

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Greetings from the parsonage! It has been said that April showers bring May flowers, and we have already begun seeing some beautiful blossoms on the trees around. We also had some lovely Easter lilies for our Easter Service, so the saying must at least be true in part. Speaking of parts, here at last is part two from last month's exhortation to Confession in the Large Catechism! Let's get to it!



Last month, we ended our study looking at the Lord's Prayer, and how in it we can make common confession to God alone or our neighbor alone. We make confession before God, knowing that we, like Isaiah, when confronted by a holy God have no choice but to acknowledge that we are sinners who deserve nothing less than His eternal wrath.

“Similarly the second confession, which all Christians make toward their neighbor, is also included in the Lord's Prayer. We are to confess our guilt before one another and forgive one another before we come to God and ask for forgiveness (BoC, p.477).” For those of you who attended the Maundy Thursday service, you may recognize that this is exactly what we did

in the Service of Corporate Confession and Absolution. I encouraged you to take seriously the Word of God concerning our sinfulness, and how our Lord Jesus gave us His body and blood to partake for the forgiveness of those sins. Following the confession of sins and the absolution I spoke from God to you, we greeted one another saying “Peace be with you.” We were able to say this because we acknowledge that we each need our sin forgiven as much as our brothers and sisters. As Luther wrote “Now, all of us are debtors to one another; therefore we should and we may confess publicly in everyone’s presence, no one being afraid of anyone else. For it is true, as the proverb says, ‘If one person is upright, so are they all;’ no one behaves toward God or the neighbor as he or she ought... Thus we have in the Lord’s Prayer a twofold absolution: both our sins against God and against our neighbors are forgiven when we forgive our neighbors and become reconciled with them (BoC, p.477).”

Such is the will of God as outlined by His Law—that we love Him and that we love one another. Through His Son’s death and resurrection—He is risen, indeed, Alleluia!—God has forgiven us our sins and has given us His Holy Spirit that we might be able to forgive one another as God has forgiven us. In the name of our Risen Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ, Amen.

Your brother and under-Shepherd in Christ,

Pastor Josh