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# LUTHERAN SERVICE BOOK

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## *Pastoral Care Companion*

*Prepared by*  
The Commission on Worship  
of  
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod



## LUTHERAN SERVICE BOOK

*Pastoral Care Companion (03-1178)*

ALSO AVAILABLE:

*Altar Book (03-1176)*

*Agenda (03-1177)*



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# INTRODUCTION

## *Pastoral Care Companion*

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The *Pastoral Care Companion* contains all the rites and blessings from the *Lutheran Service Book: Agenda* that the pastor will need for pastoral care outside of the chancel and nave. Overviews and extensive notes on each of these rites are provided in the main *Agenda*. In addition to these “traveling rites,” the *Pastoral Care Companion* also contains Resources for Pastoral Care that cover a wide range of issues that a pastor may encounter in ministering to individual members of his congregation. Each section of resources includes an introductory paragraph that gives the pastor suggestions on how to minister Law and Gospel to the people or person in that particular crisis or need. There is also resource material that assists the pastor in leading his members through various occasions of celebrations or difficult challenges. Each section includes psalms, readings, hymn stanzas, and prayers appropriate to the particular topic. The principal psalms and readings are printed out for easy reference. Additional psalms and readings are listed with short sentences describing their content. These resources are not intended to be exhaustive, nor are they intended to be used in a wooden or artificial way. Rather, they are intended, as their name suggests, to be resources for the pastor in caring for his flock.

### **The Pastor’s Preparation for Pastoral Care**

The best preparation for pastoral care is the pastor’s own faithful hearing of the Word of God and praying of the Psalter. The discipline

of praying through the Psalter regularly and reading through the Scriptures annually, coupled with daily meditation and study of the Word of God, the Small Catechism, and the Lutheran Confessions, strengthens the pastor's own faith and grounds him in the language of God's Word for the faithful ministration of his office. It is also advisable for the pastor to have a father confessor of his own from whom he receives absolution and counsel from God's Word on a regular basis. Pastors who offer private confession and absolution to their flocks will desire to receive the same ministry for themselves so that their office and faith is firmly anchored in the Gospel of Christ. A section of prayers for the pastor in preparation for various facets of his ministry is provided below (pages xviii–xxviii).

## **The Use of Scripture in Pastoral Care**

In making visits to those who are hospitalized, homebound, or confined to a nursing home, the pastor might well use selected readings for the appointed Sunday from the lectionary. In this way the member is reminded of his connection to the congregation. This also provides an opportunity for the pastor to reflect on the texts on which he will be preaching in light of the needs and afflictions of the flock committed to his care.

The *Pastoral Care Companion* provides a wealth of psalms and biblical texts for a variety of situations and circumstances (e.g., chronic illness, facing diagnosis, before surgery, after childbirth). Here the pastor is advised to be prepared to select readings that are appropriate to the circumstances of the visit. In some instances, longer or multiple readings may be helpful. In other cases, such as the care of a person under heavy medication or in an intensive care unit, the pastor may best serve the individual by reading, or repeating from memory, short texts from Holy Scripture that are easily heard and remembered. God's Word brings comfort to Christians. Pastors will use it carefully so that those who hear it may cling to God's promises and find comfort in life and death.



### Praying the Psalms

Psalms give voice to the praise of God in the depths of affliction and in the heights of human joy. We have confidence in praying the psalms for in the Psalter we are praying God's own words. They are put there, says Luther, for us. "Hence it is that the Psalter is the book of all saints; and everyone, in whatever situation he may be, finds in that situation psalms and words that fit his case, that suit him as if they were put there just for his sake, so that he could not put it better himself, or find or wish for anything better" (*Preface to the Psalter*, AE 35:256).

### The Use of Prayer in Pastoral Care

Collects tested and tried by long usage in the Church as well as new collects included in this resource provide the pastor with "ready-made prayers" for a variety of difficult situations. Whenever possible, it will be helpful to review the prayers in advance in order to select those that are best suited to the situation. These prayers, by both their structure and content, shape the pastor's *ex corde* prayers as he ministers to his people. As such, the pastor will modify and adjust these prayers along with others he might pray in order to fit the needs of a particular situation. The traditional structure of the collect (address, rationale, petition, benefit, and termination) can be a helpful template for the pastor as he prays in many informal situations of intimate pastoral conversation. Words and phrases from the Psalms, the liturgy, and hymns will emerge in these prayers as the pastor himself lives in and from these texts.

### Using the *Pastoral Care Companion*

This companion is intended to provide resources for the pastor and other spiritual caregivers in a variety of situations. The following may especially be noted:

- Eighteen rites from the *LSB Agenda* are included in this volume. These were chosen because of the likelihood that they might be conducted outside of the church building.

- Seasonal Proper Prefaces for use with the Communion of the Sick and Homebound are provided immediately following that service (pages 49–55).
- Scripture readings, prayers, and other helps are provided for more than sixty different spiritual care situations. The topics have been carefully arranged in the table of contents under eight different headings. A Topical Index (pages 704–707) is also provided to assist in locating a particular topic.
- All of the collects and readings for both the three-year and one-year lectionaries are included for handy reference (pages 537–616).
- Over 120 additional prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings are provided (pages 617–650). These have been drawn from the more extensive collection in the *LSB Altar Book*. All of the prayers in this volume are referenced in the Topical Index of Prayers (pages 683–702).
- Selected liturgical and hymn texts in both German and Spanish have been provided (pages 651–656).
- The Preparation for Confession (pages 657–663) may be used by the pastor as he ministers to those who come to Individual Confession and Absolution.
- Guidelines for Pastoral Examination of Catechumens (pages 664–671) may be used by the pastor as he prepares and examines confirmands for admission to the Lord's Supper.
- A Scripture Index (pages 677–682) of over 400 Bible passages appearing in this volume will assist the user in finding a particular text.

While the *Pastoral Care Companion* is designed primarily to assist the pastor in caring for the souls of others, he will also find that it has much to offer for his own spiritual care and nourishment. In addition to the many texts and prayers that he will share with others in a variety of circumstances, there is also a collection of prayers intended for the pastor to use prior to ministering to members of his flock (pages xviii–xxviii).

# PASTOR'S PRAYERS OF PREPARATION

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## GENERAL

### **Luther's sacristy prayer**

O Lord God, dear Father in heaven, I am indeed unworthy of the office and ministry in which I am to make known Your glory and to nurture and to serve this congregation.

But since You have appointed me to be a pastor and teacher, and the people are in need of the teaching and the instruction, be my helper and let Your holy angels attend me.

Then if You are pleased to accomplish anything through me, to Your glory and not to mine or to the praise of men, grant me, out of Your pure grace and mercy, a right understanding of Your Word and that I may also diligently perform it.

O Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, shepherd and bishop of our souls, send Your Holy Spirit that He may work with me to will and to do through Your divine strength according to Your good pleasure. Amen. (701)

### **Prayer for faithfulness**

Almighty God, heavenly Father, You have called me into the work of Your vineyard and lavished upon me Your grace and all manner of spiritual and eternal gifts. Help me to live unto You in humility and patience, to hope in Your pure grace and faithfulness, to abide in Your house, and to praise and magnify Your glorious grace forever; through Christ, our Lord. Amen. (702)



# VISITING THE SICK AND DISTRESSED

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1. This rite is for use with baptized Christians who are sick or infirm.
2. An option for receiving Holy Communion is provided in the rite. For repeated visits to the sick and homebound, the Communion of the Sick and Homebound (page 39) may be used.
3. According to apostolic custom (Mark 6:13; James 5:14), a sick person may be anointed with oil as a reminder of the grace of God given by the Holy Spirit in Holy Baptism. Olive oil is used when anointing the sick.
4. If Individual Confession and Absolution is desired, the penitent may follow along in the pew edition of *Lutheran Service Book* (pages 292–293). If a pew book is not available, the pastor may share his copy with the penitent.
5. See pages 195–233 for appropriate Scripture resources.

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*As he enters the house or room, the pastor speaks this greeting:*

Peace be to this house (place).

*Luke 10:5*

**Amen.**

*The pastor may read an appropriate portion of Holy Scripture according to the circumstance. He will then instruct the person patiently to trust God's holy will, confident that, according to His gracious promise, in all things He works for the good of those who love Him. The pastor may also sing an appropriate hymn.*

*The confession of sins may follow one of the forms below. In the case of individual confession, the pastor assures the confidentiality of the confession by requesting others present to leave the room or by taking other appropriate measures.*

## General Confession

**O almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

OR

## Individual Confession

**Pastor, please hear my confession and pronounce forgiveness in order to fulfill God's will.**

Proceed.

**I, a poor sinner, plead guilty before God of all sins. I have lived as if God did not matter and as if I mattered most. My Lord's name I have not honored as I should; my worship and prayers have faltered. I have not let His love have its way with me, and so my love for others has failed. There**

## Question Form

Do you confess to almighty God that you are a poor, miserable sinner?

**Yes.**

Do you confess to our merciful Father that you have sinned against Him in thought, word, and deed?

**Yes.**

Do you confess that you justly deserve His temporal and eternal punishment?

**Yes.**

**are those whom I have hurt, and those whom I have failed to help. My thoughts and desires have been soiled with sin.**

**What troubles me particularly is that . . .**

*The penitent confesses whatever he has done against the commandments of God, according to his place in life. Then he concludes by saying:*

**I am sorry for all of this and ask for grace. I want to do better.**

God be merciful to you and strengthen your faith.

**Amen.**

Do you believe that my forgiveness is God's forgiveness?

**Yes.**

Do you believe that our Lord Jesus Christ died for you and shed His blood for you on the cross for the forgiveness of all your sins?

**Yes.**

Do you pray God, for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of His beloved Son, to be gracious and merciful to you?

**Yes.**

Finally, do you believe that my forgiveness is God's forgiveness?

**Yes.**

Let it be done for you as you believe.

*The pastor places his hands on the head of the penitent and says:*

In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

*When Individual Confession and Absolution is concluded, the pastor invites the family and loved ones to return.*

*When a sick person is to be anointed with oil, the following passage from Holy Scripture is read:*

Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders<sup>1</sup> of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous person has great power.

*James 5:14–16*

<sup>1</sup>The Greek word for “elders,” *presbyteroi*, in the reading from James refers to pastors and not lay elders.

      Name      , you have confessed your sins and received Holy Absolution. In remembrance of the grace of God given by the Holy Spirit in the waters of Holy Baptism, I will anoint you with oil. Confident in our Lord and in love for you, we also pray for you that you will not lose faith. Know that in godly patience the Church endures with you and supports you during this affliction. We firmly believe that this illness is for the glory of God and that the Lord will both hear our prayer and work according to His good and gracious will. *[John 11:4]*

*Using his right thumb, the pastor anoints the sick person on the forehead while saying:*

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given you the new birth of water and the Spirit and has forgiven you all your sins, strengthen you with His grace to life everlasting.

**Amen.**



# MINISTERING TO THE SICK

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## Times of Illness

Pastoral visitation during an illness may be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for ministry to a particular individual. The pastor will want to remind the person that Christ has carried all of our sicknesses and infirmities. In this light, the afflicted are rightly invited to cling to Christ and His cross and receive His salvation delivered in the Gospel and the blessed Sacraments.

### PSALMODY

#### **Psalms 16:1–2, 5, 8–9, 11**

*Preserve me, O God*

<sup>1</sup> Preserve me, | O God,\*

for in you I take | refuge.

<sup>2</sup> I say to the LORD, “You | are my Lord;\*

I have no good a- | part from you.”

<sup>5</sup> The LORD is my chosen portion | and my cup;\*

you | hold my lot.

<sup>8</sup> I have set the LORD always be- | fore me;\*

because he is at my right hand, I shall not be | shaken.

<sup>9</sup> Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being re- | joices;\*

my flesh also | dwells secure.

<sup>11</sup> You make known to me the | path of life;\*

in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand  
are pleasures for- | evermore.



**Psalm 27:1, 4–5, 7–8, 13–14**

*The Lord is my light*

- <sup>1</sup> The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom | shall I fear?\*
- The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I | be afraid?
- <sup>4</sup> One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek | after:\*
- that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in his | temple.
- <sup>5</sup> For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of | trouble;\*
- he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will lift me high up- | on a rock.
- <sup>7</sup> Hear, O LORD, when I | cry aloud;\*
- be gracious to me and | answer me!
- <sup>8</sup> You have said, | “Seek my face.”\*
- My heart says to you, “Your face, LORD, | do I seek.”
- <sup>13</sup> I believe that I shall look upon the goodness | of the LORD\*
- in the land of the | living!
- <sup>14</sup> Wait | for the LORD;\*
- be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait | for the LORD!

**ADDITIONAL PSALMODY**

Psalm 25:1–2a, 6, 16–18, 20

*In You I trust*

Psalm 28:1–2, 6–9

*The Lord is my strength and shield*

Psalm 32:1–7

*Don't keep silent, but pray to Him for help*

Psalm 34:1–9, 17–19, 22

*Taste and see that the Lord is good*

Psalm 91:1–2, 9–12, 14–16

*He will command His angels*

Psalm 100

*The Lord made us; we are His*

Psalm 103:1–5

*Bless the Lord, O my soul*

Psalm 116:1–2, 7, 12–14, 17–18

*I will call on Him*

## READINGS

### Matthew 4:23–24

*Jesus healed every disease*

<sup>23</sup>[Jesus] went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people. <sup>24</sup>So his fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought him all the sick, those afflicted with various diseases and pains, those oppressed by demons, epileptics, and paralytics, and he healed them.

### Romans 8:26–32, 35–39

*He who did not spare His own Son*

<sup>26</sup>The Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. <sup>27</sup>And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. <sup>28</sup>And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. <sup>29</sup>For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. <sup>30</sup>And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

<sup>31</sup>What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? <sup>32</sup>He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?

<sup>35</sup>Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? <sup>36</sup>As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all the day long;  
we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.”

<sup>37</sup>No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup>For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, <sup>39</sup>nor ►

height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**Isaiah 41:9b–10**

*Fear not, I am with you*

<sup>9b</sup> “You are my servant,  
I have chosen you and not cast you off”;  
<sup>10</sup> fear not, for I am with you;  
be not dismayed, for I am your God;  
I will strengthen you, I will help you,  
I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

**Lamentations 3:22–26**

*The love of the Lord never ceases*

<sup>22</sup> The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases;  
his mercies never come to an end;  
<sup>23</sup> they are new every morning;  
great is your faithfulness.  
<sup>24</sup> “The LORD is my portion,” says my soul,  
“therefore I will hope in him.”  
<sup>25</sup> The LORD is good to those who wait for him,  
to the soul who seeks him.  
<sup>26</sup> It is good that one should wait quietly  
for the salvation of the LORD.

**ADDITIONAL READINGS**

Is. 45:5–7	<i>The Lord makes well-being and creates calamity</i>
Rom. 5:1–5	<i>We rejoice in our sufferings</i>
1 Cor. 10:9–13	<i>The Lord provides escape from temptation</i>
2 Cor. 1:3–5	<i>God comforts us in all our afflictions</i>
2 Cor. 4:16–18	<i>Inner nature being renewed</i>
Col. 3:1–4	<i>Seek the things that are above</i>
1 Peter 5:6–11	<i>Cast all your anxieties on Him</i>

## PRAYERS

O Lord, look down from heaven; behold, visit, and relieve Your servant name for whom we pray. Look upon him/her with the eyes of Your mercy, and give him/her comfort and sure confidence in You. Defend him/her from every danger to body and soul, and keep him/her in peace and safety; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. (749)

Father of mercies and God of all comfort, our only help in time of need, look with favor upon Your servant(s) name(s). Assure him/her/them of Your mercy, comfort him/her/them with the awareness of Your goodness, preserve him/her/them from the temptations of the evil one, and give him/her/them patience in his/her/their tribulation. If it please You, restore him/her/them to health, or give him/her/them grace to accept this affliction; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. (254 alt.)

Lord God, the strength of the weak and the consolation of those who suffer, mercifully hear our prayers, and grant to name the help of Your power, that his/her sickness may be turned to health and our sorrow into joy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. (750)

Father of all mercy, You never fail to help those who call on You for help. Give strength and confidence to Your son/daughter in his/her time of great need that he/she may know that You are near and that You uphold him/her with Your everlasting arms. Grant that, resting on Your protection, he/she may fear no evil, for You are with him/her to comfort and deliver him/her; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. (751)

Heavenly Father, You forgive all our iniquities and heal all our diseases. You sent Your only-begotten Son to bear our griefs and carry our sorrows. Be merciful to name, pardon all his/her sins, and restore his/her health according to Your will. Preserve his/her faith, and keep him/her and his/her family in Your peace and safety; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. (752)

## Critical illness

O Lord, You are the great Physician of soul and body; You chasten and You heal. Show mercy to Your servant(s) name(s). Spare his/her/their life (lives) and restore his/her/their strength. Even as You gave Your Son to bear our infirmities and sicknesses, deal compassionately with name(s) and bless him/her/them with Your healing power. We commit him/her/them to Your gracious mercy and protection; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. (255)

## Emergency

Almighty God, our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble, look in mercy upon name in his/her time of great need. Sustain his/her faith and defend him/her from every danger to body and soul. Grant him/her the certainty that, upholding him/her with Your everlasting arms, You are at work for his/her good and for the honor and glory of Your name; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. (753)

## For a critically ill child

Almighty God, Father in heaven, watch over Your child name now afflicted with sickness. Mercifully spare the life You have given. Relieve his/her pain, guard him/her from all danger, and restore

his/her health according to Your gracious will, that he/she may be raised to a life of faithful service to You; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. (258)

## Praying with a young child

*When praying with a young child, the pastor may also pray in simple language such as the following:*

Dear Jesus, name is hurting/sick. We know that You love him/her. Watch over him/her and help him/her to get better; in Your name we pray. (754)

## Before medical testing

Almighty God, graciously comfort name in his/her suffering, and be with him/her as he/she undergoes medical testing. Take away his/her fear, and strengthen his/her faith that he/she may trust in Your merciful will and cling to Your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. (755)

## After medical testing

Lord God, heavenly Father, receive our humble thanks for protecting name during his/her medical test/procedure. Graciously keep him/her in Your love and care, granting him/her patience and trust, for we know that whoever believes in Christ will not be forsaken; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. (756)

## Before surgery

Lord Jesus Christ, in Your ministry You healed many with frail and diseased bodies. Be present with name as he/she undergoes surgery. Bless him/her with faith in Your loving-kindness and ►

protection. Endow the surgeon(s) and the medical team with skill and alertness so that this surgery may help Your servant to a speedy restoration of health and strength according to Your gracious will. Hear us for Your name's sake as you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. (757)

### **After surgery**

Lord Jesus Christ, receive our thanks for hearing our prayers on behalf of name, who has successfully undergone surgery, and for giving to the surgeon(s) and the medical team the skills that have been effectually administered. Restore him/her fully to health and strength, in Your time and according to Your good and gracious will; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. (758)

### **At the time of diagnosis**

Almighty God, merciful Lord, our times are in Your hand. Look in favor on name, whose illness has been diagnosed and for whose healing we humbly pray. Sustain him/her by Your grace that his/her patience and hope may not fail. Calm all fear and anxiety in him/her and in his/her loved ones, and grant them faith to accept Your will and firmly believe that what You ordain is always good; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. (759)

### **For doctors, surgeons, nurses, and other medical personnel**

Lord God, be with the doctors and nurses and all others who will be ministering to the bodily needs of Your servant name that, blessed by You, their tender care may serve to the healing of his/her sickness and lead to a speedy return to health; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. (760)

**HYMNS****I Lay My Sins on Jesus***LSB 606*

I lay my wants on Jesus;  
     All fullness dwells in Him;  
 He heals all my diseases;  
     My soul He does redeem.  
 I lay my griefs on Jesus,  
     My burdens and my cares;  
 He from them all releases;  
     He all my sorrows shares.

**Your Hand, O Lord, in Days of Old***LSB 846*

Your touch then, Lord, brought life and health,  
     Gave speech and strength and sight;  
 And youth renewed and frenzy calmed  
     Revealed You, Lord of light.  
 And now, O Lord, be near to bless,  
     Almighty as before,  
 In crowded street, by beds of pain,  
     As by Gennes'et's shore.

O be our great deliv'rer still,  
     The Lord of life and death;  
 Restore and quicken, soothe and bless,  
     With Your life-giving breath.  
 To hands that work and eyes that see  
     Give wisdom's healing pow'r  
 That whole and sick and weak and strong  
     May praise You evermore. (sts. 2-3)



## Salvation unto Us Has Come

*LSB 555*

Since Christ has full atonement made  
And brought to us salvation,  
Each Christian therefore may be glad  
And build on this foundation.  
Your grace alone, dear Lord, I plead,  
Your death is now my life indeed,  
For You have paid my ransom.

Let me not doubt, but truly see  
Your Word cannot be broken;  
Your call rings out, “Come unto Me!”  
No falsehood have You spoken.  
Baptized into Your precious name,  
My faith cannot be put to shame,  
And I shall never perish. (sts. 6–7)

## ADDITIONAL HYMNS

How Firm a Foundation  
O Son of God, in Galilee  
When to Our World the Savior Came

*LSB 728:2–4*  
*LSB 841*  
*LSB 551*

## Graduation

Graduations are milestones that mark the faithfulness of the Lord in the lives of His children. The graduate may react in a variety of ways—sadness at parting, satisfaction at completion of a program, excitement as well as concern for the future. When parents have played a supportive role in reaching this milestone, the pastor will want to recognize their unique contribution also.

### PSALMODY

#### Psalm 25:1–2a, 10–14

*Steadfast love and faithfulness*

- <sup>1</sup> To you, O LORD, I lift | up my soul.\*  
<sup>2</sup> O my God, in you I trust; let me not be | put to shame.  
<sup>10</sup> All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and | faithfulness,\*  
 for those who keep his covenant and his testi- | monies.  
<sup>11</sup> For your name's sake, | O LORD,\*  
 pardon my guilt, for | it is great.  
<sup>12</sup> Who is the man who | fears the LORD?\*  
 Him will he instruct in the way that | he should choose.  
<sup>13</sup> His soul shall abide in well- | being,\*  
 and his offspring shall inher- | it the land.  
<sup>14</sup> The friendship of the LORD is for those who | fear him,\*  
 and he makes known to them his | covenant.

#### Psalm 111:1–4, 7–10

*Great are the works of the Lord*

- <sup>1</sup> Praise the LORD! I will give thanks to the LORD with my | whole heart,\*  
 in the company of the upright, in the congre- | gation.  
<sup>2</sup> Great are the works | of the LORD,\*  
 studied by all who de- | light in them.  
<sup>3</sup> Full of splendor and majesty | is his work,\*  
 and his righteousness endures for- | ever.

- <sup>4</sup> He has caused his wondrous works to be re- | membered;\*  
the LORD is gracious and | merciful.
- <sup>7</sup> The works of his hands are faith- | ful and just;\*  
all his precepts are | trustworthy;
- <sup>8</sup> they are established forever and | ever,\*  
to be performed with faithfulness and up- | rightness.
- <sup>9</sup> He sent redemption to his people; he has commanded his  
covenant for- | ever.\*  
Holy and awesome | is his name!
- <sup>10</sup> The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all those who  
practice it have a good under- | standing.\*  
His praise endures for- | ever!

## ADDITIONAL PSALMODY

Psalm 86:8–13a

*Teach me to walk in Your truth*

Psalm 115:1, 11–14a, 15, 18b

*The Lord has remembered us*

Psalm 119:33–38, 40

*Teach me the way of Your statutes*

## READINGS

### Proverbs 3:13–23

*Nothing can compare with wisdom*

- <sup>13</sup> Blessed is the one who finds wisdom,  
and the one who gets understanding,
- <sup>14</sup> for the gain from her is better than gain from silver  
and her profit better than gold.
- <sup>15</sup> She is more precious than jewels,  
and nothing you desire can compare with her.
- <sup>16</sup> Long life is in her right hand;  
in her left hand are riches and honor.
- <sup>17</sup> Her ways are ways of pleasantness,  
and all her paths are peace.
- <sup>18</sup> She is a tree of life to those who lay hold of her;  
those who hold her fast are called blessed.



- <sup>19</sup> The LORD by wisdom founded the earth;  
by understanding he established the heavens;  
<sup>20</sup> by his knowledge the deeps broke open,  
and the clouds drop down the dew.  
<sup>21</sup> My son, do not lose sight of these—  
keep sound wisdom and discretion,  
<sup>22</sup> and they will be life for your soul  
and adornment for your neck.  
<sup>23</sup> Then you will walk on your way securely,  
and your foot will not stumble.

## Matthew 6:25–33

*Do not be anxious about your life*

<sup>25</sup>[Jesus said:] “Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? <sup>26</sup>Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? <sup>27</sup>And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? <sup>28</sup>And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, <sup>29</sup>yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. <sup>30</sup>But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? <sup>31</sup>Therefore do not be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ <sup>32</sup>For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. <sup>33</sup>But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.”

## 2 Timothy 1:3–7

*From childhood you have learned the faith*

<sup>3</sup>I thank God whom I serve, as did my ancestors, with a clear conscience, as I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day.

<sup>4</sup>As I remember your tears, I long to see you, that I may be filled with joy. <sup>5</sup>I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well. <sup>6</sup>For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands, <sup>7</sup>for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.

## ADDITIONAL READINGS

1 Kings 3:10–15

Prov. 3:1–8

1 Cor. 1:20–25

Eph. 5:15–20

James 3:17–18

*Solomon blessed with wisdom*

*In all your ways acknowledge God*

*Christ, the power and wisdom of God*

*Walk wisely*

*The wisdom from above*

## PRAYERS

### At a graduation

Lord God, heavenly Father, You provide schools and teachers for faithful instruction and dedicated learning. Receive our thanks for the knowledge gained by those who are now graduating. As they continue to learn and grow, grant them Your Holy Spirit that their talents and abilities may be used for Your glory and as a blessing to others; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. (309)

### For an elementary school graduate

Lord God, heavenly Father, You provided Your servant St. Timothy with faithful instruction in Your Word during his childhood, establishing for him a foundation of knowledge that served him throughout his life. Receive our thanks for the knowledge provided for name by parents, teachers, and Your Church. As he/she continues to learn, grant him/her Your Holy Spirit that his/her understanding of Your gifts and talents will increase, leading into the vocation in which You would have him/her serve; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. (865)

## SUNDAYS AND SEASONS

### The Time of Christmas

#### First Sunday in Advent

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. (L01)

**A** Isaiah 2:1–5  
 Psalm 122 (v. 6)  
 Romans 13:(8–10) 11–14  
 Matthew 21:1–11  
*or* Matthew 24:36–44

**B** Isaiah 64:1–9  
 Psalm 80:1–7 (v. 7)  
 1 Corinthians 1:3–9  
 Mark 11:1–10  
*or* Mark 13:24–37

**C** Jeremiah 33:14–16  
 Psalm 25:1–10 (v. 6)  
 1 Thessalonians 3:9–13  
 Luke 19:28–40  
*or* Luke 21:25–36

**1Yr.** Jeremiah 23:5–8  
 Psalm 24 (v. 7)  
 Romans 13:(8–10) 11–14  
 Matthew 21:1–9

#### Second Sunday in Advent

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. (L02)

**A** Isaiah 11:1–10  
 Psalm 72:1–7 (v. 18)  
 Romans 15:4–13  
 Matthew 3:1–12

**B** Isaiah 40:1–11  
 Psalm 85 (v. 9)  
 2 Peter 3:8–14  
 Mark 1:1–8

**C** Malachi 3:1–7b  
 Psalm 66:1–12 (v. 12b)  
 Philippians 1:2–11  
 Luke 3:1–14 (15–20)

**1Yr.** Malachi 4:1–6  
 Psalm 50:1–15 (v. 15)  
 Romans 15:4–13  
 Luke 21:25–36

### Third Sunday in Advent

Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. (L03)

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p><b>A</b> Isaiah 35:1–10<br/>Psalm 146 (v. 5)<br/>James 5:7–11<br/>Matthew 11:2–15</p>                   | <p><b>C</b> Zephaniah 3:14–20<br/>Psalm 85 (v. 2)<br/>Philippians 4:4–7<br/>Luke 7:18–28 (29–35)</p>         |
| <p><b>B</b> Isaiah 61:1–4, 8–11<br/>Psalm 126 (v. 5)<br/>1 Thessalonians 5:16–24<br/>John 1:6–8, 19–28</p> | <p><b>1Yr.</b> Isaiah 40:1–8 (9–11)<br/>Psalm 85 (v. 9)<br/>1 Corinthians 4:1–5<br/>Matthew 11:2–10 (11)</p> |

### Fourth Sunday in Advent

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. (L04)

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p><b>A</b> Isaiah 7:10–17<br/>Psalm 24 (v. 7)<br/>Romans 1:1–7<br/>Matthew 1:18–25</p>                  | <p><b>C</b> Micah 5:2–5a<br/>Psalm 80:1–7 (v. 7)<br/>Hebrews 10:5–10<br/>Luke 1:39–45 (46–56)</p>                              |
| <p><b>B</b> 2 Samuel 7:1–11, 16<br/>Psalm 89:1–5 (19–29) (v. 8)<br/>Romans 16:25–27<br/>Luke 1:26–38</p> | <p><b>1Yr.</b> Deuteronomy 18:15–19<br/>Psalm 111 (v. 9)<br/>Philippians 4:4–7<br/>John 1:19–28<br/><i>or</i> Luke 1:39–56</p> |



# PRAYERS, INTERCESSIONS, AND THANKSGIVINGS

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## THE CHURCH AND HER MISSION

### For the Church

Merciful God, we humbly implore You to cast the bright beams of Your light upon Your Church that we, being instructed by the doctrine of the blessed apostles, may walk in the light of Your truth and finally attain to the light of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. (101)

Almighty God, grant to Your Church Your Holy Spirit and the wisdom that comes down from above, that Your Word may not be bound but have free course and be preached to the joy and edifying of Christ's holy people, that in steadfast faith we may serve You and, in the confession of Your name, abide unto the end; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. (102)



### **For the mission of the Church**

Almighty God, You have called Your Church to witness that in Christ You have reconciled us to Yourself. Grant that by Your Holy Spirit we may proclaim the good news of Your salvation so that all who hear it may receive the gift of salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. (104)

### **For the mission of the Church and her missionaries**

Almighty and gracious God, You want all to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. Magnify the power of the Gospel in the hearts of Your faithful people that Your Church may spread the good news of salvation. Protect, encourage, and bless all missionaries who proclaim the saving cross that Christ, being lifted up, may draw all people to Himself, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. (105)

### **For those outside the Church**

Almighty and everlasting God, You desire not the death of a sinner but that all would repent and live. Hear our prayers for those outside the Church. Take away their iniquity, and turn them from their false gods to You, the living and true God. Gather them into Your holy Church to the glory of Your name; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. (106)

### **Unity of faith**

O God, Your infinite love restores to the right way those who err, seeks the scattered, and preserves those whom You have gathered. Of Your tender mercy pour out on Your faithful people the grace of unity that, all schisms being ended, Your flock may be gathered to the true Shepherd of Your Church and may serve You in all faithfulness; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. (107)

### **Defending the Church from error**

O Christ, our defender, protect us from all those whose plans would subvert Your truth through heresy and schism that, as You are ac-



# HYMNS AND LITURGICAL TEXTS IN GERMAN AND SPANISH

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## Hymns in German

### So nimm denn meine Hände

*Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me*

- |   |                              |   |                             |
|---|------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| 1 | So nimm denn meine Hände     | 2 | In dein Erbarmen hülle      |
|   | Und führe mich               |   | Mein schwaches Herz,        |
|   | Bis an mein selig Ende,      |   | Und mach es gänzlich stille |
|   | Und ewiglich.                |   | In Freud und Schmerz.       |
|   | Ich will allein nicht gehen, |   | Wirst du in Huld und Gnaden |
|   | Nicht einen Schritt,         |   | Mich hüllen ein,            |
|   | Wo du wirst gehn und stehen, |   | So werd vor allem Schaden   |
|   | Da nimm mich mit.            |   | Ich sicher sein.            |
- 
- |   |                                   |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| 3 | Wenn ich auch gleich nichts fühle |
|   | Von deiner Macht,                 |
|   | Du führst mich doch zum Ziele     |
|   | Auch durch die Nacht.             |
|   | So nimm denn meine Hände          |
|   | Und führe mich                    |
|   | Bis an mein selig Ende,           |
|   | Und ewiglich.                     |

**Segen***Benediction*

Der Herr segne dich und behüte dich!

Der Herr erleuchte sein Angesicht über dich und sei dir gnädig!

Der Herr erhebe sein Angesicht auf dich und gebe dir ✠ Frieden!

**Amen.**

**Vor dem Essen***Before Meals*

Komm, Herr Jesu, sei unser Gast,

Und segne, was du uns bescheret hast. Amen.

**Liturgical Texts in Spanish****Invocación***Invocation*

En el nombre del Padre y del ✠ Hijo y del Espíritu Santo.

**Amén.**

**Credo Apostólico***Apostles' Creed*

Creo en Dios Padre todopoderoso, creador del cielo y de la tierra.

Y en Jesucristo, su único Hijo, nuestro Señor; que fue concebido por obra del Espíritu Santo, nació de la virgen María; padeció bajo el poder de Poncio Pilato, fue crucificado, muerto, y sepultado; descendió a los infiernos; al tercer día resucitó de entre los muertos; subió al los cielos y está sentado en la diestra de Dios Padre todopoderoso; y desde allí ha de venir a juzgar a los vivos y a los muertos.

Creo en el Espíritu Santo; la santa iglesia cristiana, la comunión de los santos; el perdón de los pecados; la resurrección de la carne y la vida ✠ perdurable. Amén.



# PREPARATION FOR CONFESSION

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"Confession has two parts: first, that we confess our sins, and second, that we receive absolution, that is, forgiveness, from the pastor as from God Himself" (Small Catechism).

Confession may be preceded by a candid examination of one's actions, motives, and nature (1 Cor. 11:28). This examination leads the penitent to speak the truth before the Lord. Like a mirror, these questions are designed to reflect the truth about one's sin in the light of the Law (James 1:22–25). They expose not merely sins, but that "by nature [we] do not possess true fear of God and true faith in God" (AC II, 2). In this way, they encourage serious, thoughtful, and truthful self-examination so that the Christian may heartily and sincerely confess, "God, be merciful to me, a sinner" (Luke 18:13). Not all questions may apply every time, nor are they exhaustive.

Absolution strengthens the faith of the penitent, comforts the conscience, and gives courage to confess sins and sinfulness. Most importantly, it declares that the Lord keeps no record of sin, that there is forgiveness with Him, that He removes our transgressions from us and remembers our sin no more (Ps. 130:3–4; 103:12; Jer. 31:34).

The following questions may be used by the pastor in his own self-examination in preparing to confess his sins. He may also adapt and use the questions to assist penitents who come to confession. He will always want to keep in mind the guidance provided in the rite of Individual Confession and Absolution that his questions and instruction are not meant to "pry or judge," but to assist the penitent in his or her own self-examination.

## The First Commandment

You shall have no other gods.

*What does this mean?*

We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things.

In what or whom do I trust above all else?

In what or whom do I trust most for financial security, physical safety, or emotional support?

Do I fear God's wrath, avoiding every sin?

Is my love for and trust in God evident in my daily living?

Do I expect only good from God in every situation, or do I worry, doubt, complain, or feel unfairly treated when things go wrong?

Do I withhold from God what is rightfully His?

## The Second Commandment

You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.

*What does this mean?*

We should fear and love God so that we do not curse, swear, use satanic arts, lie, or deceive by His name, but call upon it in every trouble, pray, praise, and give thanks.

Is the Lord's Word evident in my daily speech and conduct, or do I curse, speak carelessly, or misuse God's name?

Do I keep all the vows I have made in the Lord's name, such as confirmation, marriage, or legal vows, etc.?

Am I diligent and sincere in my prayers, or have I been lazy, bored, or distracted? Do I trust that the Lord God will answer them according to His good and gracious will?



# GUIDELINES FOR PASTORAL EXAMINATION OF CATECHUMENS

*Before the Rite of  
First Communion or  
Before the Rite of Confirmation*

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## **Explanation of the Guidelines**

Examining catechumens in the faith prior to admission to the Lord's Supper or confirmation is an important responsibility of the parish pastor. For both first communion and confirmation, candidates have learned the Ten Commandments, the Creed, and the Lord's Prayer. They have received careful instruction in the Gospel and Sacraments. Confessing their sin and trusting in their Savior, they desire to receive the Lord's Supper for the forgiveness of sins and the strengthening of their faith in Christ and in love toward others. These are the overarching concerns for the pastor in the pastoral examination of these candidates. Concerning the worthy reception of the Lord's Supper, the Small Catechism teaches: "That person is truly worthy and well prepared who has faith in these words: 'Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.' But anyone who does not believe these words or doubts them is unworthy and unprepared, for the words 'for you' require all hearts to believe." On the basis of this, baptized Christians are admitted to the Sacrament when they have been examined and absolved by their pastor in accordance with the practice outlined in the Augsburg Confession (Article XXV). When confirmation is separated from first communion, confirmation especially highlights that a cate-

chumen has received more thorough instruction in the faith than he received prior to first communion.

The questions and answers provided in these guidelines are intended to be used conversationally, not in a rigid or formalistic manner. The pastor should feel free to adapt and adjust the questions according to the responses of the candidate and how the conversation develops. In most cases, the pastor will already be quite familiar with a candidate's confession of faith because of his contact with him in catechesis. For this reason, an examination need not cover all of Christian doctrine. As a matter of pastoral judgment, however, a pastor may wish to include additional questions that are not covered in this outline. The outline of questions in these guidelines has been shaped largely by "Christian Questions with Their Answers" from the Small Catechism. Most important to note is the recurring theme, "How do you know this?" Faith knows and confesses what is true on the basis of the Word of God. This is one of the reasons why the salutary practice of learning by heart the text of the Small Catechism has been retained.

In the case of a child, it is desirable that parents be present for the examination; as appropriate, a child's sponsors may also be present. The candidate's home or the pastor's study may be the best location to facilitate a relaxed conversation with the catechumen. When a pastor has many catechumens to examine in preparation for either first communion or confirmation, he may reserve a review of the respective rite for a time when he can gather all the candidates together. Answers are provided for each question as a general guide to the pastor as to the type of responses he should expect. Pastors should see the examination conversation as another opportunity to catechize and firmly anchor a catechumen's faith in the Word of God. Examination of one's confession does not automatically admit a person to the Lord's Table or result in confirmation. In some cases pastor and parents or sponsors might determine that further catechesis is warranted.

## Prayer before beginning the examination

Lord God, heavenly Father, in Holy Baptism You began Your good work in name, forgiving him/her all sin and giving him/her the gift of the Holy Spirit and faith in Your Son. You have also blessed his/her instruction in the Word of God. Be with us now in our conversation together, that he/she may faithfully confess his/her Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. (881)

## Examination Questions and Answers

### Do you know the Ten Commandments? What are they?

You shall have no other gods.

You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.

Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.

Honor your father and your mother.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

You shall not covet your neighbor's house.

You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maid-servant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

### What does God say about all these commandments?

He says: "I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate Me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love Me and keep My commandments." *Exodus 20:5–6*

### Do you believe that you are a sinner?

Yes, I believe it.

### How do you know that you are a sinner?

From the Ten Commandments. God's Law shows me my sin.



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