my soul, ‘Therefore I hope in Him!’ The LORD is good to those who wait for Him, to the soul who seeks Him. It is good that one should hope and wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD.”

Lamentations 3:22-26

PRAYERS FOR ECCLESIASTICAL SEASONS AND OCCASIONS

Sabbath Day

O thou that hearest and answerest prayer for the merits of Jesus, the Heavenly Advocate, give me grace, I beseech thee, to remember the Sabbath-day, to keep it holy. In six days thou didst make heaven, earth, and sea; and didst rest the seventh day: wherefore thou hast blessed the Sabbath, and hallowed it. I thank thee, God of Mercy, for that consecrated season, in which thou givest rest to our wearied natures, and afforest us leisure for reflection on our duties in this world, and our destinies in the world to come. I thank thee for its privileges of praise, of prayer, and of instruction, by which thy saints are built up in faith and zeal, and sinners are brought from the darkness and iniquity of carnal nature, to the light and holiness of heavenly grace. I would praise thee that there still remaineth this rest to the people of God. Thou hast made the Sabbath for man; and thou hast abolished neither its privileges nor its duties; but thou wilt continue them down to the end of the world.

O that I might always be in the Spirit on the Lord's-day. — May I remember that thou hast given me six days of the week for my own employments, and hast challenged a special ownership of the seventh; and that thou hast given it the sanction of thine own example and blessing. O let me not profane that holy time by idleness; nor by doing that which is in itself sinful; nor by unnecessary thoughts, words, or works, about worldly employments or recreations. May I sanctify it by a holy resting, even from such avocations as are lawful on other days; and spend all its sacred hours in the public and private exercises of God's worship; except so much as may be taken up in the works of necessity and mercy. Let that day ever be a precious occasion, wherein thy love shall be richly manifested to me, and my affections shall hold free, and holy, and rejoicing communion with thy Spirit. May I be prepared by its sanctifying duties and reviving pleasures, for serving thee and mankind better, in all the relations of life. O make it a blessed type of that eternal Sabbath, which is reserved for the pure in heart, in the regions of unmingled bliss.

Lord, save thy holy day from the desecration which has been so fearfully brought upon it. Thou seest how men pursue on it their carnal pleasures and worldly interests, regardless of thy statutes, and the ultimate welfare of their country, and of mankind. Even those who have made a covenant with thee, to keep thy commandments, sometimes join hand in hand with the ungodly, in these profanations of sacred time. O that thy people would set their faces as flint against these transgressions, and bear the testimony of their voice and conduct against them. Bring not thy wrath upon our land, because its inhabitants make the Sabbath their season of amusement, convenience, and lucre. Teach all men that it is thine imperative will, that they should sanctify that day: and that thou hast judgments in store for its transgressors: — while they who turn away their feet from polluting it, and from doing their pleasure on it, and shall call the Sabbath a delight, the holy of the Lord, honourable; and shall honour thee, not doing their own ways, nor finding their own pleasure, nor speaking their own words — they shall ride upon the high places of the earth, and shall be fed with the heritage of Jacob; for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it!

Stated Worship – Prayer 1

Lord, incline me to love the services of thy sanctuary; for a day in thy courts is better than a thousand spent in worldly pleasures. O that I might desire more to be a doorkeeper in the house of God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness.—Lord, suffer me not to forsake the assemblies of thy saints. May I remember that Christ loved the synagogue; and that his disciples continued daily with one accord in the temple. There the rich and the poor meet together, and the Lord is the Maker of them all. There thou makest the hearts of thy saints to rejoice, and preparest them to run with renewed strength and increasing diligence, in their Christian race; and there thou makest the souls of thine enemies to tremble and bow before thy sovereign will. It is in thy house, O Lord, that thou showest the riches of thy mercy, and the strength of thy power!

Great Master of Assemblies, bring me to thy tabernacle with preparation of heart and with prayer. May I revere and love that gospel which is preached there. Incline me to hear it with close and devout attention, and with personal application. Make thy word to my heart as a fire that melteth, and as a hammer that breaketh the rock. Incline me to hear it with candour and kindness towards him who is its messenger; desiring that the words of his mouth may glorify God, and be used as the means of quickening and saving souls. Strengthen me, I pray thee, to obey, with full purpose of heart, all thy commands. They only are happy, who in knowing these things, are willing to do them; for not every one that saith, “Lord, Lord,” shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he that doth the will of our Father in heaven. Make me a doer, as well as a hearer, of thy word. Lord, let not the impressions of thy truth escape with the occasion of its utterance. Dispose me to meditate on it in my heart—to digest it in my thoughts—to make it the subject of prayer—and to show it forth in my life. O let it not be as the seed by the wayside; nor as that on stony ground; nor as that among thorns:—but let it be like that which fell on good ground, and brought forth, some thirty, some sixty, and some an hundred fold.

Grant, I pray thee, that when I call upon thy name in thy house, my prayer may not go out of feigned lips. Make it the homage of the creature to the Creator, and the supplication of a needy child to a rich and liberal Parent. And when I praise thee in the songs of Zion, may I render thee not only an outward, but an inward and spiritual worship.

Lord, bring within thy sanctuaries, the multitudes who spend their Sabbaths in idleness and sin. O, let not the walks of Zion be deserted, while the gates of hell are thronged with eager travellers. May thy people draw them by the bands of a man, and thy Spirit by the cords of love, until they shall come and fill to overflowing, the tabernacles of the righteous. And come thou, O God, in the greatness of thy love and majesty, and make thy courts melodious with the praises of souls newly ransomed by the power and grace of thy truth. And thy glorious name, Father, Son, and Spirit, shall have the praise forever.

Stated Worship – Prayer 2

Adorable Jehovah, thou art exalted above principalities and powers, that at thy name every knee should bow, and every tongue confess. All thy works praise thee. Bestow on me, in the name of Jesus, that grace which will qualify me to worship thee in spirit and in truth. Let me not seek to draw nigh to thee with my lips, while my heart is far from thee; nor take the attitude of devotion, while my thoughts wander among the cares and pleasures of life. If the language of insincerity be offensive when offered to a fellow-being, how much more when it is presented to the God of Truth! May strong convictions of thy greatness and presence rest upon me, and make me suitably afraid. Make me feel that I am unworthy of the least of thy mercies, and that if thou wert strict to mark iniquity, I dare not come before thee, but should take up my abode where there is no mercy-seat, and no answer of peace to the cry of despairing want.

Gracious God, let all my approaches to thee be in humble reliance upon the merits of Christ. Give me such an impression of thy goodness, in the bounties of thy providence and the covenant of thy grace, that I shall go to thee with the love and confidence of a child to its father; for if earthly parents know how to give good gifts to their children, much more will our Heavenly Father give his Holy Spirit to them that ask him. Lord, grant me such views of thy character, and of my own wants and those of mankind, as shall dispose me to magnify thy name, with an adoring and grateful spirit, and lead me to seek thy favour by fervent and believing supplication.

Lord, bless the assemblies of thy saints. May reverence, love, and faith, animate their devotions. May thy praise be sung with holy affections; thy favour be sought with believing hearts; thy word be preached in the demonstration of the Spirit, and be heard as a message of divine wisdom and mercy. Bring into thy sanctuaries those who neglect thy worship; and fill thy courts with such as live regardless of thy statutes. Grant, O Lord, that all the solemn feasts of thy house may be seasons of refreshing from thy presence, in which saints shall grow in grace, and many prodigals be brought into the adoption of the sons of God; to the glory of thy mercy in Jesus, both now and forever.

Stated Worship – Prayer 3 – Corporate

O Most Blessed and Gracious Lord God, whose almighty hand has brought us out of nothing to enjoy the comforts of life, and whose free grace has called us out of a state worse than nothing to the hope of thy heavenly glory! We bless thy name, that thou hast conducted us safe through many dangers to see the comfortable light of this day; and we glorify thee that we have yet a day of grace wherein to seek the things belonging to our peace. We adore thee for having so far consulted the good of our souls, as to set apart this day for holy uses, that we might engage in a solemn attendance upon thee, in whose service consists all our honour and happiness. O how much higher might we have been in thy favour, how much nearer to thee our God, and fitter for thy heavenly kingdom, had we rightly used, and conscientiously improved, those means of grace which thou hast been pleased to afford us.

But we have been cruel to our own souls, as well as disobedient to thee, our Lord; many times losing the opportunities of appearing before thee, when we were near thy sanctuaries; and shunning as a task what was our highest privilege: and even when we have set ourselves to seek thy face, it has been with such coldness and dullness, such wanderings and distractions, that thou mightest justly abhor our souls, and despise our services.

But be thou pleased to look upon us in the Son of thy love, who is the Lord our peace and our righteousness; and forgive us all that is past, wherein we have neglected thy work, or performed it amiss, or done what was inconsistent with it. Help us, O God of our salvation, and deliver us both from the bonds and burden of our guilt, and purge away all our sins, for the glory of thy name. O let them not stand as a partition wall, to hinder the ascent of our prayers to thee, or the descent of thy blessings upon us. But let thy peace and love shine into our souls, that we may see the felicity of thy chosen, and draw water with joy out of the wells of salvation.

O let us not rest in any forms of godliness, denying the power thereof; let us not take up with the name and profession of Christianity; but may we be swayed with its life and power. And let the gospel of our Lord, and the graces of thy good Spirit shine forth in our lives, to the glory of thee, our heavenly Father. O gracious God, be with us, and with all the ministers and stewards of thy mysteries, who are this day to speak in thy name; furnish them with abilities necessary for their great work; and enable them to suit themselves to the capacities and necessities of their several hearers. And grant, Lord, unto us, though now removed from the ordinary means of grace, ability to receive thy truth in the love of it, so as to profit and grow by it. O do thou remove all the hindrances of our spiritual improvement, that thy word may have free course, and be glorified amongst us. And let us this day go forth in the strength of the Lord God; and prosper and increase with the increase of God. Let thy grace and blessing accompany all our endeavours; that having served thee imperfectly upon earth, we may attain to the full enjoyment of thee in heaven, and glorify thee in the perfection of holiness for ever and ever.

And let thy grace and blessing, thy love and fellowship, thy direction and assistance, O heavenly Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be with us, and with all for whom we ought to pray, this day and for evermore. Amen. *Manual of Devotion, 66-68*

Stated Worship – Prayer 4 – After Worship - Corporate

O Lord, thou art good to the soul that seeks thee. By numberless invitations, and by all the endearments of thy love, thou encouragest poor sinners to come unto thee. Thou dost not bid us seek thy face in vain, or serve thee for nought; thou hast pleasure in the prosperity of thy servants, and givest not according to our poor imperfect services, but according to thine infinitely rich and tender mercies, thou givest us eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. It is not any thing in thy laws, O gracious Lord, but the sinfulness of our depraved nature, that makes any of them seem grievous to us; they are all holy, and just, and good, tending only to promote our present and eternal happiness. Nor is it any thing in thy blessed service, but the aversion of our own vile hearts, that makes any part of that employment tedious to us, which is the work and joy of angels; and which it is our wisdom, our honour, our interest, and our happiness to perform. Holy God, we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; nor can we ever hope to be justified in thy sight upon the account of any works or worth of our own; for by our own hearts and deeds we are reprov'd and condemn'd, and should be left speechless in the judgment, if thou, O Lord, shouldst call us to account, according to the merits even of our best services. But we desire to take refuge under the shadow of our crucified Saviour, and to be found in him, not having our own righteousness, but that which is by the faith of Jesus Christ; that the shame of our nakedness may be covered, and all our sinful deformities be hid from thine eyes. And we entreat thee to forgive us mercifully, and receive us graciously, and love us freely, in the Son of thy love, in whom thou art well pleased.

Command a blessing, we pray thee, O Lord, upon the word which this day we have read or heard, and upon all the means of grace that have been used for the good of our souls. O let us so hide thy word in our hearts, that we may not (as we have done) sin against thee, but may have it as a treasure within us, to aid us in every hour of temptation, and in every time of need. Apply it to our hearts, that we may walk more humbly and closely with our God, and more conscientiously and circumspectly before thee; and be so obedient to the holy precepts of thy word, that finally we may enjoy the great and precious promises contained in it.

Supply, O Lord, by the immediate teachings of thy Spirit, the want of thy public ordinances in these our present circumstances. And grant to us, O gracious Lord, the light of thy gospel, and opportunities for our soul's advantage. Preserve us also, by thy grace, from the temptations of our calling and employment.

And now we give thanks (as we are infinitely bound) to thee, O Lord God, our heavenly Father, for the mercies of this day, and for thy great mercy and goodness that has followed us all the days of our lives. O how wonderful is thy patience and longsuffering, that thou shouldst all day long stretch forth thy hands to a rebellious and gainsaying people! And how unwearied thy kindness and love, that thou still loadest us with benefits, notwithstanding our past abuse of them, and impartest even the greatest mercies to us, who have deserved nothing but judgments at thy hands! Blessed be thy name, O most merciful Father, that thou hast defended us from so many dangers in our lives, which threatened to destroy us; and delivered us out of so many troubles under which we should have sunk and perished, if thou hadst not been nigh to us and done great things for us. We bless thee for our health and liberty; for the use of our reason, limbs, and senses; for the supply of our daily wants, and preservation from dangers, seen and unseen; and for the comforts of all thy good creatures. But above all, we bless thee for thy mercies and blessings relating to the world to come; for Jesus Christ, and all spiritual blessings in heavenly things in him; for remembering us in our low estate, and sending eternal redemption to us by the hands of thy dear Son; for the light and direction of thy word; for the teachings and strivings, the aids and consolations of thy Spirit; for all the means and helps which we have to do us good; for all thy grace wrought in us, and bestowed upon us; and for all the discoveries and hopes of eternal glory, which thou hast given to us. O how infinitely indebted are we to the kindness and love of God our Saviour! O that we may ever be sensible and thankful as we ought! And with all that thou hast given us, blessed Lord, give us hearts filled with thy love, and lifted up in thy praise, and devoted to thy service.

We can only acknowledge the debt, which we can never pay. We cannot praise thee according to the riches of thy grace, and the multitude of thy mercies, but we desire to bless and praise with all the capacities and abilities wherewith thou hast blessed us. And help us, O Lord our God, to glorify thy name, not only in speaking to thy praise, but in so entirely devoting ourselves to thy service, that we may be thine in faithfulness and in the sincerity of our hearts, even all the days of our lives.

O make us truly penitent and humbled for all which this day we have done amiss; and make us unfeignedly thankful for all the good that we have received, and for all which thou hast, in any manner or measure, enabled us to do aright. The evil is from ourselves alone, and to us belong shame and confusion of face for it; but all the good is of thy free grace, and of thy mere mercy; and to thy blessed name, O Lord our God, be all the praise and glory rendered, with the most feeling and grateful hearts, now and for evermore. Amen. *Manual of Devotion, 68-72*

Corporate Confession

O Eternal God and most Merciful Father, we confess and acknowledge here, before thy divine majesty, that we are miserable sinners, conceived and born in sin and iniquity, so that in us there is no goodness. For the flesh evermore rebelleth against the spirit, whereby we continually transgress thy holy precepts and commandments, and so purchase to ourselves, through thy just judgment, death, and damnation.

Notwithstanding, O Heavenly Father, forasmuch as we are displeased with ourselves for the sins that we have committed against thee, and do unfeignedly repent us of the same, we most humbly beseech thee, for Jesus Christ's sake, to show thy mercy upon us, to forgive us all our sins, and to increase thy Holy Spirit in us. That we acknowledging from the bottom of our hearts our own unrighteousness, may from henceforth not only mortify our sinful lusts and affections, but also bring forth such fruits as may be agreeable to thy most blessed will; not for the worthiness thereof, but for the merits of thy dearly beloved Son Jesus Christ, our only Savior, whom thou hast already given an oblation and offering for our sins, and for whose sake we are certainly persuaded that thou wilt deny us nothing that we shall ask in his name, according to thy will. For thy Spirit doth assure our consciences that thou art our merciful Father, and so lovest us thy children through him, that nothing is able to remove thy heavenly grace and favor from us. To thee, therefore, O Father, with the Son and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end.⁵

Prayer for the Minister

Great Author and Dispenser of Truth, bless those whom thou hast set to preach the everlasting gospel, and to bring glad tidings of good things. Thou hast not sent us the ministry of angels, but of men; and hast given us this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power might be of God. It has pleased thee, by that which the world calls the foolishness of preaching, to save them that believe.

Lord of the Vineyard, let none take upon them this holy office, who are unfit for its sacred duties, in body, mind, or spirit. Yet do thou call out and prepare many, very many, for the divine work of saving souls. Qualify those who are now ambassadors for Christ, and enable them to persuade sinners to be reconciled to God. Make them men of strong and cultivated judgment; of diligent and persevering study; of zealous and faithful labour; and of prayerful, fervent, and consistent piety. Make them as the voice of him that cried in the wilderness, "Prepare ye the way of the Lord; make his paths straight." May they be themselves instructed unto the kingdom of heaven, and bring forth out of their treasure, things new and old. Cause them to exemplify their doctrine by a holy walk. Preserve them from the desire of applause, and the love of lucre. Let them not confer with flesh and blood. Bestow on them a mouth and wisdom which their enemies shall not be able to gainsay nor resist. Give them grace to speak thy word with all boldness; keeping back nothing that is profitable; shunning not to declare all the counsel of God; and having this record, that they are pure from the blood of all men.

O Lord, bring them before their flocks in the fulness of the blessing of the gospel of Christ. Dispose them to give themselves continually to prayer, and the ministry of the word. Lead them

⁵ John Calvin, *The Service, Discipline, and Form of the Common Prayers and Administration of the Sacraments, used in the English Church of Geneva* (London: William Cook, 1641), 12.

to proclaim the gospel, not only in the sanctuary, but from house to house. May their preaching be in demonstration of the Spirit, and of power. Let thy pleasure prosper in their hands, and thy word have free course, and be glorified. May they seek diligently to bring the religion of their people up to the standard of the Bible - to the measure of the faith once delivered to the saints. Give them power to alarm the guilty consciences, and to persuade the stubborn wills of the impenitent. Constrain them to watch, as those who must give an account of their stewardship. Let them not be compelled to say, "All day long, we have stretched forth our hands unto a disobedient and gainsaying people:" nor to ask in despair, "Who hath believed our report, and to whom is the arm of the Lord revealed?" O make them guides of the blind, and lights of them which are in darkness. Grant that by their efforts, revivals of pure and undefiled religion shall prevail, to cleanse thy church, and to save perishing sinners.

Shepherd of Israel, incline thy people to discharge the duties they owe to the messengers of thy word. May they remember that the labourer is worthy of his hire, and that they who preach the gospel, should live of the gospel. May they properly appreciate the office of those that are over them in the Lord, and esteem such very highly, in love, for their works' sake. Make them careful to maintain all the institutions of thy word. May they listen to the preached message with the preparation of heart, the culture of prayer, the hearing of faith, and the purpose of obedience: receiving with meekness the engrafted word, as that which ministers grace to the hearers. Blessed Lord, excite them to sustain thy ministering servants by their intercessory prayers, that thou wouldst make them wise as serpents, and harmless as doves—that thou wouldst enable them to turn many to righteousness, who shall be as stars in the crowns of their rejoicing, at the last day.

Lord, give to every destitute flock, a pastor after thine own heart, who shall go in and out before his people in righteousness and zeal. Send thy messengers of mercy to those who are perishing for lack of knowledge. O raise up, and qualify, and send forth those who shall teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost: and be thou with them always, even unto the end of the world.

Before Hearing the Word Preached

O Eternal God and Gracious Father in Christ Jesus! Thou hast said in thy word if any man lack wisdom let him ask it of Thee, with the promise that all which we ask of Thee, in the name of thy beloved Son, Thou wilt grant unto us. Relying, therefore, on this promise, I would prostrate myself in the profoundest humility before Thee, and confess that I am unworthy to hear thy holy word, as I have, alas, in times and ways without number, transgressed against it, and lived in opposition to its holy precepts; and I, therefore, of myself am incapable to hear thy word in a profitable manner, as my mind is spiritually blind and ignorant, and my affections and desires are averse to all that is spiritually good. I am ignorant in hearing, drowsy in attending, and forgetful as to retaining thy word; I therefore beseech Thee, O heavenly Parent, to not only in mercy, permit me to hear thy word, but also to grant me grace, that I may hear thy word to the edification and salvation of my soul. Make me, O Father, like unto a new born babe, desiring the pure milk of thy soul sanctifying word. May it ever prove sweeter to me than honey, and the honey-comb; open Thou my heart, as Thou didst that of Lydia, so that I may attentively hearken unto thy messages, which I receive. Anoint mine eyes with the influences of thy Holy Spirit, that the scales of ignorance and unbelief may fall off, and I may behold wonders out of thy law. Banish from mine eyes all unseasonable sleep, from mine ears all supineness and indifference,

and eradicate out of my body and soul, all which would prove detrimental to the hearing, receiving, and preserving of thy word and will.

Grant unto thy ministering servant grace, rightly to understand the mysteries of thy gospel, and to open his mouth with boldness, in declaring the whole counsel of God, and to apply it with power to all those who hear. May his words be clothed with divine power from on high, so that they may rouse my conscience, and that all my sinful affections and desires may be entirely eradicated. And grant that I may hear and receive the preached word, not as the word of man, hut (as it is indeed and truth) thine own word—that I may not only rejoice in its blessed consolations, but also, readily submit to its faithful rebukes and warnings. May I not take offence at thy servant, the preacher when he, in the discharge of his duty, corrects me; but may I continue to love him more for his fidelity, in endeavouring to promote my eternal welfare, as one who has, in due time, to give an account for my soul.

And as I am by nature prone to forgetfulness, and Satan is ever on the alert, to remove the impressions made by thy word on my heart, O be pleased to ingraft it deeply in my soul, so that I may never forget it, but preserve and practice it to my soul's salvation. And as the knowledge of the truth, is of the greatest injury to us, when we neglect carrying out this knowledge in a practical and holy obedience, I beseech Thee to bestow upon me the gracious dew of thy Holy Spirit, that I may thereby be made abundantly fruitful in holy desires—that my mind may abound in heavenly contemplations—my tongue dwell on the wonders of thy love—my hands be diligent in all good works, and may I thus continually exhibit myself as a faithful doer of thy word, in the discharge of all Christian duties, to the honour of thy holy name, and to the salvation of my soul in the day of the Lord Jesus Christ, to whom, with Thee and the Holy Spirit, be all the glory forever and ever.—Amen. *Treasury of Heavenly Incense, 503-508*

After Hearing the Word Preached

O most Merciful God and Father in heaven! I would present unto Thee, in deepest humility of soul, the fruits of heart and tongue, even the warmest gratitude and praise, for all the blessings Thou hast bestowed upon me, as well for the body, as more especially for the light of thy truth, which Thou hast presented to me so plainly and pointedly in the preaching of thy word, by which Thou makest known thy mind and will in relation to my duties towards Thee, and to work out my soul's salvation, in Christ Jesus.

O Lord, awaken me to a true and living knowledge of this exceeding grace and compassion towards me, notwithstanding I have often neglected paying that attention to thy word, which is necessary to enable it to bring forth fruit, and by which I have richly deserved to be given over to a reprobate sense, so as to cause thy word to prove a savour of death unto me, but still Thou hast permitted me once more to hear thy mind and will proclaimed unto me, in a preached gospel. Grant me, blessed God, a broken and penitent heart, to weep over my inattention and base ingratitude towards Thee. Nay, be pleased to water the seed which has just been sowed into mine heart, with the early and latter rains of thy grace, that it may take deep root, spring up, and bring forth much fruit meet unto repentance and salvation. May my darkened understanding be thereby enlightened—my stubborn will be bowed into obedience of faith—my troubled heart be comforted—my weak faith, love, hope and patience all be strengthened, and my sinful life be amended, and I be enabled to make continual progress in the narrow way which leads unto everlasting life.

Strengthen, O Lord, for this purpose, my memory, so that I may be enabled to retain the

precious truths which I hear, to sincerely love them, and continually meditate on Thee, and earnestly resolve to live according to all thy commandments, and thus work out my soul's salvation with fear and trembling, so that I may not belong to the number of those who have the form of godliness, but deny its power, or those who hear much, but do little, and thereby treasure up unto themselves the wrath of God against the day of wrath, and the revelation of the righteous judgment of God. But O may I be like a tree planted by the water course, which brings its fruit in due season, and whose leaves do not wither—that I may not bring fruit of the flesh but of the Spirit—such as love, peace, joy, patience, friendship, benevolence, faith, meekness and virtue.

But, O Lord, as Thou knowest full well, that in consequence of my flesh lusting against the Spirit, and the law in my members warring against the law in my mind, it is with great difficulty that I accomplish any good, nay, that I often grow weary in well-doing—that I am moreover scoffed at by the people of the world, and that Satan goes about continually, as a roaring lion, seeking how he may render my progress in the way to heaven difficult. O God! I entreat Thee to replenish my soul with grace and power from on high, to remain steadfast in the fulfilment of my good resolution, and increase in the knowledge and grace of my Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, and to remain faithful unto the end, so that I may at last, through the riches of thy free grace, receive the end of my faith, even the eternal salvation of my never dying soul!—Amen.

Treasury of Heavenly Incense, 367-370

Sacraments – Baptism

Infant Baptism - Corporate

Almighty and Everlasting God, which of thy infinite mercy and goodness hast promised unto us that thou wilt not only be our God, but also the God and Father of our children: we beseech thee, that as thou hast vouchsafed to call us to be partakers of this thy great mercy in the fellowship of faith, so it may please thee to sanctify with thy Spirit, and to receive in to the number of thy children this infant, whom we shall baptize according to thy Word, to the end that he/she coming to perfect age, may confess thee only the true God, and whom thou hast sent Jesus Christ, and so serve him, and be profitable unto his church in the whole course of his/her life; that after this life be ended, he/she may be brought as a lively member of his body unto the full fruition of thy joys in the heavens, where thy Son our Christ reigneth, world without end.

English Church of Geneva, 44

Infant Baptism – Thanksgiving - Corporate

Forasmuch, most Holy and Merciful Father, as thou dost not only beautify and bless us with common benefits, like unto the rest of mankind, but also heaps upon us most abundantly rare and wonderful gifts; of duty we lift up our eyes and minds unto thee, and give thee most humble thanks for thy infinite goodness, which hast not only numbered us among thy saints, but also of thy free mercy dost call our children unto thee, marking them with this Sacrament as a singular token and badge of thy love. Wherefore most loving Father, though we be not able to deserve this so great a benefit (yea, if thou wouldest handle us according to our merits, we should suffer the punishment of eternal death and damnation), yet for Christ's sake we beseech thee, that thou wilt confirm this thy favor more and more towards us, and take this infant into thy tuition and defense, whom we offer and present unto thee with common supplications, and never suffer

him/her to fall to such unkindnesses, whereby he/she should lose the force of this baptism, but that he/she may perceive thee continually to be his/her merciful Father, through thy Holy Spirit working in his/her heart, by whose divine power he/she may so prevail against Satan, that in the end, obtaining the victory, he/she may be exalted into the liberty of thy kingdom.

English Church of Geneva, 44-45

Sacraments – The Lord’s Supper

Before Communion – Prayer 1

Compassionate Jehovah, give me lively perceptions of the nature and uses of that holy Supper, which thou hast instituted in memory of the dying Saviour. May it always be to the eye of my faith, a token and pledge of a covenant of mercy, in the blood of Christ. Let it ever be my Eucharist—my giving of thanks to thee, from a heart overflowing with gratitude, that thou didst recover man from his condition of sin and misery, by the gift of a Redeemer. Make it my Passover, in which my soul shall be made joyful, in being exempted from the wrath which abideth on the ungodly. O let it be the Sacrament of that allegiance to thy cause, which will lead me to rejoice when I am counted worthy to suffer shame for thy name's sake; and to glory in nothing, save in the cross of Christ. Make it a Feast, at which he shall sup with me, and I with him; and in which my heart shall be refreshed by his spiritual presence. And O do thou make it a precious season of Communion, wherein I shall hold fellowship with the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost; and be knit, with closer bands of unity, to them that are of the household of faith.

Lord Jesus, help me to keep this ordinance in remembrance of thee. Give me knowledge to discern thy body, and faith to feed upon thee. Grant me repentance, love, and new obedience; lest coming unworthily, I eat and drink judgment to myself. Make me a partaker of thy body and blood, not after a corporal and carnal manner, but by faith; with all thy benefits, to my spiritual nourishment and growth in grace. Grant me comfort from this feast, when I am wounded by a sense of sin; for thou wast revealed to take away sin: give me patience in trials and afflictions, by looking at thee, enduring the contradiction of sinners, and the hidings of thy Father's love: and O grant that I may imbibe a holy hatred for transgression, when I look at thy body broken and thy blood shed, because I have sinned.—Blessed Jesus, crowned in light and glory, dost thou indeed desire us sinners to remember thee? O that we should ever forget thy matchless, unspeakable claims to our love! O help me to remember the glory thou didst leave, the flesh thou didst adopt, the reproach thou didst meet, and the sufferings thou didst endure, that I might be redeemed from the curse of the law, and be made a partner of thine inheritance in glory! I would learn of thee, as my Prophet; I would rely on thee, as my Priest; I would follow thee, as my Example; I would obey thee, as my King!

Heavenly Father, make thy people feel their obligation to celebrate the Supper of the Lord. Thou hast commanded it. Thou hast set it forth to be the memorial of a Saviour's love, in which they show forth his death, before heaven and earth. And thou hast made it a special season of communion with thee, in thy banqueting-house, where thy banner over them is love.—O may they always be prepared for this service, by self-examination, by meditation, and by prayer: and so let them eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. May they resolve, upon that sacred altar, that they will renounce every transgression, and live only for that which is good in thy sight. Give them an affectionate and confiding trust in thy covenant of grace; and build them up, by means of this ordinance, through faith, unto salvation.—God forbid that there should be any hand on the

table which will betray the Son of man. Let none who thus profess thy name, be cast forth as a branch that is withered, and cast into the fire, and burned; but make them all branches, that shall abide in thee, bringing forth much fruit, that thy name may be glorified.

Lord, grant that the impenitent may reflect, that if they eat not the flesh of the Son of man, and drink not his blood, they shall have no part nor lot in his salvation. May thy Spirit reveal Christ to them in the breaking of bread, in all his fulness and willingness as a Saviour. O may they be persuaded to make with him a covenant of mercy and obedience, which shall never be revoked nor forsaken.

These petitions I offer thee, Gracious Father, through him whose blood speaketh better things than that of Abel; and who sitteth at thy right hand, to make intercession, and receive the service and adoration of saints and angels, forever.

Before Communion – Prayer 2

As soon, O my soul, as thou awakest in the morning, on which thou art invited to approach unto the table of the Lord, encourage thyself in the Lord, and say: this is the day of grace on which salvation is brought nigh unto my soul. Arise, my soul, arise! Wake up from the dire sleep of sin—from all carnal thoughts and earthly cares and anxieties; arise from all dead works, and Christ shall give thee light.

Today, is a day of refreshing—a day of joy and feasting—a day of reconciliation, nay, the day of grace, on which I am to make my peace with God, therefore, arise! Wake up, O my soul! Go up into the presence of God! Hosanna! O Lord help! O Lord, grant prosperity, to the glory of thy holy name, and to the salvation of my never dying soul. And is it possible, O God, that Thou callest such a poor miserable creature as I am?—one who has so often despised thy mercy—so frequently excited thy displeasure—given the world and its sinful lusts, the preference, and have thereby richly merited thy wrath and the flames of hell. Thanks! Everlasting thanks be unto Thee, O Father in heaven, for this unmerited mercy and loving kindness towards me, in calling me, unworthy as I am, to participate of this sacred feast. In dependence upon thy call, I will draw nigh with joy;—O may thy will be done; render me, O Lord, by thy grace (through which I am so affectionately invited to draw nigh unto Thee, in the way of thine own appointment) acceptable in thy sight, and preserve me continually in thy love.

O Lord, be merciful unto me a poor sinner, for I stand in much need of thy mercy. As I am nothing without Thee, so I am unable to do any thing good without thine aid, for, O my Lord and my God, it is only through thy grace strengthening me, that I can do all things. Inasmuch, then, as it is necessary, on this day of help, that I enjoy much grace, to sincerely repent—to exercise a godly sorrow for my sins, and to receive this soul-nourishing and refreshing sacrament, at thy table, in the exercise of true devotion—fervent love—and a living and saving faith in thy blood, O be pleased to perfect thy Almighty power in my weakness, and work in me, O Lord, both to will and to do, according to thine own good pleasure, for Jesus Christ my Saviour's sake—Amen.
Treasury of Heavenly Incense, 429-431

Before Communion – Prayer 3

O Great God! Gracious and Merciful Father in Christ Jesus! Thou invitest me once more to the communion of the treasures of thy grace, as Thou hast prepared the table before mine eyes,

and callest me to participate of the pledges of thy love, and the seals of thy covenant, which Thou hast established in Christ Jesus the Son of thy love.

When I, however, remember that Thou art a holy God, nay, that Thou art holiness itself, and that Thou wilt be sanctified by all who would approach unto Thee; but that I am entirely impure and polluted, as to soul and body, in my whole life and actions. I am cast down and am afraid to appear at this sacred feast; for I know, O God, that no one can appear acceptably in thy presence; but in the beauty of holiness, clothed in a precious wedding garment; consisting of the most excellent of heavenly gifts and graces—penitence for sin—true knowledge of a saving faith—fervent love towards Thee and my neighbours—new obedience—undissembled holiness—love and zeal in doing all manner of good works. My heart, therefore, sinks under discouragement, as I can scarcely venture to approach unto Thee, inasmuch as I am poor and naked, being not clothed with any of these divine virtues. For, on examining myself, I find so much blindness of mind, that I am so often lead off from the narrow way of holiness; that my faith is so weak and wavering, that it scarcely deserves the name—that my obedience is so imperfect, that I more frequently oppose, than do thy holy will—that my love is so faint, that it almost expires—that my repentance is so transient, that I daily fall into errors and sin. How often am I, in the midst of my devotional exercises without zeal, and unfruitful in good works? All my righteousness and holiness is like unto a filthy garment; and above all, my heart is frequently so hard and impenitent, that I feel no concern about those things which belong to my peace; and my desires after Thee, O blessed Jesus, are cold, although Thou art my only Saviour and Redeemer. Alas! Alas! How great is the depravity of my hard and stony heart!

Now, O Lord my God, shall I approach? Ah! How shall I stand before Thee? Shall I flee?—but whither? O Lord! Two things press sorely upon my conscience; on the one hand, my conscience accuses me of many great and grievous sins—thy holy law thunders the sentence of condemnation and death in mine ears—thy justice and holiness till me with terror, and thy wrath threatens me with eternal perdition. On the other hand, thy grace affords me a pleasing hope—my Saviour exclaims: “Come unto me all ye that are weary and heavy laden with sin, and I will give you rest;” and these holy signs and seals before me are pledges of thy grace and loving-kindness.

O then for counsel! Shall I remain at a distance, because I am a sinner? Shall I refuse to approach a throne of grace, because I am wretched and heavy laden? Shall I not go to this all-sufficient fulness of thy grace, because I am so indigent? Ah, no! I have come, because the greatness of my misery and necessities demand a speedy and powerful help and relief. Thou art indeed a righteous judge of all stiff-necked sinners who remain out of Christ; but Thou art also, a compassionate Father, to all such as are in Christ Jesus—with Thee there is mercy and forgiveness, not only, that Thou mayest be feared, but that we may also put our trust in Thee; and this I can certainly do, for Thou hast, for this purpose, given thine only begotten and well beloved Son unto death, to reconcile me with thyself; nay, for this purpose, O blessed Jesus, didst Thou come into the world, that Thou mightest redeem me from all iniquity, and make me happy in heaven. Now, for sealing unto me this grace, Thou givest me these holy signs and seals, that my faith may be thereby strengthened and confirmed, and that I may taste and experience the loving-kindness and tender compassions of the Lord towards me, a sinner.

I will, therefore, approach unto Thee, in this ordinance, with heartfelt sorrow and penitence for sin;—I confess, deplore, and detest my sins and short-comings in thy sight; and I beseech Thee most fervently, O God, to break my hard and stony heart yet more;—I believe and place all my hope and confidence in thy free and unmerited mercy and grace, and on the merits of Jesus

Christ my only Redeemer! O be pleased to strengthen my faith;—I would come with a renewed resolution, to amend my life and conduct; O Lord, enable me by thy grace, to not only will, but also to do, according to thy good pleasure.

I now approach, also, O blessed Saviour, to receive according to thy command, the consecrated bread and wine, to the preservation, strengthening, and refreshment of my spiritual Life. O enable me to feed by faith, on thy body, which was crucified for me, and refresh me by thy precious blood, that was shed for the forgiveness of my sins. Unto Thee would I commit myself, as to soul, body, and spirit, both in life and death. O ratify and confirm unto me, therefore, thy grace—establish me in a joyful hope—permit me to experience peace and joy in my soul—strengthen me by thy heavenly manna, whilst I have to combat in the wild wilderness of this life, until I, at length arrive on the imperishable shores of the heavenly Canaan, in the enjoyment of the rest prepared for thy people. Permit me, therefore, now to be a participator with thy people here at thy table, in this kingdom of thy grace, so that I may also, in due time, be permitted to sit down at thy table, with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of thy glory in heaven—Amen and Amen. *Treasury of Heavenly Incense, 432-437*

Before Communion – Prayer 4 – Corporate

O most Merciful God and Father, we beseech Thee, that Thou wilt be pleased in this supper, (in which we celebrate the glorious remembrance of the bitter death of thy beloved Son Jesus Christ) to work in our hearts through the Holy Spirit, that we may daily, more and more with true confidence, give ourselves up unto thy Son Jesus Christ, that our afflicted and contrite hearts, through the power of the Holy Ghost, may be fed and comforted with his true body and blood; yea, with him, true God and man, that only heavenly bread: and that we may no longer live in our sins, but he in us, and we in him, and thus truly be made partakers of the new and everlasting testament, and the covenant of grace. That we may not doubt but Thou wilt forever be our gracious Father, never more imputing our sins unto us, and providing us with all things necessary, as well for the body as the soul, as thy beloved children and heirs grant us also thy grace, that we may take upon us our cross cheerfully, deny ourselves, confess our Saviour, and in all tribulations, with uplifted heads expect our Lord Jesus Christ from heaven, where he will make our mortal bodies like unto his most glorious body, and take us unto him in eternity. *Treasury of Heavenly Incense, 395-396*

Before Communion – Prayer 5 – Corporate

O Father of mercy, and God of all consolation, seeing all creatures do knowledge and confess thee as Governor and Lord, it becometh us, the workmanship of thine own hands, at all times to reverence and magnify thy Godly Majesty: first, for that thou haste created us to thine own image and similitude; but chiefly that thou haste delivered us from that everlasting death and damnation, into the which Satan drew mankind by the mean of sin, from the bondage whereof, neither man nor angel was able to make us free; but thou, O Lord, rich in mercy and infinite in goodness, haste provided our redemption to stand in thy only and well-beloved Son, whom of very love thou didst give to be made man, like unto us in all things, (sin except) that in his body he might receive the punishments of our transgression, by his death to make satisfaction to thy justice, and by his resurrection to destroy him that was author of death; and so to reduce and bring again life to the world, from which the whole offspring of Adam most justly was exiled.

O Lord, we acknowledge that no creature is able to comprehend the length and breadth, the depth and height, of that thy most excellent love, which moved thee to show mercy where none was deserved; to promise and give life where death had gotten victory; to receive us into thy grace when we could do nothing but rebel against thy justice. O Lord, the blind dullness of our corrupt nature will not suffer us sufficiently to way these thy most ample benefits; yet, nevertheless, at the commandment of Jesus Christ our Lord, we present ourselves to this his Table (which he hath left to be used in remembrance of his death until his coming again), to declare and witness before the world that by him alone we have received liberty and life; that by him alone thou dost acknowledge us thy children and heirs; that by him alone we have entrance to the throne of thy grace; that by him alone we are possessed in our spiritual kingdom, to eat and drink at his Table; with whom we have our conversation presently in heaven; and by whom our bodies shall be raised up again from the dust, and shall be placed with him in that endless joy, which thou, O Father of mercy, hast prepared for thine elect, before the foundation of the world was laid. And these most inestimable benefits, we acknowledge and confess to have received of thy free mercy and grace, by thy only beloved Son Jesus Christ: for the which therefore, we thy congregation, moved by thy Holy Spirit, render thee all thanks, praise, and glory, for ever and ever. *English Church of Geneva, 48-49*

After Communion – Prayer 1

O my God—my Father—my Saviour—my Helper, and the Author of all my comfort! In what exalted strains of gratitude, shall I praise, laud, magnify, and adore Thee, for all the manifestations of thy wondrous grace towards me, a poor unworthy sinner, from time to time, but more especially, on the present day and occasion? It was not enough for Thee to create me originally, after thy glorious image, when I was brought into existence, but Thou hast also created me anew in Christ Jesus, by thy Spirit, after I had apostatized from Thee, and lost thine image. It was not enough for Thee, O Lord, to provide for and protect me as to my body, from evil and danger, but Thou hast also blessed me, as to my soul, with spiritual benefits, and provided for me a better, nay, an eternal life beyond the grave. Of this, Thou hast given me this day, the most solemn pledges at thy table. I may now, therefore, exclaim, in thine own language: “It is finished!” My covenant is renewed — ratified and confirmed with Thee.

O Blessed! Thrice blessed be thy holy name, O Jesus my Saviour, that it has pleased Thee, to condescend to come in unto me, and sup with me according to thy promise! How could I, as a sinful creature, anticipate such distinguished blessings? Is it possible, that Thou wilt hold communion with such a sinner as I am, nay, even permit me to feed by faith, on thy sacred body and blood? Well may I be astonished at thy great condescension and incomprehensible love towards me. O Lord, grant that I may ever remember this, and evince most fervent gratitude towards Thee.

As Thou hast come in unto me, O Thou Blessed of the Lord, be ever zealous for thine house, and the place where Thou dwellest. Permit no unclean guest of impure thoughts or desires to intrude into this temple of thine. But O Lord, ever preserve me from polluting thy holy garment, with which Thou hast clothed me, or from violating the covenant, which Thou ratified and sealed, or the vows which I have made unto Thee, so that I may not forfeit my birth-right to a mansion in my Father's house in heaven. May I be continually willing and ready for every good word and work, so that my life may ever be conformed unto thy sufferings and death, and that I may abound more and more in thy love and favour, and be found in the great day of the Lord,

clothed with the wedding garment, having on my body and soul, the seal of Jesus my Saviour, and receive the soul-thrilling welcome: “Come ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you, from the foundation of the world;” and thus may I be forever with the Lord!—Amen, Lord Jesus, Amen. *Treasury of Heavenly Incense, 442-444*

After Communion – Prayer 2 – Corporate

O Almighty, Merciful God and Father, we render Thee most humble and hearty thanks, that Thou hast of thy infinite mercy, given us thine only begotten Son, for a mediator and a sacrifice for our sins, and to be our meat and drink unto life eternal, and that Thou givest us a lively faith, whereby we are made partakers of such thy benefits—Thou hast also been pleased, that thy beloved Son Jesus Christ should institute and ordain his holy supper for the confirmation of the same. Grant, we beseech Thee, O faithful God and Father, that through the operation of thy holy Spirit, the commemoration of the death of our Lord Jesus Christ may tend to the daily increase of our faith, and saving fellowship with him, through Jesus Christ thy Son.

Treasury of Heavenly Incense, 399

Good Friday – Morning – Corporate

O, Thou King eternal, immortal, and invisible – though Thou art past finding out unto perfection, we rejoice that we are not called to worship an unknown God. Thou hast not left thyself without witness. We bless Thee for the revelation Thou hast given us; and that in thy word we can view Thee, as the Father of mercies, and the God of all grace. All thy works and thy ways correspond with the name Thou hast assumed, and demand and justify our confidence in Thee. We praise Thee for the displays of thy goodness in the productions of nature, and the bounties of thy providence: but above all, for thine inestimable love, in the redemption of the world, by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. Herein Thou hast commended thy love to us; in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

We find ourselves this morning at the foot of the cross, where angels are desiring to look into these things—and if they who need no repentance, study the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow, O, how much more should we, to whom they are not only true, and wonderful, and sublime, but all-important, and infinitely interesting. Help us, O Lord, to turn aside and see this great sight; and not suffer a dying Saviour to address us in vain —Is it nothing to you, all ye that pass by? Behold and see, if ever there was sorrow like unto my sorrow.

Here may we see the value of our souls, in the price paid for their deliverance: and instead of neglecting them, or exposing them, for the vanities of time and sense: may we regard them, according to the estimation in which they were holden by him, who gave his life a ransom for many. Here, may we contemplate the evil of sin, and abhor it here, look upon him whom we have pierced, and mourn for him. Yet remembering that he was not only slain by us, but for us: may we rejoice in our tears: and by believing enter into rest.

With humble and holy confidence may we be enabled to say, surely, he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: the chastisement of our peace was upon him, and by his stripes we are healed. May we never degrade his death by fearing that it will not be available for guilt, so great and aggravated as ours, even if we depend upon it, and plead it before God: but be fully persuaded, that his blood cleanseth from all sin: and that by the offering up of himself, he hath perfected forever them that are sanctified.

Yet O God, never suffer us to sin that grace may abound. May we never crucify the Saviour afresh and put him to an open shame. May he never be wounded in the house of his professing friends. Rather may we live only and wholly for him, who died for us; and adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour, in all things.

May our old man be crucified with him: and the body of sin be destroyed, that henceforth we may not serve sin. May we be planted together in the likeness of his death. As he suffered for us, leaving us an example, that we should follow his steps; may we learn of him, submission and meekness, and forgiveness of injuries; when reviled, may we revile not again; when suffering, may we threaten not, but commit ourselves to him that judgeth righteously. Like him in all the afflictions of life, may we look to the hand that prepares and presents them; and say, “The cup which my Father hath given me, shall I not drink it?”

Whatever be the cross we are required to bear, may we look before us, and see him carrying a much heavier; carrying it for us; and carrying it without a murmur—

*Then let our pains be all forgot,
Our hearts no more repine—
Our sufferings are not worth a thought,
When Lord compared with thine.*

Convert and pardon all those, who by their lives or doctrine, are the enemies of the cross of Christ. Have mercy upon the descendants of those who shed his blood: and let his dying prayer be answered, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.” As thou hast made his soul an offering for sin, may he see his seed, and prolong his days, and the pleasure of the Lord prosper in his hand. May he see of the travail of his soul and be satisfied: and by his knowledge may he justify many, having borne their iniquities. Yea, having been lifted up from the earth, may he draw all men unto him; may all kings fall down before him, and all nations serve him; and in all the earth which he has purchased with his blood, may there be one Lord, and his name one.

And when he, who made himself of no reputation, took upon him the form of a servant, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross, shall come in his glory, with all the holy angels, may we be enabled to say, “Even so, come Lord Jesus,” and unite with those, who will be eternally employed in saying— “Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, and hath made us kings and priests unto God, and to his Father, be glory and dominion forever and ever.”—Amen. *Treasury of Heavenly Incense, 510-514*

Good Friday – Evening – Corporate

O Thou, whose name alone is Jehovah, the Most High over all the earth; we desire to adore thy perfections, and to admire thy works, which are sought out of all them that have pleasure therein. Thou art the only wise God. Thy power is Almighty. Whither can we go from thy presence, or whither can we flee from thy Spirit? Thou art holy in all thy ways. And such is thy purity, that even the heavens are not clean in thy sight. How shall we come before the Lord, or bow before the high God? We have no offering of our own to bring. No man can redeem his brother, or give to God a ransom for him. The blood of bulls and of goats could not take away sin. The law itself made nothing perfect—but the bringing in of a better hope did, by the which we draw nigh to God.

Yes, blessed be thy name, Thou hast shown us what is good; and we behold the Lamb of God, who is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. Here a foundation is laid for our hope, in connexion with the highest glory of all thy perfections; and we rejoice to think, that while pleading for salvation by the blood of the cross, we ask Thee not to deny thyself, or to trample on thy holy law; for here, thy law is magnified and made honourable; here, all thy attributes are developed and harmonized; mercy and truth meet together; righteousness and peace kiss each other.

Here, weary and heavy laden, may we come for relief, and find rest unto our souls. May we take fresh views of this adorable sacrifice, under a sense of our constant unworthiness and desert; and in all our approaches to Thee, may we have boldness and access with confidence, by the faith of him. May we not only rely upon his cross, but glory in it. Yea, may we join in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement. And may we be able, individually, to say, I am crucified with Christ; nevertheless I live, yet not I, but Christ liveth in me; and the life that I now live in the flesh, I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

We are thankful, that as he atoned for our guilt, so he procured for us the grace of life, that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles, and that he might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith. May we never separate the pardon and sanctification which Thou hast joined together. May we prove, that he gave himself—not only for our sins, but that he might deliver us from the present evil world; yea, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

And, O, that in every future moment of our existence, we may be constrained to live, not to ourselves, but to him that died for us, and rose again. As he so loved us, may we also love one another: and never deem anything too great to do, or to suffer, while endeavouring to seek and to save that which is lost.

May the hearts which are too hard to be broken by terror, be melted by love, and gained by confidence. May none of those who are desirous of returning to Thee, be discouraged by a fear of rejection: but calling to remembrance and belief, the infinite proof which Thou hast already exhibited of thy benevolence, thus judge—He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not, with him, freely give us all things.

Smile upon our country, let all the churches of the faithful, be edified and multiplied. Bless all the ministers of the everlasting gospel; and may they increasingly determine to know nothing, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified. Increase the number of those who love his salvation; and as he gave himself a ransom for all, may it be testified in due time, that he may have the heathen for his inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for his possession; and reign King of kings, and Lord of lords. In his words we conclude our devotions. Our Father, which art, &c—Amen.
Treasury of Heavenly Incense, 515-518

Resurrection Sunday – Morning – Corporate

When we consider the heavens the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars which Thou hast ordained; Lord what is man, that thou art mindful of him, or the son of man that thou visitest him? We are not worthy of an audience at thy footstool—we are not worthy of the least of all thy mercies—our sins have even called aloud for vengeance.

But thou hast not executed upon us the fierceness of thy anger—because Thou art good as well as great; and thy goodness constitutes thy greatness. Thou hast turned our very fall into an

occasion of improving our condition, by advancing us to the possession of more and greater blessings than we originally enjoyed; so that we not only have life, but have it more abundantly.

For this purpose the Son of thy love was manifested; and in the fulness of time, we behold him assuming our nature, and coming into our world, not to be ministered unto, but to minister and to give his life a ransom for many. We rejoice to see, in his release from the prison of the grave, the evidence of the all-sufficiency and acceptance he offered on the cross. O help us to consider him as a risen Saviour; and may we feel the power of his resurrection, in establishing our faith, enlivening our hope, and securing our sanctification. May we not only believe his resurrection, but partake of it, and resemble it, that like as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so, we also might walk in newness of life, reckoning ourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

And if risen with Christ, may we give evidence of it, and act becoming it, in seeking those things that are above. May we never leave our spiritual and everlasting condition, undecided and unknown; may we never be satisfied, till we are able to say, Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who, according to his abundant mercy, hath begotten us again unto a lively hope, by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead; to an inheritance incorruptible, undefiled and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for us.

In all our difficulties and dangers, may we rejoice that he who was dead, is alive again, to plead for us, to defend us, and to supply us, and has the keys of hell and of death. In all the afflictions of life, in the decay of nature, and when looking into the horrors of the grave, may we with humble and holy confidence be able to say, that I know my Redeemer liveth, and shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: and though, after my skin, worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God.

Are we called to mourn over the loss of our dear and pious connexions? Let us not sorrow as those who have no hope; but comfort one another with these words—that Jesus died and rose again, and them that sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

We glory in the victory which our risen Saviour has obtained, not only over death and the grave, but the powers of darkness; we rejoice that he has set judgment in the earth, and that the isles are waiting for his law; that his word is translating into every language, and his servants entering every clime. We hail what he has done as a pledge of his universal triumph. And though we yet see not all things actually put under him, we see him, for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; and in possession of all the resources, necessary to accomplish the benevolent designs of his heart; and he must reign till all his enemies are under his foot-stool. Through him, as the once suffering, but now exalted Saviour, we address Thee, as our Father, &c—Amen. *Treasury of Heavenly Incense, 520-522*

Resurrection Sunday – Evening – Corporate

O, Thou Ever Blessed God, we rejoice to think, Thou hast determined to get thyself honour, in this apostate part of thy empire; not by the merited infliction of thy justice, but the displays of thy goodness. For Thou hast said, mercy shall be built up forever, a monument higher than the heavens, more durable than eternity, and inscribed to the praise of the glory of thy grace, wherein Thou hast made us accepted in the Beloved.

We bless Thee, for the appointment and revelation of the one only Mediator between Thee and us; by whose death sinners are reconciled, and by whose life they are saved. Thou hast

laid on him the iniquity of us all. Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows; the chastisement of our peace was upon him, and with his stripes we are healed.

Establish in our minds a full persuasion, that he was delivered for our offences, and raised again for our justification; and may we above all things, be concerned to know not only that he is risen again, but that we are quickened together with Christ, and raised up, and made to sit with him in heavenly places. May we hold communion with him, as a living and reigning Saviour; ably to carry on our cause, and save unto the uttermost, all that come unto God by him.

Is he not head over all things unto his body the church? Is he not exalted to be a Prince and a Saviour? Has he not assured us, that because he lives, we shall live also? May we view him as the first fruits of them that sleep; and believe, that as in Adam all died, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. May we view his resurrection, not only as the pledge, but the model of our own; knowing that he shall not only change our vile body, but fashion it like his own glorious body, according to the working, whereby he is able to subdue all things unto himself.

Thou hast appointed a day in which Thou wilt judge the world in righteousness, by that man whom Thou hast ordained: and Thou hast given assurance of it unto all men, in that Thou hast raised him from the dead. O, save us from the wrath of the Lamb. May we tremble at the thought of appearing before him, if we neglect his salvation, despised his precious blood, and resisted his Holy Spirit.

Let not the head stone of the corner, be a stone of stumbling and a rock of offence; but as he is chosen of God, and precious, may he be precious to us. And while he is living for us in heaven, may we be living for him on earth. May we esteem it our highest honour to be like him; and feel it our greatest pleasure to serve him. And let all those of the house of Israel know assuredly, that Thou hast made the same Jesus whom their fathers crucified both Lord and Christ. May the veil be taken from their heart; and may they behold, as in a glass, his glory.

As a nation be merciful unto us, and bless us. May this Christian country be a country of Christians: and let all who name the name of Christ, depart from iniquity. Bless all those who preach Jesus and the resurrection. May they preach with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven. May their sound go into all the earth; and their words unto the end of the world. As yet, after all that we have read, and heard, and experienced, we know but little of the value of the gospel; but we know enough to induce us to be thankful for our religious advantages; to sympathize with those who are without Christ; and to pray, that in him all the families of the earth may be blessed, and all generations call him blessed.

Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make us perfect in every good work to do his will, working in us that which is well pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory forever and ever.—Amen. *Treasury of Heavenly Incense, 524-527*

Thanksgiving

Lord, I bring unto thee the sacrifice of thanksgiving; for thou art the Father of Lights, from whom Cometh every good and perfect gift. I desire to praise thee for the multitude of thy favours, and to acknowledge that I have not deserved even the least of them. I would magnify thee for thy providing, sparing, forgiving, and saving mercies. I bless thee for the various powers of my body, the faculties of my mind, and the affections of my heart; for health and employment; for food and clothing; for social happiness and public safety. I thank thee for preserving me in the weakness and diseases of childhood, and conducting me over the slippery paths of youth, and

protecting me amid the dangers of riper years. Thou hast indeed made my life, which ought, in justice, to have been a wilderness, to bud and blossom as the rose. My trials have been few and short; while my mercies have been without number and without end.

But, O Lord, I would thank thee for the blessings of the gospel, more than for every thing else. O what a rich cluster of gifts is offered to us in the grace that bringeth salvation. Thou hast given us the Bible, the preached word, the privilege of prayer, the ordinances of thy house, the Son of God, the influences of thy Holy Spirit, and the hope of glory. Lord, teach me the value of thy bounties. Strengthen my memory that I may retain a knowledge of them. Fill my heart with gratitude and love, because of thine unnumbered, unmerited blessings. May they lead me to repentance, humility, and faith, and to consecrate them and myself to thy service and glory.

Thanksgiving Prayer 2 – Corporate

God, Thou art very great, Thou art clothed with honour and majesty; Thou coverest thyself with light as with a garment; Thou walkest upon the wings of the wind. When we reflect on the glory of thy majesty, we are filled with wonder at the vastness of thy condescension. For Thou condescendest even to behold things that are in heaven. What then is man, that Thou art mindful of him, or the son of man, that Thou visitest him?

We rejoice that we are under the governance of a Being, who is not only Almighty, but perfectly righteous, and wise, and good; that all things, in our world, are appointed and arranged by thy paternal agency; that thy providence numbers the very hairs of our head, and that a sparrow falleth not to the ground, without our heavenly Father.

Hitherto hath the Lord helped us. We bless Thee for personal mercies. If we are called, it is by thy word. If we are renewed, it is by thy Spirit. If we are justified, it is freely by thy grace, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. It is in Thee we live, and move, and have our being. Thy goodness has been always near us, to hear our complaints, to sooth our sorrows, and to command deliverance for us. And numberless are the instances of loving-kindness, that now, from ignorance, or inattention, elude our notice; the discovery of which will awaken our songs, when we mingle with those who dwell in thy house above, and are still praising Thee.

We thank Thee for relative benefits; for blessings on our families, blessings on our churches, and blessings on our country. We confess that we are not worthy of the least of all thy mercies, and of all the truth which Thou hast shown unto thy servants. Sins of every kind and of every degree, have reigned among us: have spread through all ranks and orders; and continued, notwithstanding all warnings and corrections; and if Thou hadst dealt with us, after our sins, or rewarded us according to our iniquities, we should long ago, have had no name, nor place among the nations of the globe.

But to the Lord our God belong mercies and forgivenesses, though we have rebelled against him. All thy dispensations towards us have said, with a tenderness that ought to penetrate our hearts, "How shall I give thee up!" Our privileges, never properly improved, and forfeited times without number, have been continued. We still behold our Sabbaths, and our ears still hear the joyful sound. Our constitution, liberties, and laws, have not been subverted or impaired. Thou hast given us rains, and fruitful seasons; Thou hast filled us with the finest of the wheat; our garners have been affording all manner of store; our oxen have been strong to labour; our sheep have brought forth thousands and ten thousands in our streets. Thou hast spread thy wing, and sheltered us front the pestilence that walketh in darkness, and the destruction that wasteth at noon-day. Civil discord has not raged in our land; our shores have not been invaded; we have not

heard the confused noise of warriors, nor seen garments rolled in blood—it has not come nigh us. Our enemies have often threatened to swallow us up, but the Lord has been on our side, and they have not prevailed against us. We are this day called upon to acknowledge thy goodness in _____ (here let the particular causes for thanksgiving be expressed).

God is the Lord who has showed us light; bind the sacrifice with cords, even to the horns of the altar. May we never convert our blessings into instruments of provocation, by making them the means of nourishing pride and presumption, wantonness and intemperance; and compel Thee to complain—“Do ye thus requite the Lord, O foolish people, and unwise? Is not he thy Father, that hath bought thee? Hath he not made thee, and established thee?”

For this purpose meet with us in thy house: and may the goings of our God and our King be seen in the sanctuary. Be with the preacher, and with the hearers; and let the words of his mouth, and the meditation of their hearts, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, our strength, and our Redeemer. May public instruction awaken the ardour of our feelings: may our gratitude not only be lively, but practical and permanent. And by all thy mercies, may we present our bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable unto Thee, which is our reasonable service. Bless the Lord, ye his angels, that excel in strength, that do his commandments, hearken unto the voice of his word. Bless ye the Lord, all ye his hosts: ye ministers of his that do his pleasure. Bless the Lord, all his works, in all places of his dominion; bless the Lord, O my soul.—Amen.

Treasury of Heavenly Incense, 558-561

Thanksgiving Prayer 3 – Corporate

O God, Thou art good, and Thou doest good. Thou art good to all, and thy tender mercies are over all thy works. We have thought of thy loving kindness this day, in the midst of thy temple; and are again surrounding this domestic altar to exclaim, “O that men would praise the Lord, for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!” We lament to think that a world so filled with thy bounty, should be so alienated from thy service and glory. We mourn over the vileness of our ingratitude, and abhor ourselves repenting in dust and ashes.

O Thou God of all grace, make us more thankful. In order that we may be more thankful may we be more humble; impress us with a deep sense of our unworthiness, arising from the depravity of our nature, and countless instances of unimproved advantages, omitted duties, and violated commands. May we compare our condition with our desert, and with the far less indulged circumstances of others. May we never be inattentive to any of thy interpositions on our behalf; but be wise and observe these things, that we may understand the loving kindness of the Lord.

How many blessings, temporal and spiritual, public and private, hast Thou conferred upon us. Thy mercies have been new every morning, and every moment. Our afflictions have been few and alleviated, often short in their continuance, and always founded in a regard to our profit. Thy secret has been upon our tabernacle; and we have known Thee in thy palaces for a refuge. The lines have indeed fallen to us in pleasant places, yea we have a goodly heritage. Thou hast not dealt so with any people. It is a good land which the Lord our God has given us—a land distinguished by knowledge; dignified as the abode of civil and religious freedom: endeared by the patriot's zeal, and the martyr's blood, and the ashes of our forefathers: a land the Lord careth for, and upon which his eye has been from the beginning even to the end of the year.

Thou hast been a wall of fire round about us by thy providential protection, and the glory in the midst of us by the gospel of our salvation, the ordinances of religion, and the presence of thy

Holy Spirit. What shall we render unto the Lord for all his benefits towards us? Because Thou hast been our help, therefore under the shadow of thy wing may we rejoice. Because Thou hast heard our voice and our supplication, therefore may we call upon Thee as long as we live; and in every future difficulty and distress make Thee our refuge and our portion.

Enable us to bless Thee at all times; may thy praise continually be in our mouth; and may we show forth thy praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives. Being delivered from the peril and calamity (of _____) with which we have been exercised, may we serve Thee without fear, in holiness and righteousness, all the days of our lives.

We dare not trust our own hearts. We have often resembled thy people of old, who in the hour of deliverance and indulgence sang thy praise, and said—"All that the Lord commandeth us will we do;" but soon forgot his works and the wonders which he had showed them. Keep these things forever in the imagination of our hearts; and not only draw us, but bind us to thyself with the cords of love and the bonds of a man.

And with all our calls to gratitude and joy, may we remember that we have also reason for sorrow and humiliation. O give us that repentance which is unto life. Reform as well as indulge us; and pardon as well as spare. Let not our prosperity destroy us, nor our table become a snare. Let us not, by our perverse returns, provoke Thee to visit us with heavier inflictions; and turn the rod into a scorpion. May our ways please the Lord, that we may hope for a continuance of thy favour, and know that all things shall work together for our good.

Do good in thy good pleasure unto Zion. Build Thou the walls of Jerusalem. And as the churches have rest, may they walk in the fear of the Lord, and in the comforts of the Holy Ghost, and be multiplied. Preside over our national councils; impart wisdom to those who conduct our public affairs: and may all the various classes in the community pursue that righteousness which exalteth a nation, and forsake that sin which is a reproach to any people. Regard the services in which we have been engaged with the thousands of our Israel: accept the poor and imperfect thanksgivings we have offered; and let thy word which has been dispensed in aid of the devotion of the day, accomplish all the good pleasure of thy goodness—through Jesus the Lord, our righteousness and strength; and in whose words we address Thee as—"Our Father, &c." Amen.
Treasury of Heavenly Incense, 563-567

Advent – Prayer 1

Heavenly Father, assist me to exercise those feelings of grateful devotion which are suitable to this day, which has been set apart by so many of thy followers, in memory of the birth of thy well-beloved Son. Grant me enlarged and soul-moving views of all that relates to the glorious plan of salvation through a Redeemer. Unfold to my mind, I beseech thee, the deep depravity and lost estate into which our guilty race had fallen. The whole head was sick, and the whole heart faint: and from the sole of the foot even unto the head, there was no moral soundness in it; but wounds, and bruises, and putrefying sores! All flesh had corrupted its way upon the earth; and the whole world was guilty before God. O, if thou hadst not laid help upon One, mighty to save, all men would have had their part in the lake that burneth with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.

Gracious God, make me sensible of that love whereby thou didst give thine only-begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on him should not perish, but have everlasting life—and which thou hast commended to us, in that while we were sinners, Christ died for us. Though thou hast shown thy lovingkindness in the works of creation, and in the developments of providence, in

this thou hast gathered, as into a bright and burning centre, the matchless proof of thy good-will to man. O, the breadth, and length, and depth, and height of the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge!

Lord, make me to know the excellencies of Christ's glory, and the depths of his humiliation. Though he dwelt in the bosom of the Father, and inhabited the praises of eternity, and exercised the powers of the Godhead, yet he took upon him our sinful nature, was born in a low condition, made under the law, undergoing the miseries of this life, the wrath of God, and the cursed death of the cross; and was buried, and continued under the power of death for a time. Teach me that he was thus made sin for me, that I might be made the righteousness of God in him. O God, show me that though he thus gave his life a ransom for many, still there is none who can have redemption through his blood, without the convincing, renewing, and sanctifying power of thy grace. Lord, make me know my sin, and my need of a Saviour; dispose me to turn away from all my transgressions, and to lay hold of the hope set before me in the gospel.

Lord, impress on my heart the features of Christ's lovely and perfect character. May I learn of him who was meek and lowly, kind and patient, obedient and forgiving, wise and holy. Let the same mind which was in him be also in me. Show me that he is glorified in the bodies and spirits of them whom thou hast given to him; and that if any man have not the spirit of Christ, he is none of his. May the grace which has brought salvation, teach me to deny ungodliness and to work righteousness; that his image, destroyed by the fall, may be renewed in me, and that the life also of Jesus may be made manifest in my mortal flesh.

God of Grace, excite my faith in this blessed Saviour, by clear visions of that heavenly glory which he has prepared for those that love him. O, thanks be unto thy name, thou hast not only redeemed thy saints from the wretched dominion of sin and the fearful penalties of guilt, but thou hast given them thine unfailing promise, that they shall go into life eternal, and dwell before thy throne, and serve thee day and night in thy temple. Lord, grant that through his merits, an entrance may be ministered unto me, abundantly, into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Merciful Father, persuade the ungodly, who are rejecting the Saviour, that without his atoning righteousness their souls must endure the perdition of eternal death; while through his blood they may have remission of sins, and an inheritance among them that are sanctified. Reconcile them unto thyself, through him; not imputing their trespasses unto them. O dispose them to join with fulness of heart, that heavenly anthem, which heralded his birth in our nature—"Glory to God in the highest; and on earth peace, good-will towards men!"

Advent – Prayer 2 – Morning – Corporate

O God, Thou art worthy of universal and everlasting adoration. Thy nature is incomprehensible; thy perfections are infinite: and thy ways are past finding out. Thou art the Creator and upholder of all things. And all thy works praise Thee, O Lord, and thy saints bless Thee. All our lives have been full of thy undeserved goodness.

But we are called this morning, to behold the exceeding riches of thy grace, in thy kindness towards us, by Christ Jesus. Herein is love; not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be a propitiation for our sins. May we contemplate this matchless event, with all those views and affections which its importance demands. May those who observe the day, observe it unto the Lord. May our festivity, becoming the occasion, be harmless and holy. Let us

not disgrace the season, by reviving those works of the devil, which the Son of God was manifested to destroy, nor rest satisfied with the mere remembrance of his advent, as founded in truth, and attended with wonders; but inquire, for what end he was born, and for what cause he came into the world. And since we are informed, that he came to seek and to save that which was lost, and suffered, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God; may we deem the report not only a faithful saying, but worthy of all acceptation: and may it be in us as a well of water, springing up into everlasting life.

May none of us disregard him, from ignorance, worldly-mindedness, presumption, self-righteousness, or despondency. As our Prophet, may we repair to his feet for instruction. May we look to his sacrifice, and find relief for our burdened consciences. May we acknowledge his authority, and obey his commands. In all our approaches to Thee, may we make mention of his righteousness only, and in his strength, go forth into all the duties and trials of life. May we never feel miserable, even in a vale of tears, while we think of the consolation of Israel: but rejoice in him, with joy unspeakable and full of glory.

Reflecting upon his grace in becoming poor, that we through his poverty might be rich; may all selfishness, and uncharitableness, be extirpated from our hearts; may we love one another, as he has loved us; and may we delight to go about doing good. May no coldness, no indifference, ever approach our spirits, whenever we are engaged in serving a master who has all the claims of a benefactor; yea, who died for us, and rose again.

To him may we consecrate our faculties and possessions; and, on our time and our substance, our souls and our bodies, may there be inscribed "Holiness to the Lord." May we grieve to hear his name blasphemed, and weep to see his laws transgressed. May his cause lie near our hearts; and may we long for the time, when he shall be known and adored, from the rising of the sun to the going down of the same; when to him shall every knee bow, and every tongue confess; and the glad tidings of great joy shall be to all people—"Unto you is born a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." Through his mediation we address Thee; and in his words conclude our imperfect supplications. Our Father, &c.

Advent – Prayer 3 – Evening – Corporate

Though thou art exalted above all blessing and praise; yet, O God, we love to explore thy ways, to admire thy works, and to adore thy perfections. Thy understanding is infinite, thy power is Almighty, thy mercy endureth forever. Thy goodness transcends all our conceptions, as far as the heavens are higher than the earth.

We call on our souls, and each other, this evening, to praise and magnify thy holy name. We bless Thee for our creation, and for all the supplies which have rendered life supportable; and all the indulgences, which have rendered it comfortable. But above all, we thank Thee for thine unspeakable gift. For Thou hast surpassed all thy works, and crowned all thy benefits, by remembering us in our low estate, and laying help on one that is mighty.

And we have again heard the intelligence, that God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on him, should not perish, but have everlasting life. Convince us of our need of this dispensation of thy mercy and grace; and may we acquiesce in it, not with coldness of assent, but with gladness of heart. May we exclaim with the angels—"Glory to God in the highest, on earth peace and good will towards men;" and the multitude of disciples, shout—"Hosanna, blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord." Though the world knew

him not, and his own received him not, and he is still despised and rejected of men; may we receive him as all our salvation, and all our desire.

May we rejoice to view him, in a nature, which leads him to call us brethren; in which, as our example, he can go before us, in the duties of obedience and submission; in which, he can sympathize with us, in all our wo—and in which, he has suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us unto God. May we look to him for all we want, and live a life of faith upon his fulness. In him may we know that we have redemption through his blood; that we have righteousness and strength; that we have all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. May we connect with his work *for* us in the flesh, his work *in* us by the Spirit. While we are reconciled by his death. May we be saved by his life; and remember that his name is Jesus, because he saves his people from their sins. And as he came not only that we might have it more abundantly, may our expectations be large, and our desires importunate; may he dwell in our hearts by faith, that we being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all saints, what is the height, and depth, and breadth, and length, and know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, and to be filled with all the fulness of God.

Once in the end of the world hath he appeared, to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself; and unto them that look for him will he appear a second time, without sin unto salvation. O, prepare us for that solemn day. May we believe in him as a Saviour, before we meet him as a Judge: that when the tribes of the earth shall wail because of him, we may lift up our heads with joy, knowing that our redemption draweth nigh; and say with the church – Lo! This is our God, we have waited for him, he will save us: this is our Lord, we waited for him, we will rejoice and be glad in his salvation.

Make thy ministers wise, and zealous, and successful, in the dispensation of thy word. We are a sinful people, but Thou hast not dealt with us after our desert; and Thou hast not left us without witness; Thou hast, in the midst of us, a people for thy name; and we pray, that our beloved country may be a growing part of the empire of the Prince of Peace. May the root of Jesse stand for an ensign to the people; to it may the Gentiles seek, and let his rest be glorious. May he come down like rain upon the mown grass, as showers that water the earth. In his day may the righteous flourish, and abundance of peace, so long as the moon endureth. Let all nations be blessed in him; all generations call him blessed. And blessed be his glorious name forever, and let the whole earth be filled with his glory.—Amen.

Fasting – Prayer 1

Assist me, O Lord, to set my face unto thee, to seek by prayer and supplication, with fasting. Lead me at suitable times, to deny my appetites, out of religious principle, and with a view to spiritual benefits on myself and others. Teach me that thou hast commanded this duty; that thy saints in all ages have fulfilled it; and that in doing so, they have enjoyed thy favour. Lord, make it the intelligent service of my heart. May I resort to it as a means of crucifying the flesh, of mortifying the deeds of the body, and of bringing my worldly desires into subjection to the immortal interests of the soul. Enable me to offer it in penitence before thee, as the expression of a sense of my sinfulness. Do thou make its every exercise conducive to the health of my body, and the clearness and vigour of my mind. Grant that it may assist me to forsake selfishness and iniquity, and to serve thee with a purehearted and an increasing devotion.

Lord bless the appointed fasts of thy churches. May these solemn seasons be accompanied by penitence for transgression, abandonment of sin, consecration to thy service, and revivals of pure

and undefiled religion, which shall pervade all the courts of Zion, and be the means of adding to her many of such as shall be saved.

Fasting Prayer 2 – Time of Calamity - Corporate

Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts, the whole earth is full of thy glory. O for such an impression of thy holiness as Isaiah had, when, penetrated with a sense of his own sin, and the sin of the nation, he exclaimed, “Wo is me, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell among a people of unclean lips.” Banish all insensibility and indifference from our minds, and unite our hearts to fear thy name.

We lament that the world in which we live, formed to show forth thy praise, was so early defiled by sin; that all flesh corrupted its way before God, and every imagination of the thoughts of the heart, was only evil continually. We adore thy awful but righteous displeasure, in bringing the flood upon the world of the ungodly, and taking them all away. Yet, even this tremendous desolation, did not hinder the renewed human race from rebelling against Thee; and a long succession of private and public calamities, proclaims the desperate depravity of our nature, and the evil of sin. Our world is the empire of death, a vale of tears; and tempests, and earthquakes, and war, and pestilence, and famine, scatter the tokens of thy wrath, for Thou distributes sorrows in thine anger. Thy judgments are now abroad in the earth—may the inhabitants thereof learn righteousness. They have reached and invaded us—may we lay them to heart, and be suitably impressed, with the afflicted circumstances of the country to which we belong.

We have been equally distinguished by privileges and guilt, and it is impossible for us to review the one, without being reminded by the other. An innumerable multitude of natural, providential, and religious benefits has distinguished our portion. The lines have fallen to us in pleasant places, yea, we have a goodly heritage. At an early period the gospel visited our shores, and has continued in the midst of us to this hour. We have lived under the administration of laws, just, mild, and beneficent. We have enjoyed civil and religious freedom. The Scriptures have not been withholden from us, nor have our teachers been removed into a corner—but our eyes have seen our teachers; and sitting under our own vine and fig-tree, none have dared to make us afraid. In our dangers, Thou hast appointed salvation for walls and bulwarks; the earth has yielded to us her increases and God, even our God, has blessed us.

It is impossible for us to express or conceive the obligations we are under to love and serve Thee. But we know—and, O help us to feel, how unworthily and ungratefully we have behaved ourselves, towards our adorable benefactor. We are a sinful nation, a seed of evil doers; children that are corrupters. The whole head is sick, and the whole heart is faint: from the crown of the head even to the sole of the foot, there is no soundness, but wounds, and bruises, and putrifying sores. O Lord, righteousness belongeth unto Thee, but unto us confusion of faces, as at this day, to our rulers.

But Thou art the Almighty. Thou hast all hearts in thy hand, and all events at thy disposal. And we have heard, that to the Lord our God, belongeth mercies and forgiveness, though we have rebelled against him. We are proofs ourselves, that thy compassions fail not—hence though corrected, we are not consumed; and though guilty, we are yet allowed and invited to enter thy presence. With deep humiliation, not unmingled with hope, may we approach the throne of thy grace, at this time of need. O, be merciful unto us, and bless us, and cause thy face to shine upon us, that we may be saved. For the sake of thy dear Son, who died, the just for the

unjust, by whose name we are called—behold a country prostrate at thy footstool, and hear the voice, which will issue today, from so many temples and closets, saying—“Spare the people, O Lord, and give not thine heritage to reproach.”

Remove, if it please Thee, the blow of thy heavy hand, in the calamity which we are deploring; and after giving such a deliverance as this, may we no more break thy commandments. Or, if Thou hast determined to continue the correction; O, correct us, but with judgment, not in thine anger, lest Thou bring us to nothing. Aid thy people in the private and public devotions of the day. Pour out a spirit of grace and supplication that we may sorrow after a godly sort. May thy ministers be faithful and fearless; may they cry aloud and spare not; but lift up their voice like a trumpet, and show the people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sin. And let the word that is to be spoken, be quick and powerful, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and be a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Our Father, &c.—Amen.
Treasury of Heavenly Incense, 548-552

Fasting - Prayer 3 – End of Fast – Corporate

O God, Thou hast established thy throne in the heavens, and thy kingdom ruleth over all. We prostrate ourselves before Thee, deeply impressed with a sense of the vastness of thy agency and dominion. Thou changest the times and the seasons: Thou removest kings, and settest up kings. Empires rise and fall, and fade and flourish, at thy bidding; and all nations are in thy hand but as clay in the hand of the potter. But none of thy dispensations are arbitrary. Whatever Thou doest, is done, because O Father it seemeth good in thy sight: and thy judgment is always according to truth. Thou art holy in all thy ways, and righteous in all thy works—And Thou art good even in wrath. Thou rememberest mercy; and dost not afflict willingly, nor grieve the children of men.

Therefore it is that we have been this day humbling ourselves in thy presence. For we acknowledge that we have been deeply guilty. Thou hast nourished and brought up children, but we have rebelled against Thee. The ox knoweth his owner, and the donkey his master's crib; but we have not known, we have not considered. Thou hast given us our corn, and wine, and oil, and multiplied our silver and gold; and we have prepared them for Baal. Because of swearing, the land has mourned. Pride has compassed us about as a chain. Discontent has rebelled against thine appointments. How has the love of money, which is the root of all evil, abounded among us. How have thy sabbaths been profaned, and thine ordinances disregarded. How has the gospel been undervalued, neglected, despised!

And all our transgressions have been more aggravated than those of any other people, because Thou hast favoured us unspeakably more than all the families of the earth. Therefore Thou couldst easily and justly have destroyed us: but Thou hast not stirred up all thy wrath. In all that is come upon us for our evil deeds, Thou hast punished us less than our iniquities deserve. Yet Thou hast testified thy displeasure; and visited us with thy judgments: so that when we looked for light and peace, we have seen darkness and trouble.

O let us not be inattentive to the design of thy dealings, or insensible under thy rebukes. O let it not be said of us, as it was of the Jews, “The harp and the viol, and the tabret and pipe, and wine, are in thy feasts, but they regard not the work of the Lord, neither consider the operation of his hand.” “Thou hast stricken them, but they have not grieved; Thou hast consumed them, but they have refused to receive correction: they have made their faces harder than the rock; they have refused to return.”

In the way of thy judgments, O Lord, may we wait for Thee. Thou hast said, "Is any afflicted? Let him pray." "Call upon me in the day of trouble, and I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me." Fulfill the word unto thy servants, upon which Thou hast caused us to hope. And O let not the calamity be removed only, but above all sanctified: let it appear that we have heard the rod, and Him that appointeth it: and be able to say, "It is good for us that we have been afflicted."

For which purpose, bless, we beseech Thee, the word of thy grace which has been spoken; and grant that the professed humiliation of the day may be real—for Thou lookest to the heart. And let it also be universal; may it extend, from the highest to the lowest; may it pervade the court and the country; may it enter every church and every family—let none of us lose sight of ourselves in the public calamity. May each individual retire and ask, "What have I done?—and what wilt Thou have me to do?"

And thus may we be reformed and not destroyed. Thus may we be a holy, that we may be a happy people, whose God is the Lord. Return, O Lord, how long? And let it repent Thee concerning thy servants. O satisfy us early with thy mercy; that we may rejoice and be glad all our days. Make us glad according to the days wherein Thou hast afflicted us, and the years wherein we have seen evil. Let thy work appear unto thy servants, and thy glory unto their children. And let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us; and establish Thou the work of our hands upon us; yea the work of our hands establish Thou it. And to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be rendered the kingdom, power, and glory for ever and ever.—Amen.

Treasury of Heavenly Incense, 552-556

Revival

Blessed God, revive thy work; in the midst of the years make known; in wrath remember mercy. Let not thy heritage be in bondage to sin and slothfulness; nor the ungodly go down to death, without the strong, and special, and redeeming influences of thy Holy Spirit. Let thy work appear unto thy servants, and thy glory unto their children: and let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us. Make the wilderness like Eden; and the desert like the garden of the Lord: let joy and gladness be found therein, with thanksgiving and the voice of melody.

Great God, may all thy ministers be indeed preachers of righteousness, and ambassadors for Christ. Sanctify their motives, and inflame their zeal. Give them wisdom to devise, and faithfulness to execute, such efforts as shall promote thy glory, in the work of saving souls. Let them not heal the hurt of the daughter of thy people slightly; saying, "Peace, peace," when there is no peace. May they search Jerusalem, as with lighted candles; and apply thy truth to all their hearers, with plainness, fulness, and pungency. Bless the word of their mouth, and accompany it with the demonstration of thy Spirit.

O Lord, let judgment begin at the house of God. Take away the hopes of those who have the form of godliness, without its power. Convince thy people of sin against thee, against each other, and against the souls of the ungodly. Bring them to repentance that needeth not to be repented of. Break from them the fetters with which the world, the flesh, and the devil, have encompassed them. Give them that clearness and strength of faith, by which they shall learn the value of their own souls, and the worth of the souls of perishing sinners around them.

Heavenly Father, burden the hearts of thy people with earnest desires for the revival of pure and undefiled religion. May they present fervent, importunate, and believing prayer, at the throne of thy grace, for the prosperity of Zion, and the salvation of the ungodly. O fill them with thy Spirit, and cause them to abound in love, zeal, and holiness. May they love the places where

supplication is wont to be made, and where souls have been born to God. Give them grace to uphold, by prayer, the hands of thy ministers, whilst thou art using such to carry forward the triumphs of the gospel. Make thy saints willing to adopt and sustain those measures which are agreeable to thy will, and which receive the abiding sanction of thy Spirit. Lord, cast up and remove every stumbling block out of the ways of Zion. Give thy servants unity of feeling and action; and lead them to act in the faith of thy word, wherein thou hast said, that if two shall agree on earth, as touching any thing they shall ask, it shall be done for them of our Father in heaven. Let the blessing of the Lord our God be upon them; and establish the work of their hands upon them: yea, the work of their hands, establish thou it.

O Most High, visit with convincing and converting power, the consciences of sinners. Bring them within the reach of the preached gospel, and the hearing of effectual prayer. May thy Spirit set home to their hearts the truth, which is able to make them wise unto salvation. Make them feel deeply, that they are guilty before thee; and that instead of having the offer of salvation, thy righteous retribution would blast them in everlasting death. O, may they cherish the workings of the Holy Ghost within them, and fear lest that Divine Agent give them up to blindness of mind, and hardness of heart. Let that godly sorrow, which worketh life, possess every feeling of their souls. Show them that now is the accepted time, and this the day of salvation. Give them clear, and convincing, and persuading views of Christ, as the only, and all-sufficient, and infinitely willing Saviour. O God, grant, for the honour of Jesus, that now, whilst thou art waiting to be gracious, they may renounce their iniquities, receive Christ, as he is freely offered in the gospel, and give themselves to thee, in a covenant never to be forgotten.

Lord of Hosts, make the fruits of revivals glorious in the history of thy church. May their converts to righteousness be for multitude, as the drops of the dew in the morning. May they be distinguished for consistent piety and holy zeal, and be honoured instruments in multiplying the trophies of redeeming grace, until the Lord shall have made bare his holy arm in the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall have seen the salvation of our God. And to God, the Father, Son, and Spirit, shall be all the praise in earth and heaven, now and forever.

Marriage – Prayer 1

Heavenly Parent, thou hast shown both thy wisdom and goodness in the institution of marriage. Thou hast sought by it to increase the happiness and promote the virtue of mankind. The works of thy creation, though good in thy sight, were unfinished, while man dwelt alone; and thy last and best gift to earth, was she that should be a fountain of joy, a partner of pleasure, and a solace of sorrow. Lord, teach all men that this relation of life is still (and must be throughout the annals of time) identified with the comfort and welfare of our race. O let none with ruthless and impious hand, undermine nor overthrow this ordinance of God; but may all regard and sustain it as the safeguard of purity, the pledge of social bliss, and the bond of public good.

Lord, reform the opinions and correct the practice of Christians in relation to unhallowed marriages. Let none such be unequally yoked with unbelievers. May they marry only in the Lord. Show them that those who ally themselves in sacred ties with the ungodly, rebel against the will of God, cast snares and unhappiness in their way through life, and fearfully hinder the grace of God in their own hearts.

Lord, govern by the dictates of affection, prudence, and piety, those who would enter on the

duties and pleasures of matrimony.—Bless all who have embarked on them. May their relations be characterized by mutual love, esteem, forbearance, assistance, and sympathy. May the same sincere, ardent, unchangeable, protecting, and providing love, which the Saviour manifests to his spouse, the church, be shown by the husband to his wife. And do thou direct her conduct to him in subjection, reverence, prudence, and love. Lord, make their union conducive to every rational good of human life. Let it be an emblem of the union between Christ and his church; that they may walk in all the statutes and ordinances of the Lord, blameless, and be made mutual helpers in the fellowship of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Marriage – Prayer 2

Bless those who have entered into a state honourable in all. May they remember the vows they have left at the altar; and in discharge of their personal and relative duty, may they make thy word their rule, that mercy and peace may be upon them. May the husband love his wife even as himself; and may the wife see that she reveres her husband; and both walk together, as heirs of the grace of life, that their prayers be not hindered. Preserve them from the evils which destroy or diminish the welfare and comfort of the condition in which Thou hast placed them; and may they enjoy all the happiness derivable from prudence, temper, accommodation, real godliness, and the divine blessing. May they expect to discern infirmities in one another; but may they be always most deeply conscious of their own. And let them not look for unattainable, by looking for unmingled bliss on earth; but remember that this is not our rest; and be prepared for difficulties, trials, changes, and final separation. *Treasury of Heavenly Incense, 587-588*

Funeral – Prayer 1

Blessed Lord, make me ever mindful of the truth, that it is appointed unto all men once to die. Thou canst wound and kill, and there is none to deliver out of thy hand. Thou hast determined our days, and appointed the bounds of our habitations. O lead me to consider my latter end, and teach me to number my days, that I may apply my heart unto wisdom. Make me to know my end, and the measure of my days, that I may learn how frail I am. Lord, what is my life? It is a vapour that appeareth for a little while, and then vanisheth away.

Teach me, thou Source of Wisdom, that death is the great crisis of my being, which will determine my destiny forever. He whom it finds unjust and filthy, shall be unjust and filthy still; and he whom it finds righteous and holy, shall be righteous and holy still. Lord, let me pass the time of my sojourning here in fear, seeking to be ready for its solemn message; for in such an hour as we think not, the Son of Man cometh. Whatsoever, therefore, my hand findeth to do, may I do it with my might; since there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave whither I go. Let me not fear them that can kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul; but rather fear him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell, which is the second death.

Lord, train me to such habits of obedience to thy will, and trust in thy dealings, and faith in thy promises, that while I look upon the earthly house of this tabernacle, as one that must be dissolved, I may rejoice in the hope, that I shall have a building of God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. When I am called to walk through the valley of the shadow of death, be thou my rod and staff, to comfort me: and when my heart and flesh fail, be thou the strength of my heart, and my portion forever. Let me die the death of the righteous, and let my last end be like his.

Lord, fix the thoughts of the impenitent on that great event in their history, when the last fibres of life are breaking; and the soul, fluttering on the verge of eternity, looks back on the familiar scenes of earth with keen remorse, and forward on the unknown future with acute despair. May they now inquire, "How shall my heart endure, or my hands be strong, in the day when thou wilt deal with me?" Persuade them to make their peace with thee now; and then amid the strife of dissolution, thou wilt soothe their tender consciences with the assurance of pardoned sin, and cheer their fainting hearts with the hope of glory.

Look in mercy, I pray thee, on those who are encompassed by the sorrows of death. Prepare them for their solemn and awful change. If they have made their peace with thee, through the blood of Christ, comfort them, and give them blessed foretastes of thy heavenly kingdom. But if they have not, O bring them by thy saving power into thy covenant of grace.

O thou who didst weep at the tomb of Lazarus, comfort those who mourn for the loss of cherished friends. May they kiss thy rod; and if it be consistent with the life or death of the departed, let them not sorrow as those who have no hope; but look forward to that hour, when the hand that now has riven, will restore their fellowship, and make it pure as the light and lasting as the days of heaven!

Funeral – Prayer 2 – Corporate

O Thou Father of mercies, and God of all comfort. Thou hast often invited us to thyself, by a profession of kindness; and it manifests our depravity, that we think of Thee so little in the hour of ease and prosperity. But we are now before Thee, in affliction and distress. Yet we rejoice to know, that Thou art a very present, and an all-sufficient help in trouble. Thou takest away and who can hinder Thee, or say unto Thee, "What dost Thou?" Thou hast a right to do what Thou wilt with thine own. Thou art a sovereign, and the reasons of thy conduct are often far above, out of our sight; but thy work is perfect, thy ways are judgment. All thy dispensations are wise, and righteous, and kind—kind, even when they seem to be severe. May we hear thy voice in thy rod, as well as in thy words and gathering from the corrections with which we are exercised, the peaceable fruit of righteousness, be able to acknowledge, with all our suffering brethren before us, "It is good for us that we have been afflicted."

It is not the Scripture only that reminds us of our living in a dying world, but all observation and experience. Man is continually going to his long home, and the mourners daily go about the streets. And we are all accomplishing as an hireling, our day, and in a little time our neighbours, friends and relations, will seek us—and we shall not be. Our days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle, and are spent without hope. Thou hast made our days as a hand's breadth, and our age is as nothing before Thee; verily, every man at his best state is altogether vanity. For our days are not only few, but full of evil. Anxieties perplex us; dangers alarm us; infirmities oppress us; disappointments afflict us; losses impoverish us—we are consumed by thine anger, and by thy wrath are we troubled— O, shut not thy merciful ear from our prayers; but spare us, O Lord, most holy: O God, most mighty: O holy and most merciful Saviour: Thou most worthy Judge eternal, suffer us not, at our last hour, for any bitter pains of death, to fall from Thee.

We acknowledge, O God, with shame and sorrow, that the state of degradation and mortality, in which we groan, was not our original condition. Thou madest man upright, but he sought out many inventions. Our first father sinned, and we have borne his iniquity. My one man, sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death hath passed upon all men, for that all

have sinned. We bless Thee, that this is not our final state. By the discoveries of faith, we see new heavens, and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness. We see the spirits of just men made perfect. We see our vile bodies changed, and fashioned like the Saviour's own glorious body; and man, the sinner, raised above the angels who never sinned. We bless Thee for this purpose of grace, formed before the world began, and accomplished in the fulness of time, by the Son of thy love, who hath abolished death, and brought life and immortality to light by the gospel: and who among the ravages of the grave, says, "I am the resurrection and the life; he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live; and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die." May it be our immediate and supreme concern to win Christ, and be found in him: knowing that there is no condemnation to them that are in Christ Jesus; and that blessed are the dead that die in the Lord. So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom—that wisdom which will lead us to prefer the soul to the body, and eternity to time; that wisdom which will lead us to secure an interest in a better world, before we are removed from this. O, let not the trifles of time induce us to neglect the one thing needful. While each of us is compelled to say, I know Thou wilt bring me to death, and to the house appointed for all living, may we be enabled also to say, "I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed to him, against that day."

And, O, let not the solemnities we have this day witnessed, be ever forgotten: for often, our most serious impressions have worn off, and our goodness has been as the morning cloud and early dew, that soon passeth away. Thou hast permitted death to invade our circle, and hast turned our dwelling into a house of mourning. May we find that it is better to be in the house of mourning, than in the house of mirth. By the sadness of the countenance, may the heart be made better, more serious to reflect, and more softened to take impression. With the feelings of the creature, may we blend the views and the hopes of the Christian. May we remember that Thou hast bereaved us, not as an aggressor, but as a proprietor; resuming what was lent us for a season, but never ceased to be thine own. May we, therefore, be dumb, and open not our mouth, because Thou hast done it; or if we speak may it be to acknowledge and pray—I know, O Lord, that thy judgments are right, and that Thou in faithfulness hast afflicted me; let thy loving-kindness be for my comfort, according to thy word unto thy servant.

We bless Thee for thy goodness to the deceased, and that we are not called to sorrow, as those who have no hope. We ascribe whatever excellency was found in them to thy grace; and desire to be followers of them, as far as they also were of Christ. Forgive as in whatever instances we failed in our duty towards them. Let the prayers they offered for us while on earth be answered; may we hold communion with them in our living Redeemer; and look forward to a period of renewed and improved intercourse, in which we shall be forever with each other, and forever with the Lord.

Now unto him that is able to keep us from falling, and to present us faultless before the presence of his glory, with exceeding joy, the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever—Amen. *Treasury of Heavenly Incense, 541-546*

Funeral – Prayer 3 – Corporate

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, thou doest thy pleasure in heaven and in earth, and none can stay thy hand, or say unto thee, "What doest thou?" But all that thou doest is wisest and best. Blessed, therefore, be thy name, as well when thou givest, as when thou takest away. Yet, O Lord, when thou removest one from the midst of us, be pleased in mercy to turn this event to the

good of our souls. Awaken our drowsy minds, and alarm our dead consciences. Bring us to the knowledge of our sins, and to the knowledge of Jesus Christ, who taketh away sin. Thou art pleased, O Lord, to spare us, while others are taken to their long home. What are we better than others, that the things which belong to our peace should not be for ever hidden from our eyes? Let us not be as brutes, that have no understanding, unmindful of our mortality. Called to a service in which there is often but a step between us and death, let us by thy grace, prepare to meet our God. O sanctify to this end, the present dispensation. Heal the wounds which it has made, and comfort those whom it has bereaved. Pardon our sins through the blood of Jesus Christ, and put upon us his righteousness. And when we come to die, whether it be by lingering decay, or by sudden violence, receive us to thy glory, as sinners saved by grace, only for the sake of our adorable Redeemer, Jesus Christ. Amen. *Manual of Devotion, 49-50*

Funeral – Prayer 4 – Corporate

O Thou Most Mighty and Most Merciful God, who art righteous in all thy ways, and holy in all thy works, it is of thy mercies that we are not consumed, and because thy compassions fail not. O humble us under thy mighty hand. Cause this solemn visitation to bring to our remembrance our danger and our sin. Lead us to bewail and repent of our manifold transgressions, in thought, word, and deed, against thy Divine Majesty. To us, indeed, belong shame and confusion of face, but to thee belong mercies and forgiveness, though we have rebelled against thee.

O God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the resurrection and the life, in whom whosoever believeth shall live, though he die, and whosoever liveth and believeth in him, shall never die the second death; create us anew in Christ Jesus, and make us alive in him. Work faith in us, and grant us his righteousness, that so we may die in the Lord, and that at the last day we may hear thy voice saying, “Come, ye blessed of my Father, enter ye into the joy of your Lord.”

O thou Disposer of all events, with whom are the issues of life and death, cause us to hear this warning voice, “Be ye also ready!” One has been taken, and another left. In the midst of danger thou hast spared us. Make us mindful of our mortality. Prepare us for whatever thou hast prepared for us; and as our bodies are frail, our calling perilous, and our days uncertain and few at best, enable us by thy Holy Spirit so to live the life of faith, that when our summons comes, we may depart in peace, and fall asleep in Jesus.

Comfort, O Lord, those hearts which are wounded by this dispensation. Sanctify it to the awakening and salvation of survivors. And at length admit us all to thy heavenly kingdom, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen. *Manual of Devotion, 51-52*

Funeral – Prayer 5 – Corporate

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, thy mercy is in the heavens, and thy faithfulness reacheth unto the clouds. Thy righteousness is like the great mountains, and thy judgments are a great deep. Clouds and darkness are round about thee, but justice and judgment are the habitation of thy throne. Thy judgments are unsearchable, and thy ways past finding out. Thou delightest in mercy, and dost not willingly afflict thy children; but when in the wise and sovereign dispensations of thy providence, thou art pleased to cut down one and another in the midst of their course, it becomes us to be silent, and calmly to submit to thy righteous will; believing that all that thou doest is right, although at present we are not permitted to know the reasons of thy

dispensations. Though we may not murmur, we are permitted to mourn the loss of a beloved brother, whom thou hast been pleased to call away from the troubles and temptations of this world, to a much more perfect and blessed state than thy Church upon earth. We do not therefore mourn on his account, for we believe that death was to him gain; yet we cannot but lament the departure of one who was a help and comfort to us, and by his conversation and pious example, was the means of restraining the wicked, and of edifying thy people. May the good example of thy servant be still remembered and followed by those who have witnessed it, and may we all so live that we may be always ready to die. And when we are summoned to descend into the valley of the shadow of death, may the great Shepherd of the sheep be present with us, and by his rod and his staff so comfort us, that we may fear no evil. When heart and flesh fail, then, O Merciful God, be thou the strength of our heart and our portion for ever. And thus, O blessed Redeemer, by thy love and by thy merit, make us conquerors and more than conquerors over the last enemy; so that we may be enabled to sing the song of triumph, "O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?" While we live, may we live unto the Lord, and when we die, may we die unto the Lord; so that living and dying, we may be the Lord's. All which we ask, only in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, and ever liveth to intercede for us, to whom, with thee, O Father, and the Spirit of all grace, be glory for ever. Amen. *Manual of Devotion, 53-54*

PRAYERS FOR ANNUAL OCCASIONS

Birthday – Prayer 1

O Thou Giver and Preserver of Being, I would lift up my thanksgivings to thee for having continued and blessed my life through another year. Here I would raise my Ebenezer, and say, "Hitherto hath the Lord helped me." I would look back with mingled feelings of wonder and love on the way in which thou hast led me, ever since the dawn of my existence. If thou hadst measured unto me according to my deserts, my days of probation would long ago have been ended, and I should now be reaping the fruits of sin in the world of despair. But, thanks be unto thee, thy mercy rejoiced against judgment; and I, who might have been a monument of thy justice, am a witness that thou art long-suffering and abundant in goodness.

Lord, accept my gratitude for the many tokens of thy favour which I have enjoyed since my last birthday. I thank thee for my food and raiment, my home and friends, my health and my countless comforts. I praise thee that the means of grace—the institution, of prayer, the worship of thy sanctuary, the oracles of truth, the fellowship of saints, have all been continued unto me. And to all these thou hast added the teaching, and sanctifying, and rejoicing influences of thy Holy Spirit. Lord, thou hast crowned my year with thy goodness, and thy paths in it have dropped fatness.

O God, help me to ponder and fulfil the duties of heart and action which lie before me in the untraveled and uncertain, but important period of time, on which I am now entering. I may have numbered the last year of my existence; and ere the present one shall have finished its brief circle, time may be to me no more, and the state of my soul be unalterably fixed. Make me thoughtful of death and eternity; and yet suffer me not to forget, that while it is still day, and before the night cometh, in which no man can work, thou hast appointed unto me spheres of duty, which thou requirest me to occupy until thy coming. Give me, I beseech thee, in Christ Jesus, an eye of wisdom to discern, and a heart of love to do, all the requirements of thy blessed will. And if it be thy pleasure to prolong my years, may I look back on them as spent in thy service, and say, "For me to live is Christ!" But if thou wilt bring my season of trial to an end, O grant that I may be able to say, with exulting joy, "For me to die is gain!"

Birthday – Prayer 2

Blessed be God for my creation and birth: for giving me a being from honest parents fearing God, and in a Christian and Protestant country; for giving me perfect members and senses, a sound reason, and an healthful constitution—for the means of grace, the assistances of the Holy Spirit, and for the hopes of glory; for all the known or unobserved favours, providences, and deliverances, by which my life hath hitherto been preserved; most humbly beseeching Thee, my God and Father, to pardon my neglect or abuse of any of thy favours, and that I have so very much forgotten Thee, in whom I live and move, and have my being.

Good Lord, forgive me the great waste of my precious time; the many days and years of health, and the many opportunities of doing good, which I have lost; and give me grace, that for the time to come I may be truly wise, that I may consider my latter end, and work out my salvation with fear and trembling, ever remembering *that the night cometh when no man can work*; and that the day of my death may be better to me than the day of my birth.

O gracious God, grant that before Thou takest from me that breath which Thou gavest me, I may truly repent of the errors of my life past; that my sins may be forgiven, and my pardon sealed in heaven; so that I may have a place of rest in Paradise with thy faithful servants, till the general resurrection; when the good Lord vouchsafe me a better and an everlasting life, through Jesus Christ. *Treasury of Heavenly Incense, 591-592*

New Year's Day – Prayer 1

O Thou God of the rolling seasons, I thank thee for thy mercies to me during the last year. There has not been an hour nor a moment of it, which has not brought me tokens of thy care and kindness. Assist me now to bring its transactions, in which I have been engaged, in solemn review before my conscience. Though the record of them is fast wasting away from the treacherous tablet of my memory, yet they are written, as with a pen of iron, on the books of thy remembrance; where they will remain until that fearful hour of trial, when the books shall be opened, and all men shall be judged out of the things that are written therein, whether they be good or evil.

Lord, I desire to acknowledge before thee, with godly sorrow, that I have neglected many duties, and abused many privileges, during the past year. My heart, and my lips, and my hands, have often been the agents of transgression. Many of thy mercies have been ungratefully perverted or forgotten; and thy chastenings have often been despised or unheeded. O, my tongue would grow weary, and my heart would sicken, if I should undertake to recite all my iniquities before thee. Help me, I pray thee, for the sake of our Great Advocate, to repent over them, to loathe and forsake them, and to look to thee for strength, that the time past of my life may suffice to have wrought the deeds of the flesh, and that henceforth I may live to the will of God.

O Lord, I desire to enter the coming year, feeling the solemn responsibilities of human life. I know not what a day may bring forth, nor what the approaching months may reveal respecting me: except that they will bring me so much nearer eternity, and be full of records of my growth in grace, or of my backslidings from thy holy law. Yet I thank thee that my span of life is still lengthened out, and that I am still permitted to enjoy the precious opportunities that have been vouchsafed to me in days past. O God, assist me, I beseech thee, to discharge aright all the duties that lie before me. Make me understand the uncertainty of time, the worth of my soul, the multiplied interests of my fellow travellers to eternity, and the righteous claims of thy service. Make me watchful against the many dangers to which I am exposed. Strengthen my love to thee; deepen my convictions of sin; animate my desires after holiness; increase my spirit of prayer; enlarge my benevolence; and lead me in thine own way, for thy name's sake. Protect me by thy care; supply me by thy bounty; and grant me an increasing meetness for that state, where these changing seasons will give place to an endless life.

Lord, make this opening year, a year of the right hand of the Most High. Pour the healing balm of peace on all the bleeding wounds of thy church. Spread over her the spotless mantle of purity. Invigorate her by the reviving power of truth. Awaken her to renewed efforts in doing good. O may these months stand forth in the history of redemption, as precious seasons of refreshing from thy holy and life-giving presence.

New Year's Day – Prayer 2 - Corporate

Of old hast Thou laid the foundation of the earth and the heavens are the work of thy hands. They shall perish, but Thou shalt endure; yea, all of them shall wax old like a garment; as a vesture shalt Thou change them, and they shall be changed; but Thou art the same, and thy years shall have no end. Through all the successions of time, which with us constitute the past, the present, and the future, I AM is thy name, and this is thy memorial in all generations. We desire, O God, with the profoundest reverence to contemplate the eternity of thy nature. May our minds be filled with elevation and grandeur, at the thought of a Being, with whom one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day; a Being, who amidst all the revolutions of empire, and the lapse of worlds, feels no variableness or shadow of turning. How glorious, with immortality attached to them, are all thy attributes; and how secure are the hopes and happiness of all those, who know thy name and put their trust in Thee.

May we rejoice, that while men die, the Lord liveth; that while all creatures are found broken reeds and broken cisterns, he is the Rock of Ages, and the Fountain of living waters. O, that we may turn away our hearts from vanity; and among all the dissatisfactions and uncertainties of the present state, look after an interest in that everlasting covenant, which is ordered in all things and sure. May we seek after a union with thyself, as the strength of our heart, and our portion forever, and be partakers ourselves of the immutability we adore; for Thou hast assured us, that while the world passeth away, and the lusts thereof, he that doeth the will of God, abideth forever.

We thank Thee, that Thou hast revealed to us the way in which a fallen and perishing sinner can be united to thyself; and that Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life. In his name we come; O, receive us graciously; justify us freely from all things; renew us in the spirit of our minds; and bless us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ.

By the lapse of our days, and weeks, and years, which we are called upon so often to remark, may we be reminded how short our life is, and how soon we shall close our eyes on every prospect below the sun; and, O, suffer us not to neglect the claim of eternity, in the pursuit of the trifles of time; but knowing how frail we are, may we be wise enough to choose the good part which shall not be taken away from us; and before we leave the present evil world, may we secure an inheritance in another and a better. May thoughts of death and eternity so impress our minds, as to put seriousness in our prayers, and vigour in our resolutions; may they loosen us from an undue attachment to things seen and temporal; so that we may weep as though we wept not; and rejoice as if we rejoiced not.

And remembering that the present life, so short, so uncertain—and so much of which is already vanished, is the only opportunity we shall ever have for usefulness, may we be concerned, with holy avarice, to redeem the time. May we be alive and awake, at every call of charity and piety. May we feed the hungry and clothe the naked; may we instruct the ignorant; reclaim the vicious; forgive the offending; diffuse the gospel; and consider one another, to provoke one another unto love and good works, not forsaking the assembling ourselves together, as the manner of some is, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as we see the day approaching.

As we have entered on a new period of life, may we faithfully examine ourselves, to see what has been amiss in our former temper and conduct; and in thy strength, may we resolve to correct it. And may we inquire for the future—with a full determination to reduce our knowledge to practice, Lord, what wilt Thou have me to do?

Prepare us for all the duties of the ensuing year. All the wisdom and strength, necessary for the performance of them, must come from thyself; may we, therefore, live a life of self-distrust, of divine dependence, and of prayer; may we ask and receive, that our joy may be full; may we live in the Spirit and walk in the Spirit.

If we are indulged with prosperity, O, let not our prosperity destroy us or injure us. If we are exercised with adversity, suffer us not to sink in the hour of trouble, or sin against God. May we know how to be abased without despondence; and to abound without pride. If our relative comforts are continued to us, may we love them without idolatry, and hold them at thy disposal; and if they are recalled from us, may we be enabled to say, "The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; and blessed be the name of the Lord."

Fit us for all events. We know not what a day may bring forth; but we encourage ourselves in the Lord our God and go forward. Nothing can befall us by chance. Thou hast been thus far our helper; Thou hast promised to be with us in every condition; Thou hast engaged to make all things work together for good; all thy ways are mercy and truth. May we, therefore, be careful for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, may we make known our requests unto God; and may the peace of God that passeth all understanding, keep our hearts and minds, through Christ Jesus.

Bless, O, bless the young; may each of them, this day, hear Thee, saying, "My son give me thy heart;" and, from this time, may they cry unto Thee, as the guide of their youth. Regard those who have reached the years, wherein they say, "We have no pleasure in them." If old in sin, may they be urged to embrace, before it be forever too late, the things that belong to their peace; and if old in grace, uphold them with thy free Spirit, and help them to remember, that now is their salvation nearer than when they believed.

Bless all the dear connexions attached to us by nature, friendship, or religion. Grace be to them; and peace be multiplied. Let our country share thy protection and smiles. Bless our rulers and magistrates.

Bless all our churches and congregations. Bless all thy ministers; may thine ordinances in their hand be enlivening and refreshing, and thy word effectual, to wound and to heal.

May this be a year remarkable for the conversion of souls, and the extension of the gospel. Bless all missionary societies; and let the circling months see the banners of the Redeemer carried forward; till all nations are subdued to the obedience of faith.

Treasury of Heavenly Incense, 503-508

Spring – Prayer 1

Lord, thou sendest out thy word, and meltest the ice; thou causest thy wind to blow, and the waters flow. Lo! The winter is past, and the flowers appear on the earth: the time of the singing of birds is come: thou waterest the hills from thy chambers; and thy breath maketh the earth fruitful.

O may the returning warmth, the reviving verdure, the gushing waters—the universal joy of emancipated nature, create an echo of sympathy in my heart, and lead my affections and devotions up to thy throne in heaven. Enlarge, and instruct, and sanctify my mind by frequent contemplations of thee in the works of thy hands. May I hear a voice of wisdom, and mystery, and praise from every grain of sand and blade of grass; from every breath of air and cloud of heaven; from every drop of dew and shower of rain; from every beam of light and shade of darkness; from every flowing fountain and rolling river; from every peaceful valley and stable

mountain. Blessed Lord, all thy works praise thee. O why should man, who enjoys thy richest blessings, be last and feeblest in his testimony to thy greatness? Grant that my thoughts may meditate on thy wonders,—that my lips may speak of thy worth—and that my life may show forth thy glory.

Fill my heart with love to thee, when I look on the bounty of nature; for thou art by it preserving the life of man and beast, and bestowing on them both gladness and plenty. Let it inspire me with confidence in thy providence; for if God so clothes the grass, which to-day is in the field, and tomorrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe me? And if he feeds the fowls of the air, which neither sow, nor reap, nor gather into barns, will he not also feed me? Lord, thou knowest that I have need of these things; and thou hast promised to add them unto me, if I seek first thy kingdom and righteousness.

O thou that renewest the face of the earth, grant my soul the renewing of the Holy Ghost. Whilst thou art clothing creation with the beauty and vigour of a new life, give me, I pray thee, the beauty of holiness, and make me a new creature in Christ Jesus.

Merciful God, give me wisdom to look on life, as the seedtime of man's estate, and on eternity as its harvest. They that plough iniquity, and sow wickedness, shall reap the same; but they that sow to the Spirit, shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.

Lord, bless those who are in the springtime of life. May they remember their Creator in the days of their youth. Teach them that though their joy is in its opening bud, thou canst blast it, ere it become a flower—though their hope is full of light, thou canst draw over it the cloud of sorrow—though they are in the morning of life, thou canst speedily bring over them the night of death. O dispose them to give the bud of their being, the brightness of their hope, the dawn of their day, to him who made and seeks their hearts. And then, when time shall be no more, they will dwell where no cold shall wither their immortal bloom, no cloud cast a shadow over their radiant joy, and no night darken their endless day!

Spring – Prayer 2 – Corporate

Thou art the Fountain of Life. In Thee we live, move, and have our beings and the prerogative of that being is, that we are able to contemplate thy perfections, and rise from thy works—to thyself.

Thou sendest forth thy Spirit, and renewest the face of the earth; and from apparent death, all nature starts into re-animated vigour and joy. In what myriads of productions art Thou displaying afresh the wonders of thy wisdom, power, and goodness—the whole earth is full of thy riches.

While we partake of the general sympathy and delight, may we join with all thy works to praise Thee. And O Thou God of all grace, bless us with the renewing of the Holy Ghost in all the powers of our souls. May old things pass away, and all things become new in Christ. May the beauty of the Lord be upon us; and the joy of the Lord be our strength.

May the young remember that they are now in the spring of life, and that *this* spring once gone returns no more. May they therefore eagerly seize and zealously improve the short but all-important season, for the cultivation of their minds, the formation of their habits, the correction of their tempers, their preparation for future usefulness*and their gaining- that good part which shall not be taken away from them. *Treasury of Heavenly Incense, 577-578*

Summer – Prayer 1

Creator of Heaven and Earth, thou hast set a tabernacle in the firmament for the sun. His going forth is from the end of the heaven, and his circuit unto the ends of it; and there is nothing that is hid from the heat thereof.

Lord, if it please thee, preserve my health and life during these months, that are so often marked by the ravages of disease and death. Especially do thou keep my soul from the maladies of sin, and give me the saving health of thy Spirit, through the grace of the Lord Jesus. Be unto me as the shadow of a great rock in a weary land.—Lord, lift up the light of thy countenance upon me, and send me thy Sun of righteousness, with healing in his wings. And through thy tender mercy, let the dayspring from on high, visit those that sit in darkness, and in the shadow of death, to guide their feet in the way of peace.

Great Benefactor, I thank thee for this season, in which thou art blessing the toil of the labourer, and fulfilling the desire of the husbandman. Disappoint not those who wait for the precious fruit of the earth. Let not the ground be parched with continual and oppressive heat, nor flooded by untimely and destroying rain. Let the heavens give their dew—make thou the earth soft with showers—give the clear shining after rain, whereby the grass springeth out of the earth—and let the land yield her increase abundantly.

Lord, whilst thou art giving seed to the sower, and bread to the eater, incline men to hunger and thirst after righteousness. Bestow on them that bread of God, which is he that came down from heaven, and gave his life for the world, that whosoever cometh to him, should never hunger, and that whosoever believeth on him, should never thirst.

O thou that givest growth and plenty, bless the good seed of thy word. As the rain cometh down from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it to bring forth and bud; so let thy word be, that goeth forth out of thy mouth: let it not return unto thee void, but accomplish that which pleases thee, and prosper in the thing whereto thou hast sent it.

Lord, when I look on the abundance which covers the earth, may I remember those moral fields that are white already to the harvest; which truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few. I pray thee, for Christ's sake, send forth labourers, who shall gather fruit, unto life eternal.

Gracious Father, regard in mercy those who, unless they turn from the error of their ways, may soon take up the lamentation—"The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved." Break up the fallow ground of their hearts; sow in them the seed of truth; rain righteousness upon them; and make them as the garden of the Lord—for thy great name's sake.

Summer – Prayer 2 – Corporate

We hail Thee in the varying aspects of the year, and bless Thee for all their appropriate influences and advantages. O let us not view them and enjoy them as men only, but as Christians also; and ever connect with them the blessings of thy grace.

How wise and useful and necessary are these intermingled rains and sunbeams! May Jesus, as the Sun of Righteousness, arise upon us with healing under his wings; may he come down as rain upon the mown grass, and as showers that water the earth. When we walk by the cooling brook, may we think of that river the streams whereof make glad the city of God. When we retire from the scorching warmth of the day into the inviting shade, may we be thankful for a rest at noon, a shelter from the heat, the shadow of a great rock in a weary land.

May thy servants behold the moral fields, that are already white unto harvest, and be all anxiety to save the multitudes that are perishing for lack of knowledge. The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few; we therefore pray that Thou wilt send forth labourers into thy harvest.

He that gathereth in summer is a wise son; he that sleepeth in harvest is a son that causeth shame. Now is our accepted time, now is our day of salvation. O let us not waste our precious privileges, and in a dying hour exclaim,—“The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved.” *Treasury of Heavenly Incense, 578-579*

Autumn – Prayer 1

O Thou that makest the seasons, and crownest them with thy goodness, give ear to the thanksgivings and entreaties which I now offer thee in the name of Jesus. I praise thee that thou hast preserved me amid the heat and diseases of the past summer. I thank thee for the fruits of the earth which have already been gathered, and for those which still burden the fields with the promise of plenty. The whole face of nature speaks thy praise, and bears witness to thy bounty.

Lord, what is man, that thou hast been thus mindful of him; or the son of man, that thou visitest him? Instead of continuing health and sparing life, thou mightest have brought over us the pestilence that walketh in darkness, and the destruction that wasteth at noon-day. Instead of making the earth to bring forth and bud, that it might give seed to the sower and bread to the eater, thou couldst have made it more desolate than the wilderness, until the land had fainted by reason of the famine. It is of thy mercies that we are not consumed: for thou art slow to anger and full of compassion; and thy tender mercies are over all thy works. O God, incline me to be merciful to others, even as thou hast been merciful to me. Dispose me, in my enjoyment of the abundance of the earth, to pity and relieve the wants of the needy; and deeply impress on my heart the lesson of gratitude which thou hast been striving to teach me by thy goodness.

Whilst thou art now changing the face of the declining year, and bringing over it the tokens of decay and death, O teach me that such are earthly hopes and human life. The fashion of this world passeth away; and we all do fade as a leaf. The grass withereth, and the flower fadeth; and all flesh is as grass, and all the goodliness thereof as the flower of the field. May these waning scenes lead me to seek that inheritance in light, where no sorrow shall wither, and no sin shall blast the fruit of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God!

Lord, instruct me that he who soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and that he who soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. Let my Christian experience be like the fruit of the earth, which bringeth forth first the blade, then the ear, and after that, the full corn in the ear: and then, O Lord, when thy harvest is come, put in thy sickle, and gather me, as a shock of corn cometh in his season, into thy heavenly garner. And the praise of my salvation shall be unto the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost forever.

Autumn – Prayer 2 – Corporate

How fleeting, as well as varying, are the seasons of the year! How insensibly have the months of spring and summer vanished! Nature has no sooner attained its maturities, than we behold its declension and decay. The fields are now shorn of their produce; the beauties of the garden are withered; the woods are changing their verdure, and the trees shedding their foliage—we also never continue in one stay. Many of our connexions and comforts have already dropped away

from us; and the remaining are holden by a slender tenure—while we ourselves do all fade as a leaf—and in a little time our places will know us no more.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, for the announcement of an inheritance that fadeth not away. O for a hope full of immortality—for a possession of that good part which shall not be taken away from us! *Treasury of Heavenly Incense, 579-580*

Winter – Prayer 1

Lord, who can stand before thy cold? Thou givest snow like wool, and scatterest the hoarfrost like ashes. By thy breath the breadth of the waters is straitened. The singing of birds has yielded to the sighing of winds, and the howling of tempests. The trees which once hung out their garments of verdure, and ornaments of fruit, to please the eye, and regale the taste of man, now spread their naked and unsightly limbs over a barren landscape; and the earth that lately teemed with the beauty and abundance of life, is now wrapped in the cold windingsheet of nature!

Yet, O Lord, let me not be heedless of thy mercy and wisdom, in the arrangements of even these gloomy months. In the midst of all this barrenness, thou preservest the life of man and beast. Behold the fowls of the air, which neither sow, nor reap, nor gather into barns; yet our Heavenly Father feedeth them. These seeming desolations are the repose of nature; and thou art keeping in safety beneath them, the germs of seedtime and the promise of harvest. In due time thou wilt bring forth, refreshed and renewed by the sleep of Winter, the green herb, the waving leaf, the smiling flower, and the rushing waters, to cheer and bless the heart of man, and praise and magnify the greatness of God.

Merciful Father, I thank thee for the abundant food, the convenient raiment, and the protecting home I enjoy, in the inclemency that surrounds me. May the rigours of the season be strong and unfailing motives for gratitude to God, and mercy to man. Cause my heart to abound with pity to the destitute. Let me not say to them, with heartless charity, “Be ye warmed and filled;” and notwithstanding, give them not those things which are needful for the body. Dispose me to open my hand to the needy—remembering that thou hast said, “Blessed is he that considereth the poor.”

Lord, may I regard this season as the emblem of adversity. Life is indeed not all sunshine, and pleasure, and plenty. It has its days and months of darkness, and sorrow, and want. O prepare me, by the grace that is derived through Jesus, for its severest vicissitudes. Make me feel that I deserve to have my joys withered, and my hopes blasted; and that thou wilt be fulfilling only the dictates of merciful justice, if thou shouldst at times withhold thy favour, and visit me with thy frown, in this world, that thou mayest save me from destruction, in the world to come.

Teach me to look on Winter as the type of the grave. As thou buriest the beauty and excellence of the earth in its icy shroud, so thou hidest the generations of men beneath the clods of the valley. And as thou wilt bring forth from this tomb of the year, the fertile beauty of the Spring; so thou wilt bring up from the long desolation of death, that which was sown in dishonour, that it may be raised in glory! Lord, grant that in the renewing power of that great day, I may share in the resurrection of the just, and enjoy the light of thy countenance, and the bliss of thy love, forever!

Winter – Prayer 2 - Corporate

Thou God of nature and providence; manifold are thy works, in wisdom hast Thou made them all; and all are full of thy goodness. The welfare of thy creatures requires the severity of winter as well as the pleasures of spring. We adore thy hand in all. Thou givest snow like wool; Thou scatterest the hoar frost like ashes. Thou sendest abroad thine ice-like morsels: who can stand before thy cold?

Lord we bless Thee for a house to shelter us; for raiment to cover us, for fuel to warm us; and for all the accommodations that render life, even at this inclement season, not only tolerable but full of comfort.

*Not more than others we deserve,
Yet God has given us more.*

May we be grateful; and may we be pitiful. May we reflect on the condition of those who are the victims of every kind of privation and distress — and waste nothing—hoard nothing— but hasten to be the ministers of mercy, and the disciples of Him who went about doing good. O let the rich now deservedly prize their wealth, and use it as the instrument of usefulness. May they be willing to communicate, ready to distribute; and enjoy the blessing of him that is ready to perish, and make the widow's heart to sing for joy. *Treasury of Heavenly Incense, 580-581*

New Year's Eve - Corporate

God, Thou hast been our refuge and dwelling place in all generations; before the mountains were brought forth, or ever Thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, Thou art God. And a thousand years in thy sight, are but as yesterday when it is past, and as a watch in the night. But as for man, his days are as grass; as a flower of the field so he flourisheth; for the wind passeth over it, and it is gone, and the place thereof knoweth it no more.

We appear before Thee, to close in thy presence, another of the revolutions of our fleeting existence; earnestly praying, that the season may not pass away, without suitable and serious reflections. O, let us not imagine—in spite of Scripture, and observation, and reason, and feeling, that we have many of these periods left to notice; but say with Job, when a few years are come, I shall go the way whence I shall not return. It may be only a few months, or weeks, or days,—or hours,—for we know not at what hour the Son of Man cometh. But we know that our life is a vapour, that approacheth for a little time, and then vanisheth away; we know the frailty of our frame; and the numberless diseases and disasters to which we are exposed—so teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.

What numbers of our fellow-creatures, and many of them much more likely to have continued than their survivors, have, during the past year, been carried down to their long home—but we have been preserved; and are living to praise Thee this day. Blessed be the God of salvation, to whom belong the issues from death, that we are yet in the regions of hope, that we have yet an accepted time, and a day of salvation; and that our opportunity of doing good, as well as of gaining good, are still prolonged. Yet are they all diminished by another irreparable loss; and the reduced remainder, with every trembling uncertainty attached to it, calls upon us to say with

growing seriousness and zeal, I must work the works of him that sent me while it is day, the night cometh wherein no man can work.

Thou hast commanded us to remember all the way, which Thou hast led us in the wilderness. The scene of our journeyings has indeed been a wilderness; but the hand that has conducted us is divine; and a thousand privileges, not derivable from our condition, have been experienced in it. Thou hast corrected us, but it is of the Lord's mercies we are not consumed. We have had our afflictions, but how few have they been in number; how short in continuance; how alleviated in degree; how merciful in design; how instructive and useful in their results. With regard to our severest exercises, we are compelled to acknowledge, Thou hast not dealt with us after our sins, neither hast Thou rewarded us according to our iniquities. It is good for me that I have been afflicted. But O, what a series of bounties and blessings, present themselves to our minds, when we look back upon the year through which we have passed: and to what, but to thine unmerited goodness in the Son of thy love, are we indebted for all. Health, strength, food, raiment, residence, friends, relations, comfort, pleasure, hope, usefulness,—all our benefits have dropped from thy gracious hand: and there has not been a day, or an hour, or a moment, but has published thy kindness and thy care. Especially would we acknowledge thy goodness in continuing to us the means of grace. Whatever has been denied us, we have had the provisions of thy house. The toils and trials of the week have been refreshed and relieved by the delights of the Sabbath. Our eyes have seen our teachers. Our ears have heard the joyful sound of the gospel; and our hearts have often said, “Lord, it is good for us to be here.”

And O, that every moment of the past year could, if called upon—and it will be called upon, bear witness to our gratitude, love and obedience. O, that it was not in its power to convict us, of the most unworthy requitals of thy goodness. To Thee, O Lord, belong glory and honour, but to us shame and confusion of face. O, who can understand his errors. O, how many duties have we neglected or improperly performed. How little have we redeemed our time; or improved our talents. How little have we been alive to thy glory, or sought, or even seized, when presented, opportunities of serving our generation. How unprofited have we been under the richest means of religious prosperity—and, when for the time we ought to be able to teach others, we have need to be again taught ourselves, what are the first principles of the oracles of God. God be merciful to us sinners. Pardon our iniquity, for it is great. Cleanse us from all unrighteousness: and work in us to will and to do of thy good pleasure. Let us not carry one of our old sins with us into the new year—unforgiven—unrepented of—unbewailed—unabhorred. With a new portion of time, may we have new hearts; and become new creatures.

If this year we should die—and in the midst of life we are in death, may death be our eternal gain: and if our days are prolonged, may we walk before the Lord in the land of the living, and shew forth all thy praise. The number of our months is with Thee. In thy hand our breath is, and thine are all our ways. Prepare us for all: and be with us in all: and bring us safely through all, into the rest that remains for thy people; for the sake of our Lord and Saviour; in whose words we call Thee, Our Father, &c.—Amen. *Treasury of Heavenly Incense, 497-502*

PRAYERS FOR VARIOUS TIMES AND OCCASIONS

Confession of Sin – Prayer 1

Holy One of Israel, help me, I beseech thee, to confess before thee my unworthiness and ill-desert. To whom but to thee should I go with the recital of my transgressions; for it is against thee, thee only, I have sinned. Thou hast said that he who covereth his sins shall not prosper; while he who confesseth and forsaketh them shall find mercy. If I say, “I have no sin,” I deceive myself, and the truth is not in me; but if I confess my sins, thou art faithful and just to forgive them, and to cleanse me from all unrighteousness.

O Lord, I have sinned against thee in doing what thou hast forbidden, and in leaving undone what thou hast commanded. I have transgressed thy law and gospel, in thought, word, and deed. I have sinned in childhood, in youth, and in riper years. I would acknowledge with shame and sorrow, my vanity and selfishness, my pride and hypocrisy, my impatience and unbelief, my self-indulgence and self-righteousness, my neglect of thy service and glory, and my living to myself, and not unto thee. How often has my heart rebelled against thy wholesome discipline in affliction, or impiously forgotten thy dispensing hand in the enjoyment of mercies. O, I have in countless instances, backslidden from thy love, broken my covenants with thee, and brought dishonour on thy name. I have rolled that as a sweet morsel under my tongue, which has filled heaven with solicitude, earth with desolation, and hell with anguish. And yet such has been the hardness of my heart, that I have mourned but little over such transgressions.

O Lord, these my sins have been protracted through long years which thou hast crowned with forbearance and mercy. They are heavy and black with enormous guilt, because they were committed in the midst of light and knowledge. My transgressions are more numerous than the hairs of my head; and if thou wert strict to mark one in a thousand of them, I could not stand before thee. My iniquities are increased over my head, and my trespasses are grown up to the heavens. Thou mightest justly cause that dark cloud to shut out the light of thy countenance; and gather there the thunders of thy wrath, and break them on my guilty head, with an overwhelming vengeance. Lord, I am vile; what shall I answer thee? I will lay my hand upon my mouth, and put my mouth in the dust, if so be there may be hope. God be merciful to me a sinner.

Confession of Sin – Prayer 2

Hearken to the voice of my cry, my King and my God; for unto thee will I pray. But wherewithal shall I appear before the Lord, and bow myself before the Most High God, whose holy laws I have broken, and whose just displeasure I have incurred? I acknowledge my transgression, O Lord, and my sin is ever before me. My iniquities are gone over my head, as a sore burden; they are too heavy for me to bear. When thou with rebukes dost chasten man for his iniquity, thou makest his beauty to consume away like a moth. My sin now has found me out, and that which once I thought too little to be repented of, seems now too great to be pardoned. I flattered myself in my own eyes, till my iniquity is found to be hateful. I thought I was rich, and increased with goods, and had need of nothing; but now I find that I am wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked; so that there is nothing but disorder and ruin in my soul. I have undone myself; but to work my own recovery, I have no sufficiency. O how wicked have I been to harbour the mind, and allow myself in the way, which is enmity against God! How ignorant,

yet how confident! How vile, yet how arrogant! In what need of mercy, yet how unmerciful! How sinful, yet how impenitent! How bold in the sins where conscience reproved me; but how indifferent in the cause where thy good Spirit encouraged me! O the spoils, and ruins, and desolations which my sins have made in my soul. How darkened has been my mind; how perverted my will; how sensualized my affections; how disordered my passions; how hardened my heart; and how mad have I been in cleaving unto things displeasing to my God, and destructive to my soul!

Vain would be the attempt to hide any thing from thee who fillest heaven and earth. What shall I say unto thee, Lord? I scarcely know how to speak any thing bad enough of myself. O woe is me, that I have done so foolishly and wickedly! Whither shall I betake myself, seeing that against thee, O Lord, I have so sinned, and done such evil in thy sight? Thou art the offended Majesty, out of whose reach I cannot escape, and whose judgments I can never be able to endure. A guilty conscience makes me afraid to come unto thee; yet I know there is nothing but certain destruction, if I keep away from thee. And though there is no peace to the wicked whilst he continues in his sins; yet if the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts, and return to the Lord, thy promise then, O God, is, to have mercy upon him, and abundantly to pardon. I have none to look unto for deliverance from my sins, but unto the just and holy God, against whom I have so grievously sinned. And how shall I stand in thy sight, O Lord, who hatest and condemnest the works of darkness, and the workers of iniquity; whose wrath against sin burns deep as hell, and as long as eternity!

I submit, great Lord to thy offended Majesty; and whithersoever I look, I have no hope but in thine almighty power, thy super-abounding grace, and thine ever-enduring mercy. Nothing is too hard for thee to effect; the most wretched case is not past thy cure. Though our sins be as scarlet, thou canst make them as white as snow: though they be red like crimson, thou canst make them as wool. Yea, thou hast found a ransom, and laid help upon One that is mighty, even on thy dear Son, who is able to save to the uttermost all that come unto God through him. If I had not sinned, I had no need of such a Redeemer; but it was the sinful and the lost whom he came to seek and save. To the Lord Jesus, therefore, do I look, with the desire of my soul, to find healing through the precious blood of his cross. O merciful God! When my sins cry to thee for vengeance, be thou pleased to hear his blood and merits pleading and interceding for my soul; and speaking better things in my behalf, than I am able to do for myself in all my prayers.

Behold, O merciful Lord, a miserable object on whom to glorify thy power and mercy! O look upon me, in my blood, and bid me live. Speak death to my sins, that my soul may live, and for ever bless thy name. Turn away thy face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. For thy name's sake, O Lord, pardon my sin, for it is great; too great for any but a God of infinite goodness and mercy to forgive. O magnify thyself in my deliverance. Make it seen in thy work upon my soul, how great things, worthy of God, thou canst do; that where sin hath abounded, thy grace can much more abound. Return, O Lord, deliver my soul: O save me for thy mercy's sake. Save me from the guilt and punishment, from the power and pollution, of all my sins. And thou, Lord, who knowest how to deliver, make me some way to escape out of the perplexities into which my sins have cast me; that my iniquities may not be my ruin; but that they may be taken away and forgiven, and washed out with the blood of Jesus Christ. Turn thou me, O Lord God of my salvation, that I may be turned from my sins, and from this present evil world, unto thyself. O give me such conviction as may end in sound conversion; and let me experience in myself that grace of God which bringeth salvation. I want thy grace, O Lord; and I shall want it to all eternity, if thou be not pleased to look graciously upon me in my blessed Redeemer. Thou wilt

not have the less, how much soever thou bestowest; and thou canst not bestow thy grace upon any one that more needs it than myself. O God of all grace, that keepest mercy for thousands, hast thou not a blessing for me; a blessing for my perishing soul? For thy dear Son, my only Saviour's sake, let me find such grace in thy sight. O get thee everlasting glory, in so favouring the most unworthy of thy creatures. And whatever thou withholdest, O deny me not thy saving grace, which, though so precious a treasure, is not too great or good for the God of infinite mercy to bestow. Do that work of thy grace thoroughly upon my heart, for which I may have cause to glorify thy name for evermore. Amen. *Manual of Devotion, 81-85*

Danger

Great God, holy and just! I am amazed to think of the dreadful wages which my sins have merited. Fearfulness and trembling are come upon me, and my spirit is overwhelmed, and my heart fails me for fear: so that I know not what to do. But mine eyes are upon thee, my great Saviour and mighty Deliverer, to give me that help which it is in vain to expect from man. Now that I am afraid, I will trust in thee; and under the shadow of thy wings will I make my refuge, until these calamities be overpast. O my Lord, take me under thy fatherly care, and almighty protection: and save me from the hands of my enemies, and from the evils which I dread. O dispel the clouds; and turn away the storms; and clear up the face of heaven, which is now so blackened over my head. Thou, Lord, who knowest how to deliver, and art never at a loss to effect what thou wilt, command, I pray thee, deliverances for me: and be not far from me when trouble is so nigh unto me: but let me find thy help at hand in this time of my extreme necessity.

O my God, thou hast been a shelter for me, and a strong tower of defence against the enemy. And though I walk in the midst of trouble, thou wilt revive me: thou wilt stretch forth thy hand against my enemy; and thy right hand shall save me. O my Saviour, I flee unto thee, to hide me. Be thou pleased to defend me from them that rise up against me. Consider the trouble that I suffer of them that hate me; and lead me in thy righteousness, because of my enemies; make thy way straight before my face. Deliver me, O Lord, from the evil and violent man, and from my persecutors that are stronger than I. O let not any that are my enemies wrongfully rejoice over me. But show me some token for good; that they who hate me may see it, and be ashamed, because thou, Lord, hast beholden me, and comforted me. O fortify me against that fear of man which bringeth a snare. Let me never be so awed by my fellow-creatures, as not to stand in awe of thee, my God. Let me never trespass against thee, to ingratiate myself with them; or decline thy service through fear of their displeasure. Thou hast been my help: be thou pleased to come now to my succour, and to show thyself graciously and powerfully on my behalf. Hear me, Lord, for the glory of thy name; that I may see thy hand, and acknowledge thy power, and admire thy love, and adore thy goodness, while I have my being. Amen, and Amen.

Manual of Devotion, 97-99

Meals/Table

Almighty God, the eyes of all wait upon Thee, and Thou givest them their meat in due season. Bless, we beseech Thee, the provisions of thine earthly bounty, which are now before us; and let them nourish and strengthen our frail bodies, that we may the better serve Thee, through Jesus Christ.—Amen.

Or thus:

Bountiful Giver of every good and perfect gift! Thou art never weary of supplying our returning wants — Grant, we pray Thee, that the food of which we are about to partake, may contribute to the comfort and support of our bodies—and enable us to engage with more zeal in thy service; which we ask for Jesus Christ's sake.—Amen.

Or thus:

Let thy blessing, Almighty God, descend on this portion of thy bounty, and on us, thy unworthy servants, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Or thus:

Almighty God, we beseech Thee to pardon our sins, to bless the refreshment now before us, to our use, and us to thy service, through Jesus Christ.

Or thus

Father of Lights, from whom cometh down every good and perfect gift, enable us to receive these fruits of thy bounty with humility and gratitude, and give us grace, that, whether we eat or drink, or whatever we do, we may do all to thy glory, and be accepted to the great Redeemer.

Or thus:

Bounteous God, we acknowledge our dependence on Thee, and our unworthiness of thy benefits. We pray Thee to forgive our sins; to bless us in the reception of this food, and enable us to improve the strength we may derive from it to thy glory, for Christ's sake.

Or thus:

Sanctify, O Lord, we beseech Thee, these thy productions to our use, and us to thy service, through Jesus Christ our Lord.—Amen. *Treasury of Heavenly Incense, 567-568*

National Prayer 1

Lord, the kingdom is thine, and thou art the Governor among the nations. Imbue my heart with a Christian patriotism, which will take pleasure in every token of my country's real welfare. May I love it as the place of my home, my sustenance, my protection, and my civil and religious privileges. I would rejoice in its length and breadth, fitting it for the ample support of a teeming population—in its plenteous products, crowning the year with goodness—in its works of art, binding it in unity, and facilitating its commerce, and increasing its opulence. I would praise thee for its schools of knowledge, scattering instruction through every class of its inhabitants. But, above all, I thank thee that it is a land of Bibles, of sabbaths, of sanctuaries, and of gospel light.

But, O Lord, if guilt be measured by the number and value of abused mercies, then has this nation a most fearful reckoning with thee. Reprove this people, and set their sins in order before them. Lo! thy Sabbaths, which thou hast given to be a sign between thee and us, are polluted. Because of swearing the land mourneth. This people have loved the gain of oppression and treachery; and have spoiled both the stranger and the native. When thou hast fed them to the full, then they committed adultery, and assembled themselves by troops in the harlots' houses. Multitudes have loved the cup of drunkenness; until our name has been a reproach among the nations. Our transgressions, O Lord, are multiplied before thee; and our sins testify against us: and thou hast a controversy with this nation.

Yet, Gracious One, take not the weapons of thine indignation, to destroy us. Make us not as Admah: set us not as Zeboim. For the sake of its righteous, let thy repentings be kindled together; for there is a remnant who have not bowed the knee to Baal; and who sigh and cry for the abominations that are done in the midst of us. May thy Church be our safety. Thou hast said, that if the wicked repent, and turn themselves from all their transgressions, iniquity shall not be their ruin. O may we loose all our bands of wickedness; and then shall our light break forth as the morning; and our health spring forth speedily: our righteousness shall go before us; and the glory of the Lord shall be our rere-ward.

Lord, bless this country. Cover it with plenty. Secure to all its inhabitants just and equal laws. Let them that rule over us, rule in the fear of the Lord; justifying the righteous and condemning the wicked. Let peace dwell in all our borders. Put the keys of knowledge into every hand. Sanctify all our prosperity. Let the blessings of religion reach every household and every heart. Honour this people by employing them as chief instruments in giving to every nation the grace that bringeth salvation. Be thou our God, and we will be thy people!

National Prayer 2 - Corporate

Almighty Lord, the Most High God, by whom kings reign, and princes decree justice! Thou puttest down one, and settest up another; and there are no powers but of thee; the powers that be are ordained of God. Thy word directs us to pray for our country, for all that are in authority. And both in duty and inclination I become a petitioner to thy heavenly Majesty for all our governors and superiors. Give them thy judgments, O God, that they may judge thy people righteously, and break in pieces their oppressors. Give them the spirit of government, and wisdom to discern between good and evil; make them rulers after thine own heart, in all things excellent and praiseworthy. O make them obedient to thee; and rule their hearts in thy fear and love, that they may rule thy people to thy honour and glory. In our days let the righteous flourish, and enjoy abundance of peace, with the liberty of thy gospel, and the free profession of thy true and holy religion. Bless our arms with good success and victory; and our government with all happiness and prosperity. O keep us as the apple of thine eye; hide us under the shadow of thy wings; that no mischief may befall us.

Give, Lord, unto all our rulers a mind and spirit suitable to their situations. Make them a terror only to evil-doers, and a praise to them that do well. O that they may use for thee all the power which they have received from thee, not bearing the sword in vain; but curbing and suppressing all vice and ungodliness; and defending and encouraging whatever is holy, just, and good. O give them wisdom to understand, and hearts to consider, and abilities to redress the grievances of thy people; that under their protection we may lead quiet and peaceable lives, in all godliness and honesty.

And grant, O Lord, that I, and all my fellow-citizens may submit to every ordinance of man, for thy sake; and in conscience towards God, yield obedience to the powers which thou hast ordained. Let the fear of God teach us to honour our rulers; and a sense of our duty to thee keep us within the bounds of our duty to them; that we may not bring an evil report upon our holy profession; but put to silence the ignorance of foolish men, by well-doing. And may all rulers so rule, and subjects so obey; and every one of us, from the highest to the lowest, understand and seek after God (seeking thee, Lord, whilst thou mayest be found, and calling upon thee while thou art near) that thou mayest not root us out from being a people (as we have justly merited) but be still our God, and do us good in the accustomed ways of thy loving-kindness to us, through the Son of thy love, our blessed Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Manual of Devotion, 119-121

Pregnancy – Prayer 1

Regard thine handmaid, who is looking forward to an important hour. Be not Thou far from her when trouble is near. May her mind be kept in perfect peace, being stayed upon the God of her salvation. Bring to the birth, and give strength to bring forth. Soften the pains of labour, as well as command deliverance; and in due time, may she remember no more her anguish, for joy that a child is born into the world. And may the root and the branch, abide under the shade of the Almighty. *Treasury of Heavenly Incense, 588-589*

Pregnancy – Prayer 2 – Thanksgiving for Safe Delivery - Corporate

We bless Thee, on behalf of thine handmaid, who is now saying, “I love the Lord, because he hath heard my voice, and my supplication.” Thou hast been with her in the hour of pain and peril, and made her the joyful mother of a living and well formed infant. Complete thy goodness by the renewal of her strength, and her ability to appear again in all the duties of her important station. Let the impressions produced by recent mercies, be rendered as durable as they are lively: may she remember, and pay Thee the vows, which her soul made when in trouble. May the life spared, and the life given, be dear in thy sight, and devoted to thy glory; and may every addition made to the world of creatures, be found an accession to the church of the living God. *Treasury of Heavenly Incense, 589*

Sickness – Prayer 1

Blessed and Only Potentate, in thy power are the springs of disease and the secrets of health. Thou makest sore, and bindest up: thou woundest, and thy hands make whole. If thou speak the word, the season of my sickness shall melt away into the refreshing glow of health: but if thou command it otherwise, it will change to the cold and gloomy darkness of death and the grave. Lord, make me content to leave its issues with thee. If it be thy will, then raise me up, to praise thee in the land of the living. But if not, prepare me for the valley of the shadow of death. May thy rod and staff comfort me, and thy hand minister unto me an entrance abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Heavenly Parent, visit in great mercy, all that lie on beds of languishing. Induce them to reflect that disease is a mournful proof of human transgression. May they regard their sickness as the light recompense of their iniquities; and as the discipline of thy hand, which will either

prepare them for better service on earth, and nobler enjoyment in heaven—or leave them to greater hardness of heart in this world, and deeper condemnation in the world to come. O Lord of Mercy, relieve their pains, or give them grace to bear them with enduring patience. Let them neither despise thy chastenings, nor faint at thy rebukes. Grant them confidence in thy wisdom, mercy, and power: for thou canst not err in thy judgment—thy chastenings work out the peaceable fruits of righteousness—and thy strength is made perfect in human weakness. May the light of thy countenance be more desirable to them, than even the gladness of returning health. O teach them in these hours of suffering, how brief and uncertain are earthly comforts—how weak and brittle is their hold on human life. Incline them, I pray thee, to renounce every human hope, and to look unto Jesus, as the great and only Physician of the soul. May they, by the exercise of faith in his atoning blood, consecrate themselves to him, that whether living or dying, they may be the Lord's.

Merciful Father, shed thy most tender compassions over those whose sickness is unto death. May thy saints be stayed in their hour of trial, upon thine everlasting arm, and go through the swelling tide with hope in their hearts, and rejoicing on their lips.—O let not the sinner venture to encounter the king of terrors with sullen indifference, nor deceptive hope. Although a death-bed repentance be an uncertain ground of trust, yet thy grace, which is sufficient for every emergency of life, can still redeem him, even in the gates of dissolution. O Jesus, speak to him, as thou didst to the thief on the cross, “Today shalt thou be with me in Paradise.”

Sickness – Prayer 2 – Corporate

O our Good God, Lord, and Father, the Creator and Preserver of all things, we most earnestly pray unto thee, to have pity on this thy suffering servant. O Lord, enter not into judgment with him, according to his works; but through thine infinite mercy remit all his sins, for which thou hast chastised him so gently. Behold the obedience which thy dear Son Jesus Christ our Lord has rendered unto thee, namely the sacrifice which it hath pleased thee to accept as a full recompense for all the iniquities of them that receive him for their righteousness and satisfaction, yea, for their only Saviour. O Lord, dispose and move his heart to receive by thy grace with all meekness this fatherly correction, submitting himself with heart and mind to thy blessed will and favourable mercy. If it be thy holy will, bless means for his speedy and entire recovery. Heal him, O Lord, and he shall be healed. But if it be thy will to remove him hence, make him feel in his soul the fruit and strength of thy grace, that thereby he may have a new taste of thy fatherly care over him, from the beginning of his life to its very end, for the love of thy dear Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Let him be under thy protection and guidance, O heavenly Father. Though he be sick, yet thou canst heal him. He is cast down; but thou canst lift him up. He is sore troubled, but thou canst relieve. He is weak, but thou canst send strength. He acknowledges his uncleanness, his blemishes, his sins, but thou canst wash him and make him clean. He is wounded, but thou canst administer most sovereign cure. He is fearful and trembling, but thou canst give him good courage and boldness. He is a lost sheep, but thou canst call him home to thee again. Vouchsafe to show him thy mercy, for the sake of thy beloved Son, who by the shameful and accursed death of the cross, bare our sins; and O acknowledge thy sinful servant, as one redeemed with that precious blood. Receive him into the communion of Christ's body, to partake of eternal happiness in the company of thy blessed angels. Give him thy grace, that with a good heart and full assurance of faith, he may receive to his consolation so great a treasure, even the remission of his sins in Jesus Christ thy Son. Grant these requests, O Father, for the sake of thy beloved

Son our Saviour Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in unity of the Holy Ghost, true God, evermore. Amen. *Manual of Devotion, 99-100*

Sickness – Prayer 3 – Critical Condition - Corporate

O most Merciful God, we know that thou dost not delight in the sufferings of thy creatures, and dost not willingly afflict them; but our sins have provoked thy displeasure; for thou canst not be pleased with the workers of iniquity. All our troubles and afflictions come of our sins; and yet thy strokes, when they seem most severe, are always lighter than our crimes. We have much reason to wonder at thy patience and forbearance towards us, thy sinful creatures. Thou hast not dealt with us after our sins, nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. And still we would cry, “Enter not into judgment with thy servants, for in thy sight shall no man living be justified. If thou, Lord, mark iniquities, who, O Lord, shall stand?” but there is forgiveness with thee, that thou mayest be feared: and with thee is mercy and plenteous redemption. We would now, with unfeigned sorrow, confess unto thee our manifold sins and transgressions of heart and life, of omission and commission. They are more than the hairs of our head; and they are not only many in number, but heinous in thy sight; for we have not only sinned ignorantly, but against light and the convictions of our own conscience. We have not only rejected the admonitions and counsels of thy word, but have also often resisted and quenched thy Holy Spirit. We have, therefore, no cloak or excuse for our sins, but confess that we are verily guilty in thy sight, and deserve to suffer all that misery which thou hast threatened in thy holy law, against transgressors; yet, O Lord, in the midst of wrath remember mercy. According to the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out our transgressions, for the sake of Christ, who has died that sinners might live. We cannot but rejoice to know from thy infallible oracles, that he is able to save to the uttermost all that come unto thee by him; seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them. On this sure word our souls would trust. May this blessed Mediator undertake our cause. May he officiate as our great High Priest, and offer his meritorious propitiation in our behalf. May he be our Advocate, and by his love and by his merit bring us off conquerors and more than conquerors.

O most Merciful God, we desire at this time, to commend to thee our friend and companion, who lies dangerously ill among us. Have compassion, we beseech thee, on this afflicted man; and if it please thee heal him, and raise him from this bed of pain and disease, that he may have further time added to his life, in which he may repent of his sins, amend his life, and prepare more thoroughly for death and eternity. O Lord, take him not away in his sins, in an impenitent and unreconciled state; but even now, shed light upon his dark mind, and bring him to the knowledge of the truth as it is in Jesus. O grant him ability to believe in Christ with all his heart; for all things are possible to him that believeth; and as at the last hour, thou didst grant repentance and pardon to the dying thief, so manifest thy power and grace in the pardon of the sins of this distressed man; and let him be renewed in the spirit of his mind, that he may be meet for thy kingdom. Amen. *Manual of Devotion, 102-104*

Sickness – Prayer 4 – Corporate

Think, O Lord, for good upon the afflicted; especially him (or her) whom we now commend to thy compassionate regard. Comfort him upon the bed of languishing, and make all his bed in his sickness. If the sickness be unto death, prepare him for the solemn event, and be with him in it. But we are allowed to implore deliverance, with submission; nothing is too hard for the Lord;

Thou canst heal as well as wound—we therefore pray, if it be thy good pleasure, that Thou wilt put efficacy into the means; rebuke the disorder; renew the strength; and prolong the days of thy servant. Above all let the dispensation be sanctified to the sufferer and his connexions; and may all have reason to acknowledge, in the review, it is good for me that I have been afflicted.

Treasury of Heavenly Incense, 590

Sickness – Prayer 5 – Prayer for the Dying – Corporate

O the Hope of Israel, the Saviour thereof in time of trouble! When all other hope and help fails, it is not in vain to seek unto thee for succour, who canst bring back from the mouth of the grave, and quicken the very dead; and where thou art not pleased any further to prolong the temporal life, yet canst deliver us from eternal death, and bring us safe to blessedness and glory. We think it too late to beg the recovery of thy servant, O Lord, now that he seems to us going the way of all flesh, and just launching forth into his everlasting condition. But though the time of his departure appears to be at hand, yet we cannot think it too late to beg thy mercy for him, as long as his life is in him. And as we cannot but be greatly concerned for him, so we know not how better to express this our concern for him, than in beseeching thee to be good and gracious unto him.

O Lord our God, leave him not, nor forsake him; but support and assist him now in his sorest extremities, in his last agonies, when he is to conflict with the king of terrors: let him find the most sweet and seasonable aids from thee the God of his salvation; and take him not out of this life till thou hast fitted him for a better. O thou Ever-Living God, stand by him in the dying hour; and secure him in thy hands from the enemies of his soul: and finish the work of thy grace upon his heart. Freely and fully pardon and deliver him from all his sins; and fit him to appear with comfort and rejoicing in thy blessed presence, through the righteousness of Christ. O make his departure easy and full of peace and hope. Carry him safe through the valley of the shadow of death, and let him find a joyful admission into the everlasting kingdom of his Lord. Into thy hands, O Lord, we commend his spirit: O thou Father of mercies be merciful to him, and receive his departing soul; and when he is numbered among the dead, let him also be numbered among the redeemed and blessed of the Lord, for his sake, who himself died for sinners and rose again, and lives, and is alive for evermore, and has the keys of death and of hell. To thy mercy in that blessed Saviour of the world, O most Merciful Father, we now humbly recommend him; beseeching thee to be all in all to him, and infinitely better than we are worthy or able to ask for him. And let him be thine in life, and death, and for evermore, through the all-sufficient merits and mediation of thy dear Son, our most prevailing Advocate and Redeemer, Jesus Christ.

Amen. *Manual of Devotion, 110-111*

Sickness – Prayer 6 – Prevalent Disease – Corporate

O Lord God, the Giver of our health, which is the blessing that sweetens all the other blessings of our lives; it is only of thy mercy that any of us have any measure of health continued to us. And, O how just were it with thee, utterly to take away from us that health which we have so greatly abused to a forgetfulness of thee, and to wantonness against thee! How justly mightest thou smite us with the most sharp and noisome diseases, and hurry us out of the land of the living, by signal and desolating judgments! Our flesh trembles for fear of thee, and we are afraid of thy judgments; lest thou shouldest pierce us with the arrows of the Almighty, and sweep us

away with the besom of destruction. But, O thou hope of Israel, the Saviour thereof in time of trouble, regard not our ill deserts; but remember thy own tender mercies, and gracious promises; and have pity on us; and turn away this plague from us. Put a stop to disease, and say to the destroying angel, “It is enough”: that we may no longer be afraid of the terror by night, or of the arrow that flieth by day, or of the pestilence that walketh in darkness, or of the destruction that wasteth at noon-day; but may with ease in our minds and gladness in our hearts, serve thee the only true God, and devote to thee the life and health which thou hast spared. Of thy tender mercy, look down on those of our number who are laid on the bed of languishing. Thou art the great Physician: thou art the Lord who healest us. Command thy blessing, heavenly Father, on the means which are used; and be present to heal both body and soul. Awaken to reflection those whom thou dost chastise, and instruct them out of thy law. Reveal to them the Lord Jesus, as the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world. And O have mercy on any who are near to death! Grant that none may be driven away in their wickedness, but that all may have hope in their death. O hear us in this hour of our necessity, and let our cry come unto thee, through the merits and intercession of thy dear Son, our most compassionate and prevailing Mediator, Jesus Christ. Amen. *Manual of Devotion, 112-113*

Sickness – Prayer 7 – Healing and Recovery – Corporate

All our times are in thy hand. All diseases come at thy call, and go at thy bidding. Thou redeemest our life from destruction, and crownest us with loving-kindness and tender mercies. We bless Thee, that Thou hast heard our prayer, and commanded deliverance for our friend and thy servant, who has been under thine afflicting hand. He (or she) was brought low, but Thou hast helped him: Thou hast chastened him sore, but not delivered him over unto death. May he not only live, but declare the works of the Lord.

As Thou hast delivered his eyes from tears, his feet from falling, and his soul from death, may he daily inquire, “What shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits towards me?” and resolve to offer unto Thee the sacrifices of thanksgiving and to call upon the name of the Lord.

And may we ever remember, that a recovery is only a reprieve; that the sentence which dooms us to the dust is only suspended; and, that at most, when a few years are come, we shall go the way whence we shall not return. May we, therefore, secure the one thing needful; and live with eternity in view. *Treasury of Heavenly Incense, 590-591*

Temptation

Great God, make me realize that I live in constant danger of temptations from foes without and enemies within. Satan, with his countless wiles—my own heart, with its self-deceit and sensuality—the world, with its many lures—each seeks to draw me from the paths of duty, and to lead me in the ways of unrighteousness. Lord, thou hast, indeed, purposes of wisdom, in suffering me to be thus subject to temptation. Thou canst overrule it for my conformity to Christ, who was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. It is in such seasons, O Most High, that thy strength is made perfect in our weakness; and that we are enabled to glory in our infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest on us. And thou often givest us, in mercy, the messengers of Satan, to buffet us, lest we be exalted above measure. They that are tried, and found faithful, shall receive a crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.

Heavenly Father, make thy grace sufficient for me in every season of trial—in the hour of adversity—in the day of prosperity—in the period when exemption from temptation has left me open to seduction—and when the abounding consolations of thy Spirit have been perverted into heedlessness towards the spiritual dangers which beset me. Give me wisdom to discover, and strength to resist, the approach of evil. Let me say at every enticement, "How can I do this wickedness, and sin against God?" May I watch unto prayer, knowing that thou art a very present help in every hour of need; and that thou wilt, with the temptation, also make a way of escape, for all that are of thy heritage.—Lord, carry me safely through every danger, and in thine own time, give me an inheritance among those who have come out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white, in the blood of the Lamb!

Traveling – Prayer 1

O Thou that directest the steps of men, preserve me from accident, sickness, and death, when I am absent from home; and restore me to its comforts and privileges, refreshed and strengthened for all its various duties. I beseech thee especially, that thou wouldst warn me against the spiritual dangers to which I am exposed in such seasons; and do thou enable me to escape them, and gather profit to myself, and do good to others, in all my journeyings. Suffer me not to neglect secret prayer, nor the reading of thy word. Let not my mind be dissipated by idleness, nor my soul be corrupted by pleasure. Permit not my character to take its colour from every object it meets. If I must mingle with the wicked, allow me to have no fellowship with their works of darkness, but rather to reprove them. Let me not profane thy holy Sabbath by continuing to travel on it; nor refrain from its services, when I rest through its sacred hours. And suffer me not to do any thing which I would avoid amid the restraints of the family, or among those that know me.—May I make the Bible my companion, and the throne of grace my home, in all my travels. Give me courage and grace to defend the truth, and to do good, as I have opportunity. Make me realize that wherever I go, thine eye is upon me; and let this impression make the state of my heart, and the tenor of my life, such as become a profession of godliness.—O may I say, at the outset of every journey with thy servant of old, "Lord, if thy presence go not with me, carry me not up hence."

Traveling – Prayer 2 – Corporate

God, Thou hast called thyself the Preserver of men, and the length of our days. We are therefore encouraged to commit ourselves to thy guardian care, in the journey before us. Many have parted with their friends, with the hope of soon embracing each other again, but instead of returning again to their own dwelling, have been conveyed to the house appointed for all living. We pray, with submission to thy pleasure, that this may not be our experience. Give thine angels charge concerning us, to keep us in all our ways. Let no evil befall our persons, and no plague come nigh our dwelling. May we know also that all our tabernacle is in peace, and visit our habitation, and not sin. Yet uncertain what a day may bring forth, may we be prepared for every event of thy providence; and wherever, in dying, we go from, may it be our happiness to know where we are going to—and rejoice in the prospect, that when all our wanderings and partings are ended, we shall unite in our heavenly Father's house, and be forever with the Lord. *Treasury of Heavenly Incense, 585-586*

Traveling – Prayer 3

O Thou, whose eyes are everywhere, who art God over all, blessed for ever, I adore thee as my protector and guide in all my wanderings; and I beseech thee to guard and save those beloved friends and relations, from whom I am now separated. More especially look in mercy on [my dear wife and children] and all the members of my absent household. Watch over them for good. Preserve them from danger both of body and soul. Keep them in thy faith and fear. Draw them, and me, each day more near to thee, that so we may be more near to each other, in the bonds of the gospel of peace. Manifest thyself to their souls. Give them an abundant measure of thy Holy Spirit. Teach them to live less for the world, and more with a single eye to thy glory. If it be thy holy will, so order our pilgrimage, that we may once more meet one another in peace, after continued experience of thy goodness. And O that it might please thee to make our very trials, and this our distance from each other, the means or occasion of great spiritual good. Let no one of our number remain unreconciled to thee. [Give thy guardian care and fatherly blessing, to the house which thou hast made my home. At this very moment, may it please thee, to shed thy rich favours on its members, whether old or young.] Cover us all with the perfect righteousness of Jesus Christ, in which is our only hope of justification. And however separated here below, keep us rejoicing in the prospect of the glory which is to be revealed; when all thy scattered children shall meet in the city of their God, to sin, to weep, to part no more: for Christ's sake, Amen.

Manual of Devotion, 118-119

Traveling – Prayer 4 – Thankfulness for a Safe Return – Corporate

As the Keeper of Israel, Thou hast been with us, not only in the house, but by the way. We might have been injured by wicked and unreasonable men. We might have been left groaning under the pain of bruised limbs or fractured bones. Our lives might have been spilt like water on the ground, which cannot be gathered up again; and the first tidings that reached our friends might have plunged them into anguish. But all our bones can say, “Who is a God like unto Thee?” Thy secret too in our absence has been upon our tabernacle, and secured it from all evil. O that it may be the tabernacle of the righteous; and be ever filled, not only with the voice of rejoicing but of praise. And be with us in all the future journey of life. Guide us by thy counsel. Uphold us by thy power; and supply all our wants, till we come to our Father's house in peace.

Treasury of Heavenly Incense, 586

War – Prayer 1

God of Peace, give me a heart to mourn over the temporal and spiritual woes that have been inflicted on our guilty race by war. For from the days of ungodly Cain, contention and carnage have filled up the measure of every generation; and thou hast written the proof of human depravity, in the whole history of the world; every page of which is red with the blood of man.

Lord, instruct all men in relation to the evils and remedies of war. Show them that it involves nations in oppressive debt, cripples the productive industry of countries, and spreads poverty and desolation over the homes of plenty and comfort. Let their sympathies follow its ravages, where it makes the parent childless, the wife a widow, the child an orphan, and the sister brotherless. May they dwell on the bleeding wounds, and the dying strife of the battle-field, where untold millions have been cut off in the midst of health and life. And O, let their deep compassions

pursue its havoc into that land of souls, where these crowds of immortal spirits have been driven; alas, how seldom with any hope of salvation!

I bless thee, gracious God, that the thoughts of the humane and good have been directed to this subject, in the hope of lessening and banishing its evils; and that a public sentiment is forming, which acknowledges its woes, and seeks its suppression. Do thou reconcile, upon the basis of truth, every discordant opinion and measure for its extirpation. Unite for this object, the desires and efforts of the benevolent and pious in every land. Let thy blessed gospel, which is peace on earth, supplant everywhere that selfishness and revenge, which are the fruitful sources of national strife. O God, break the bow; burn the chariot in the fire; beat the sword into a ploughshare, and the spear into a pruninghook; and make wars to cease unto the end of the earth!

War – Prayer 2 - Corporate

O Sovereign Lord, who for our sins art justly displeased, I prostrate myself before Thee, confessing my own sin and the sin of this people; acknowledging the justice of any scourge which Thou shall think fit to bring upon us; and trembling to think how much I may have contributed towards it.

Thou hast already spoken to us, both by thy judgments and mercies, both by the scarcity and plenty of bread, and we have not regarded it. Thou hast taken away the lives of many, very many, in their very sins, by which numerous widows and fatherless children have been left miserable. The sins of licentiousness and drunkenness, of swearing, lying, and perjury; of litigiousness, injustice, and defrauding the public; are made light of. The sins of impiety, of profaneness; of despising the means of grace and salvation, are too common amongst us. What shall we say to prevail with God to avert the judgments which these sins deserve?

God be merciful unto us, and put a stop to this torrent of wickedness, put thy fear into all our hearts, that we may return to Thee; that we may repent, and bring forth fruit meet for repentance; and that iniquity may not be our ruin. May the dread of thy now threatened judgments deter us from evil;—may thy goodness and patience lead us to repentance: —weaken the power of Satan; —take from among us the spirit of slumber, of ignorance, and inconsideration.

Let every one of us see and feel the plague of his own heart, and say, what have I done to bring these evils upon us? So that bringing forth fruits answerable to amendment of life, we may escape the judgment now hanging over us; and above all, thy judgment against sinners in the world to come. And this I beg for Jesus Christ his sake.—Amen.

Treasury of Heavenly Incense, 593-594

War – Prayer 3 – Peace - Corporate

O God of peace, who makest wars to cease to the ends of the earth; who breakest the bow and cuttest the spear asunder, and burnest the chariot in the fire; thou hast in mercy put a stop to the effusion of blood, and made peace in our borders; thou hast rebuked the nations, and caused them to beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; that every man might sit under his own vine and fig tree, none making him afraid. O how sweet is thy mercy, and reviving, even as life from the dead! And thou, Lord, who hast given us peace, O give us also grace to use it to thy glory, and to walk the more freely and cheerfully in thy holy ways. And let us not only have peace with men, but also with thee, our God; even that peace which passeth all understanding, which shall keep our hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. And forgive, we

beseech thee, every breach of the law of love, of which we have been guilty, whether in public service, or in our private capacity.

O that we may be sensible of the kindness and love of God our Saviour, and ever give thee thanks with all our souls! Dear Father of mercies, rather take all our good things from us, than leave us in a state of base ingratitude and stupid indifference. O let our hearts be enlarged in thy love, and be lifted up in the celebration of thy praises! and may all thy works, and all thy servants bless thee, and praise thee for ever! And may we have grace to express the thankfulness of our hearts in the whole conduct of our lives; devoting ourselves to thee in faithfulness, as long as we have any being. Confirm thy blessing to our country, our governors, our armed forces, and all our companions and our enemies; for Christ's sake. Amen and Amen.

Manual of Devotion, 117-118

Appendix 1: Biblical Themes

Genesis	50 chapters	Creation/Creation of Israel
Exodus	40 chapters	Escape from Egypt
Leviticus	27 chapters	The Laws of Israel
Numbers	36 chapters	Journey to the Promised Land
Deuteronomy	34 chapters	Review/Renewal of the Covenant
Joshua	24 chapters	Conquest of Canaan
Judges	21 chapters	Judgment and Deliverance
Ruth	4 chapters	The Kinsman Redeemer/The Virtuous Woman
1 Samuel	31 chapters	The Reign of Saul
2 Samuel	24 chapters	The Reign of David
1 Kings	22 chapters	The Reign of Solomon and the Divided Kingdom
2 Kings	25 chapters	History of the Divided Kingdom
1 Chronicles	29 chapters	The Reign of David
2 Chronicles	36 chapters	History of the Southern Kingdom
Ezra	10 chapters	Return from Captivity/Rebuild the Temple
Nehemiah	13 chapters	Rebuild the Wall
Esther	10 chapters	Persecution and Providence
Job	42 chapters	The Problem of Suffering
Psalms	150 chapters	Israel's Inspired Songbook
Proverbs	31 chapters	God's Wisdom for Daily Life
Ecclesiastes	12 chapters	The Ultimate Meaning of Life
Song of Solomon	8 chapters	God's Love for His Covenant People ⁶
Isaiah	66 chapters	The Messianic Prophet/Assyrian Assault
Jeremiah	52 chapters	Jerusalem v. Babylon
Lamentations	5 chapters	Lament over Jerusalem
Ezekiel	48 chapters	Prophecies from the Captivity
Daniel	12 chapters	The Prophet of Babylon
Hosea	14 chapters	The Adultery of Israel – Repent!
Joel	3 chapters	The Coming Day of the Lord – Repent!
Amos	9 chapters	Judgment against Israel – Repent!
Obadiah	1 chapter	Judgement against Edom
Jonah	4 chapters	Grace to Nineveh/Grace to Jonah
Micah	7 chapters	Judgement against Israel and Judah
Nahum	3 chapters	Judgment against Nineveh
Habakkuk	3 chapters	Judgement against Babylon
Zephaniah	3 chapters	Judgement against Judah
Haggai	2 chapters	Rebuild the Temple
Zechariah	14 chapters	Rebuild the Temple
Malachi	4 chapters	Final Message to a Disobedient People

⁶ There are multiple interpretive schemes for this book within the Reformed community. The Allegorical approach views the entire composition as an allegory depicting God and Israel/Christ and the Church. The Typological approach views the composition as historically based in Solomon's relationship with his bride, yet highly typological in intent. The dramatic approach views the composition as a drama which is historically based in Solomon's attempt to lure the Shulamite away from her beloved shepherd, with the moral application of faithful love, which could be extended to depict God's love for His covenant people.

Matthew	28 chapters	Jesus, the Promised Messiah
Mark	16 chapters	Jesus, The Suffering Servant
Luke	24 chapters	Jesus, Savior of the Gentiles
John	21 chapters	Jesus, the Divine Word
Acts	28 chapters	The Expansion of the Gospel
Romans	16 chapters	Paul's Exposition of the Gospel
1 Corinthians	16 chapters	The Corruption of the Corinthian Church
2 Corinthians	13 chapters	Paul's Apologia – A Defense of His Ministry and Apostolic Authority
Galatians	6 chapters	Apostasy from the Gospel of Grace
Ephesians	6 chapters	The Predestinating Grace of God
Philippians	4 chapters	Joy in the Gospel
Colossians	4 chapters	The Preeminence of Christ
1 Thessalonians	5 chapters	The Return of Christ
2 Thessalonians	3 chapters	The Timing of Christ's Return
1 Timothy	6 chapters	Paul's Pastoral Counsel to Timothy
2 Timothy	4 chapters	Paul's Final Counsel to Timothy
Titus	3 chapters	Order in the Church of Crete
Philemon	1 chapter	The Return of a Slave in Christ
Hebrews	13 chapters	The Superiority of Christ
James	5 chapters	Wisdom for Living the Christian Life
1 Peter	5 chapters	The Time of Trial
2 Peter	3 chapters	Apostasy of False Teachers
1 John	5 chapters	The Love of God in the Life of the Church
2 John	1 chapter	Caution Against False Teachers
3 John	1 chapter	The Reception of John's Helpers
Jude	1 chapter	Apostasy of False Teachers
Revelation	22 chapters	The History of the Church from First to Second Advent ⁷

⁷ There are multiple interpretive schemes for this book within the Reformed community. The predominant view historically has been that of the Historicist school, which understands the Book of Revelation as a revealed history of the Church between the first and second advents. The Idealist view understands the book to portray the struggle between the Church and its enemies and is applicable to all ages of the Church. The Preterist view understands the prophesied events recorded in the book to be largely limited to the era of the first century, while the Futurist view understands the prophesied events to be largely fulfilled in the future shortly before the second advent.

Appendix 2: Helps for Devotional Exercises

1. Set aside a dedicated time each day for Bible reading and prayer. Choose a time and place where you can conduct your devotional exercises free of distraction.
2. Before your daily Scripture reading, pray for the Holy Spirit's illumination.

Prayer for Illumination:

O Ever Blessed God and Father! My soul would rejoice, and my heart would exult with gladness within me, when I reflect on thy exuberant goodness towards me, in permitting me to enjoy thy word, through which I may learn thy works and will to my comfort, in all tribulations and adversities. But especially would I thank Thee, that while the precious volume of thy word, is to multitudes who profess the Christian name, a sealed book, and they are fed with the mere husks of the traditions of men, from which they cannot derive the least true comfort or instructions, Thou hast granted me the gracious privilege of reading and contemplating these sacred oracles. Grant, therefore, O Father, that I may ever make a due improvement of these invaluable blessings, by attentively reading and inwardly digesting the precious truths and doctrines contained in thy holy word. And, inasmuch as I cannot, in consequence of my natural depravity, read and understand thy word without the blessed influences of thy Holy Spirit, O be pleased to pour out thy Spirit into my heart, to the enlightening of my mind, in order that I may comprehend and understand it, and incline Thou my will to exercise a true faith and yield a cheerful and unwavering obedience to all thy will and commandments. Forbid that thy word should ever prove a dead letter, or become a savour of death unto death to me, but grant that it may be a savour of life unto life, and a seed of regeneration. Grant that this seed may take deep root within me, and bring forth much fruit unto everlasting life; that I may be thereby constrained to make progress in the amendment of my whole life—be greatly consoled and borne up in all trials and temptations—be strengthened in faith and patience, and confirmed in all manner of good works, and thus be edified unto life eternal. May it not only sound in my ears, but also penetrate my heart, so that I may continue faithful in the confession of the truth unto the end, and finally receive the end of my faith, even the salvation of my soul, through Jesus Christ my Mediator and Redeemer.—Amen. *Treasury of Heavenly Incense, 348-350*

3. Know and memorize the theme for the particular Bible book you will be reading. See *Biblical Themes* above.
4. As you read, take note of God's warnings and promises. Read with self-application and obedience in mind.
5. Remember that Christ is on every page of Scripture!
6. Memorize the promises of God.
7. Strive for balance in prayer. Include elements of adoration, confession, thanksgiving, and supplication.

8. Remember that you were created to worship God (privately, corporately, and the entire context of your life). Hence, private worship is of the highest priority in your daily schedule. Do not allow other matters or concerns to encroach upon this time.

9. Do not put off daily devotional exercises simply because you do not feel like engaging in personal worship. Such feelings are actually an indicator of just how much you truly do need ongoing communion with God.

10. Remember that man's chief end is to glorify God, and to ENJOY Him. Let the hour of devotion become the most anticipated and gratifying part of your day.

“But *it is* good for me to draw near to God; I have put my trust in the Lord GOD, that I may declare all Your works.”

Psalm 73:28
