

+ CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION +

798 THE GOD OF ABRAHAM PRAISE

sts. 1, 3

1 The God of Abr'ham praise,

Who reigns enthroned above;

Ancient of everlasting days And God of love.

Jehovah, great I AM!

By earth and heav'n confessed;

I bow and bless the sacred name Forever blest.

3 The God of Abr'ham praise,

Whose all-sufficient grace

Shall guide me all my pilgrim days In all my ways.

He deigns to call me friend;

He calls Himself my God.

And He shall save me to the end Through Jesus' blood.

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P In the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

(Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.)

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all

your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠
Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

798 *THE GOD OF ABRAHAM PRAISE*

sts. 8–9

8 The God who reigns on high
The great archangels sing,
And “Holy, holy, holy!” cry,
“Almighty King!
Who was and is the same
And evermore shall be:
Jehovah, Father, great I AM!
We worship Thee!”

△ 9 The whole triumphant host
Give thanks to God on high.
“Hail, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!”
They ever cry.
Hail, Abr’ham’s God and mine!
I join the heav’nly lays:
All might and majesty are Thine
And endless praise!

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SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +

Old Testament Reading: MALACHI 3:1, 13—4:6

3:1 “I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come,” says the Lord Almighty.

3:13 “You have spoken arrogantly against me,” says the Lord. “Yet you ask, ‘What have we said against you?’

14 “You have said, ‘It is futile to serve God. What do we gain by carrying out his requirements and going about like mourners before the Lord Almighty? 15 But now we call the arrogant blessed.

Certainly, evildoers prosper, and even when they put God to the test, they get away with it.’”

16 Then those who feared the Lord talked with each other, and the Lord listened and heard. A scroll of remembrance was written in his presence concerning those who feared the Lord and honored his name.

17 “On the day when I act,” says the Lord Almighty, “they will be my treasured possession. I will spare them, just as a father has compassion and spares his son who serves him. 18 And you will again see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between those who serve God and those who do not.

4 “Surely the day is coming; it will burn like a furnace. All the arrogant and every evildoer will be stubble, and the day that is coming will set them on fire,” says the Lord Almighty. “Not a root or a branch will be left to them. 2 But for you who revere my name, the

sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its rays. And you will go out and frolic like well-fed calves. 3 Then you will trample on the wicked; they will be ashes under the soles of your feet on the day when I act,” says the Lord Almighty.

4 “Remember the law of my servant Moses, the decrees and laws I gave him at Horeb for all Israel.

5 “See, I will send the prophet Elijah to you before that great and dreadful day of the Lord comes. 6 He will turn the hearts of the parents to their children, and the hearts of the children to their parents; or else I will come and strike the land with total destruction.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 11:1–15 NIV

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eleventh chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹After Jesus had finished instructing his twelve disciples, he went on from there to teach and preach in the towns of Galilee.

2 When John, who was in prison, heard about the deeds of the Messiah, he sent his disciples 3 to ask him, “Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?”

4 Jesus replied, “Go back and report to John what you hear and see: 5 The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the

good news is proclaimed to the poor. 6 Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me.”

7 As John’s disciples were leaving, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swayed by the wind? 8 If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear fine clothes are in kings’ palaces. 9 Then what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. 10 This is the one about whom it is written:

*“I will send my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.”*

11 Truly I tell you, among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. 12 From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been subjected to violence, and violent people have been raiding it. 13 For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John. 14 And if you are willing to accept it, he is the Elijah who was to come. 15 Whoever has ears, let them hear.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

- 1 Stand up, and bless the Lord,
ye people of His choice;
stand up, and bless the Lord your God
with heart, and soul, and voice.
- 4 God is our strength and song,
and His salvation ours;
then be His love in Christ proclaimed
with all our ransomed pow'rs.
- 5 Stand up and bless the Lord,
the Lord your God adore;
stand up, and bless His glorious Name
henceforth for evermore.

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MESSAGE: THE STORY, CHAPTER 21, REBUILDING THE WALLS

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 His 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 and 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 at the right hand of the Father.**

**And He will come again with glory to judge both the
living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped
and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.**

**And I believe in one holy Christian 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.**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

+ THE LORD'S SUPPER +

INTRODUCTION

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✝ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying:

“Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

COMMUNION HYMN: HWC 411 THE JOY OF THE LORD

- 1 The joy of the Lord is my strength,
the joy of the Lord is my strength,
The joy of the Lord is my strength,
the joy of the Lord is my strength
- 2 He heals the brokenhearted and they cry no more,
He heals the brokenhearted and they cry no more.
He heals the brokenhearted and they cry no more,
the joy of the Lord is my strength
- 3 He gives me living water and I thirst no more,
He gives me living water and I thirst no more.
He gives me living water and I thirst no more,
the joy of the Lord is my strength

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BENEDICTION

LSB 183

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be
gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C Amen.

LSB 922 GO, MY CHILDREN, WITH MY BLESSING sts. 1–4

1 Go, My children, with My blessing, Never alone.

Waking, sleeping, I am with you; You are My own.

In My love's baptismal river

I have made you Mine forever.

Go, My children, with My blessing—You are My own.

2 Go, My children, sins forgiven, At peace and pure.

Here you learned how much I love you, What I can cure.

Here you heard My dear Son's story;

Here you touched Him, saw His glory.

Go, My children, sins forgiven, At peace and pure.

3 Go, My children, fed and nourished, Closer to Me;

Grow in love and love by serving, Joyful and free.

Here My Spirit's power filled you;

Here His tender comfort stilled you.

Go, My children, fed and nourished, Joyful and free.

4 I the Lord will bless and keep you And give you peace;
I the Lord will smile upon you And give you peace:
I the Lord will be your Father,
Savior, Comforter, and Brother.
Go, My children; I will keep you And give you peace.

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