

CONFESSIONS OF SIN

Minister: God of power and might, you promised through the prophets that the day is coming when you will bring all nations under your rule.

People: *We confess that we have not expected your coming kingdom.
We live casual lives, ignoring your promised judgment.
We accept lies as truth, exploit neighbors,
abuse your creation, and refuse your justice and peace.
In your mercy, forgive our wandering and rebellious hearts.
Grant us the humility to return to you,
the strength to walk in your way,
and the wisdom to seek those things that will endure;
for the sake of your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ
who will come again to judge the world in righteousness and justice. Amen.*

(adapted from the Book of Common Worship)

Minister: “Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.” -1 Timothy 1:15

People: *Almighty God, you created us for life together,
but we have turned from your will.
We have not loved as you command.
We have broken our promises to you and to one another.
We have taken much and given little.
Forgive our disobedience, O God, and strengthen us in love,
that we may faithfully serve you as your people, and live together in your joy;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Minister: Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. - 1 Timothy 1:15a

People: *Holy and most Merciful Father,
Though you should guide us, we inform ourselves.
Though you should rule us, we reign over ourselves.
Though you should fulfill us, we console ourselves with many things.
We think your truth too high, your will too hard,
your power too remote, your love too free.
But these things are not true, so heal our confused mind with your word,
heal our divided will with your law, heal our troubled conscience with your love,
heal our anxious hearts with your presence,
all for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who loved us and gave himself for us.
Please forgive us and change us by your Holy Spirit, we pray. Amen.*

Minister: Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance:
Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. - 1 Timothy 1:15a

People: *Almighty God, you have raised Jesus from death to life, and crowned him Lord of all. We confess that we have not bowed before him or acknowledged his rule in our lives. We have gone along with the ways of the world, and failed to give him glory. Forgive us, and raise us from sin, that we may be your faithful people, obeying the commands of our Lord Jesus Christ, who rules the world and is head of the church, his body.*

(from The Book of Common Worship)

Minister: Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance:
Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.

People: *Almighty and most merciful Father, we have erred and strayed from Your ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against Your holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done, and we have done those things which we ought not to have done. O Lord, have mercy upon us. Spare those who confess their faults. Restore those who are penitent, according to Your promises declared to mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord. And grant, O most merciful Father, for His sake, that we may, from this time onward, live a godly, righteous, and sober life, to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.*

(Book of Common Prayer [1979]. pp. 41-42)

Minister: Almighty God, with so much patience you delay the punishments we have deserved and daily draw upon ourselves,

People: *Grant that we may not indulge ourselves, but sincerely confess how often and in how many ways we have grieved you and provoked you to anger.*

Minister: Teach us to humbly present ourselves to you for pardon, and with true repentance seek your mercy.

People: *With all our heart we desire to submit to you, regardless if you discipline us, or if in your infinite goodness, you do not.*

Minister: May our lives know joy and peace,
not through flattering ourselves in apathy and pride,
but by finding you to be our kind and generous Father,
reconciled to us in your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: *Amen.*

(Adapted from a prayer of John Calvin)

Minister: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

People: *Most merciful God, we confess that 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 are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.*

Minister: Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance:
Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. - 1 Timothy 1:15a

People: *Almighty and most merciful Father,
we thank you that your mercy is higher than the heavens,
wider than our wanderings, and deeper than all our sin.
Forgive us for our careless attitudes toward your presence,
our refusal to relieve the suffering of others,
and our envy of those who have more than us.
Forgive us for our obsession with creating a life of constant pleasure,
our indifference to the treasures of heaven,
and our neglect of your wise and gracious law.
Change us by your Holy Spirit.
And enable us to change our ways,
that we may desire what is good, love what you love,
and do what you command, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*