

PRAYER OF CONFESSION and THE GOOD NEWS OF GOD'S GRACE

It wasn't so long ago that you were mired in that old stagnant life of sin. You let the world, which doesn't know the first thing about living, tell you how to live. You filled your lungs with polluted unbelief, and then exhaled disobedience. We all did it, all of us doing what we felt like doing, when we felt like doing it, all of us in the same boat. It's a wonder God didn't lose his temper and do away with the whole lot of us.

But God, immense in mercy and with an incredible love, embraced us. He took our sin-dead lives and made us alive in Christ. He did all this on his own, with no help from us! (Ephesians 1:1-16, The Message)

We need to hold on to our declaration of faith: We have a superior chief priest who has gone through the heavens. That person is Jesus, the Son of God. We have a chief priest who is able to sympathize with our weaknesses. He was tempted in every way that we are, but he didn't sin. So we can go confidently to the throne of God's grace to receive mercy and find kindness, which will help us at the right time. (Hebrews 4:14-16, God's Word Version)

We pray:

Loving God, I come to You in the name of Jesus.

You loved me before I could ever love You.

I come to You as a sinner who needs Your forgiveness.

I come to You as one dead in sin's grip,

and I need to be raised to new life,

by Your grace and kindness.

Trusting in Your power, I turn away from all that keeps me from You.

I confess....*(a time for silent confession)*

Lord, I believe that salvation – for me, for others, for all creation – comes through Jesus Christ. Salvation is a gift from You; not something I can earn.

I humbly ask for Your forgiveness; I humbly receive Your forgiveness.

Help me to live anew in Christ Jesus, as You have created me to live.

With a grateful heart I ask all this, in the name of Jesus Christ, my Saviour and Lord, AMEN.

God is rich in mercy and loves us so much. Christ died for our sins, and is raised to life, the new life we are given through faith in Jesus. God saved you by His grace when you believed. (Ephesians 2:4-5, 8)

THANKS BE TO GOD!