

#1
Confession of Sin

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; and there is no health in us. But You, O Lord, have mercy upon us, miserable offenders. Spare those, O God, 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 hereby live a godly, righteous, and sober life; To the glory of Your holy name. Amen. [based on *Book of Common Worship*, second order]

#2
Confession of Sin

Most holy and merciful Father; We acknowledge and confess before You; Our sinful nature prone to evil and slothful in good; And all our shortcomings and offenses. You alone know how often we have sinned; In wandering from Your ways; In wasting Your gifts; In forgetting Your love. But You, O Lord, have pity upon us; Who are ashamed and sorry for all wherein we have displeased You. Teach us to hate our errors; Cleanse us from our secret faults; And forgive our sins for the sake of Your dear Son. And O most holy and loving Father; Help us we beseech You; To live in Your light and walk in Your ways; According to the commandments of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [based on *Book of Common Worship*, first order]

#3
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Almighty God, Who are rich in mercy to all those who call upon You; Hear us as we humbly come to You confessing our sins; And imploring Your mercy and forgiveness. We have broken Your holy laws by our deeds and by our words; And by the sinful affections of our hearts. We confess before You our disobedience and ingratitude, our pride and willfulness; And all our failures and shortcomings toward You and toward fellow men. Have mercy upon us, Most merciful Father; And of Your great goodness grant that we may hereafter serve and please You in newness of life; Through the merit and mediation of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [adapted from *Book of Common Worship*]

#4
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Lord God! Eternal and Almighty Father. We acknowledge and confess before Your holy majesty, that we are poor sinners; conceived and born in guilt and in corruption, prone to do evil, unable of ourselves to do any good; Who, by reason of our depravity, transgress without end Your holy commandments. Therefore we have drawn upon ourselves, by Your just sentence, condemnation and death. But, O Lord! With heartfelt sorrow we repent and deplore our offenses! We condemn ourselves and our evil ways, with true penitence beseeching that Your grace may relieve our distress.

Be pleased then to have compassion upon us, O most gracious God! Father of all mercies; for the sake of Your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. And in removing our guilt and our pollution, grant us the daily increase of the grace of Your Holy Spirit; that acknowledging from our inmost hearts our own unrighteousness, we may be touched with sorrow that shall work true repentance; And that Your Spirit, mortifying all sin within us, may produce the fruits of holiness and of righteousness well-pleasing in Your sight. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [adapted from Calvin's *Form of Church Prayers*]

#5
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O You whose chosen dwelling is the heart that longs for Your presence and humbly seeks Your love: We come to You to acknowledge and confess that we have sinned in thought and word and deed; We have not loved You with all our heart and soul, with all our mind and strength; We have not even loved our neighbor as ourselves. Deepen within us our sorrow for the wrong we have done, or for the good we have left undone. But You, O Lord, are full of compassion and gracious, slow to anger and plenteous in mercy; there is forgiveness with You. Restore to us the joy of Your salvation; Bind up that which is broken, give light to our minds, strength to our wills and rest to our souls. Speak to each of us the word that we need, and let Your Word abide with us until it has wrought in us Your holy will. Amen.

#6
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Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we have sinned against You and against our fellow men, in thought word and deed, in the evil we have done and in the good we have not done, through ignorance, through weakness, through our own deliberate fault.

We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ who died for us, forgive us all that is past; and grant that we may serve You in newness of life and to the glory of Your Name. Amen.

#7
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Remember, O Lord, Your great mercy and love, for they are from of old; Remember not the sins of our youth and our rebellious ways; According to Your love remember us, for You are good, O Lord... For the sake of Your Name, O Lord, forgive our iniquity, though it is great... Turn to us and be gracious to us, for we are lonely and afflicted. The troubles of our hearts have multiplied; free us from our anguish. Look upon our affliction and our distress, and take away all our sins. (Psalm 25:6,7,11,16-18).

#8

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O Lord, do not rebuke us in Your wrath, nor chasten us in Your hot displeasure! For Your arrows pierce us deeply, and Your hand presses us down. There is no soundness in our flesh because of Your anger, nor is there any health in our bones because of our sin. For our iniquities have gone over our heads; like a heavy burden they are too heavy for us. Lord, all our desire is before You; and our sighing is not hidden from You. For we will declare our iniquity, we will be in anguish over our sin. Do not forsake us, O Lord; O our God, be not far from us! Make haste to help us, O Lord, our salvation! (Psalm 38:1-4,9,18,21-22)

#9

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Do not withhold Your tender mercies from us, O Lord; Let Your lovingkindness and Your truth continually preserve us. For innumerable evils have surrounded us; our iniquities have overtaken us, so that we are not able to look up; they are more than the hairs of our heads; therefore our hearts fail us. Be pleased, O Lord, to deliver us; O Lord, make haste to help us. Amen. (Psalm 40:11-13)

#10

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Have mercy upon us, O God, according to Your lovingkindness; According to the multitude of Your tender mercies, blot out our transgressions. Wash us thoroughly from our iniquity, and cleanse us from our sin. For we acknowledge our transgressions, and our sin is ever before us. Against You, You only, have we sinned, and done this evil in Your sight, that You may be found just when You speak, and blameless when You judge. Amen. (Psalm 51:1-4).

#11

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Purge us with hyssop, and we will be clean; Wash us and we will be whiter than snow. Hide Your face from our sins, and blot out all our iniquities. Create in us clean hearts, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within us. Do not cast us away from Your presence, and do not take Your Holy Spirit from us. Restore to us the joy of Your salvation, and uphold us with Your generous Spirit. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and a contrite heart - These, O God, You will not despise. (Psalm 51:7, 9-12,17).

#12

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Eternal Father, You are good beyond all thought, but we are vile, wretched, miserable, blind; Our lips are ready to confess, but our hearts are slow to feel and our ways reluctant to amend. We bring our souls to You. Break them, wound them, bend them, mold them. Unmask to us sin's deformity, that we may hate it, abhor it, flee from it. Our abilities have been weapons of revolt against You; As rebels we have misused our strength, and served

the foul adversary of Your kingdom. Give us grace to bewail our senseless folly; Grant us to know that the way of transgression is hard; That evil paths are wretched paths; That to depart from You is to lose all good. We have seen the purity and beauty of Your perfect law, the happiness of those in whose hearts it reigns, the calm dignity of the walk to which it calls; Yet daily we violate and condemn its precepts. All these sins we mourn, lament, and for them cry, "Pardon." Work in us more profound and abiding repentance; Give us the fulness of a godly grief which is ever powerful, and ever confident; Grant that our repentance will enable us to see more clearly the glory and brightness of the cross of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen. [T. David Gordon]

#13
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O great and everlasting God, Who dwells in unapproachable light, Who searches and knows the thoughts and intentions of the heart; We confess that we have not loved You with all our heart, nor with all our soul, nor with all our mind, nor with all our strength; Nor our neighbors as ourselves. We have loved what we ought not to have loved; We have coveted what is not ours; We have not been content with Your provisions for us. We have complained in our hearts about our family, about our friends, about our health, about our occupations, about Your church, and about our trials. We have sought our security in those things which perish, rather than in You, the Everlasting God. Chasten, cleanse, and forgive us, through Jesus Christ, who is able for all time to save us who approach You through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for us. Amen. [based on Deut. 6 and Heb. 7]

#14
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O LORD, do not rebuke us in Your anger, or discipline us in Your wrath. For Your arrows have sunk into us, and Your hand has come down upon us. There is no soundness in our flesh because of Your indignation; There is no health in our bones because of our sin. For our iniquities have gone over our heads; They weigh like burdens too heavy for us. Forgive our sins, pardon our iniquities, and restore our communion with You, we ask through our Blessed Lord Jesus, Who for a little while was made lower than the angels, and is now crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, Who by Your grace tasted death for everyone. Amen. [based on Ps. 38 and Heb. 3]

#15
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O eternal God and merciful Father, we humble ourselves before Your great majesty, against which we have frequently and grievously sinned. We acknowledge that we deserve nothing less than eternal death, that we are unclean before You and children of wrath. We continually transgress Your commandments, failing to do what You have commanded, and doing that which You have expressly forbidden. We acknowledge our waywardness, and are heartily sorry for all our sins. We are not worthy to be called Your children, nor to lift up our eyes heavenward to You in prayer. Nevertheless, O Lord God and gracious Father, we know that Your mercy toward those who turn to You is infinite; and so we take courage to call upon You, trusting in our Mediator Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Forgive all our sins for Christ's sake. Cover

us with His innocence and righteousness, for the glory of Your name. Deliver our understanding from all blindness, and our hearts from all wilfulness and rebellion, we pray through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer. Amen. [adapted from *CRC Book of Praise*]

#16
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Eternal and Almighty Father, we acknowledge and confess before Your holy majesty, that we are poor sinners; conceived and born in guilt and in corruption, prone to evil, unable of ourselves to do any good; who, because of our depravity, transgress without end Your holy commandments. Therefore we have drawn upon ourselves, by Your just sentence, condemnation and death. But, O Lord, with heartfelt sorrow we repent and deplore our offenses! We condemn ourselves and our evil ways, with true penitence beseeching that Your grace may relieve our distress. Be pleased then to have compassion upon us, O most gracious God, Father of all mercies, for the sake of Your Son Jesus Christ, our Lord. And, in removing our guilt and our pollution, grant us the daily increase of the grace of Your Holy Spirit; that, acknowledging from our inmost hearts our own unrighteousness, we may be touched with sorrow that shall work true repentance; and that Your Spirit, mortifying all sin within us, may produce the fruits of holiness and righteousness well-pleasing in Your sight; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen. same as #4 [adapted from Calvin's *Form of Church Prayers*]

#17
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Have mercy on us, O God, according to Your steadfast love; according to Your abundant mercy blot out our transgressions. Wash us thoroughly from our iniquities, and cleanse us from our sins. For we know our transgressions, and our sin is ever before us. Against You, You alone, have we sinned, and done what is evil in Your sight, so that You are justified in Your sentence and blameless when You pass judgment. Indeed, we were born guilty, sinners when our mothers conceived us. Hide Your face from our sins, and blot out all our iniquities. Create in us clean hearts, O God, and put new and right spirits within us. Do not cast us away from Your presence, and do not take Your Holy Spirit from us, we pray through Him who loved us and gave Himself for us, even our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen. [based on Ps. 51]

#18
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Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Maker of all things, Judge of all men; We acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness, Which we, from time to time, most grievously have committed, By thought, word, and deed, Against Your Divine Majesty, Provoking most justly Your wrath and indignation against us. We do earnestly repent, And are heartily sorry for these our misdoings; The remembrance of them is grievous unto us; The burden of them is intolerable. Have mercy upon us, Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; For Your Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, Forgive us all that is past; And grant that we may ever hereafter serve and please You in newness of life, To the honour and glory of Your name; Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

#19
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Most merciful God, Who are of purer eyes than to behold iniquity, and hast promised forgiveness to all those who confess and forsake their sins; We come before You with a humble sense of our own unworthiness, acknowledging our manifold transgressions of Your righteous laws. But, O gracious Father, Who desires not the death of a sinner, look upon us, we beseech You, in mercy, and forgive us all our transgressions. Make us deeply sensible of the great evil of them; And work in us a hearty contrition; That we may obtain forgiveness at Your hands, Who are ever ready to receive humble and penitent sinners; for the sake of Your Son Jesus Christ, our only Saviour and Redeemer. Amen.

#20
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Holy Lord, we are guilty -- of pride and unbelief, of failure to find Your mind in Your Word, of neglect to seek You in our daily lives. Our violations and shortcomings present our consciences with a long list of accusations, but they shall not stand! For we lay them all now on Christ, our sacrifice and advocate. Go on now, Lord, to subdue our weaknesses, granting us grace to live above them. Let us not be mastered by them, but now rule over us in liberty and power. We praise and thank you for your wisdom and love, for sometimes putting us into the furnace to refine our gold and remove our dross. Deliver us from every evil habit, everything that dims the brightness of Your grace in us, everything that prevents us from taking our deepest delight in You, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [T. David Gordon]

#21
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Our great and glorious God, You who know and judge the secrets of every human heart; We do acknowledge and confess that we have followed our father Adam in revolting against your commandments. We have turned from your ways and from your blessed Presence, and have reaped the misery of turning away from You, the very Author of life. None of us is righteous, no not one; None of us has understanding, none of us seeks God; Our throats are opened graves; we use our tongues to deceive; Our mouths are full of cursing and bitterness; Our feet are swift to shed blood; ruin and misery are in our paths, and the way of peace we have not known; There is no fear of God before our eyes. We appeal to you, through your great mercy made manifest in Jesus Christ Your obedient Son, that you would forgive our sins for His sake; That you would make many righteous through His one act of obedience; That where our sin has increased, Your grace would abound. Just as Christ was raised from the dead by your glory, so also may we walk in newness of life. Amen. [based upon Rom. 3]

#22
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Our great and everlasting God, Whose eternal power and divine nature have been seen through the things You have made; we acknowledge that we are without excuse. For although we have known You, we have not honored you as God nor given you thanks, but we have become futile in our thinking; and our senseless minds have been darkened. Claiming to be wise, we have become fools. We have been filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, covetousness, and malice. Full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, and craftiness, we are gossips, slanderers, God-haters, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, rebellious toward parents, foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless. Yet we do also heartily acknowledge that when we were weak, at the right time, Christ died for the ungodly. We most joyfully confess that You have proven your love for us in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Forgive our sins, we pray, through Him who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification. Amen. [based upon Rom. 1 and Rom. 5]

#23
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We have sinned against you, O Lord, our Maker, our Defender, and our Redeemer. Our natures are corrupt and sinful; prone to fall away from you, sluggish to do good and swift to do evil. Vain thoughts have come upon us and found lodging within us, defiling and disquieting our minds, and keeping out good thoughts. We have burdened ourselves with that care which you have commanded us to cast upon you. We have failed in our duties one to another, and have provoked one another as much to folly and anger as to love and good works. We have been cold in our love to you, weak in our desires toward you, unsteady in our walking with you, and are even at this time poorly prepared to serve you. We beseech you--Forgive all our sins, for Christ's sake, and be at peace with us in Him Who died to make peace and lives to make intercession for us. Amen. (adapted from Mathew Henry)

#24
Confession of Sin

O eternal God and merciful Father, we humble ourselves before your great majesty, against which we have frequently and grievously sinned. We acknowledge that we deserve nothing less than eternal death, that we are unclean before you and children of wrath. We continually transgress your commandments, failing to do what you have commanded, and doing that which you have expressly forbidden. We acknowledge our waywardness, and are heartily sorry for all our sins. We are not worthy to be called your children, nor to lift up our eyes heavenward to you in prayer. Nevertheless, O Lord God and gracious Father, we know that your mercy toward those who turn to you is infinite; and so we take courage to call upon you, trusting in our Mediator Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Forgive all our sins for Christ's sake. Cover us with his innocence and righteousness, for the glory of your name. Deliver our understanding from all blindness, and our hearts from all wilfulness and rebellion, we pray through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer. Amen. (adapted from *CRC Book of Praise*)

#25
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Almighty and everlasting God, Glorious Creator of all things, and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ; we have sinned against Your holy Name, by failing to glorify You in our lives as your redeemed children. Our unthankfulness extends to every thought and deed, as well as to our failure to thank you with our lips. We have not lived to the praise of the glory of Your grace. We have not esteemed the reproach of Jesus Christ our Savior to be greater than the riches of this world. We have failed to estimate the infinite cost of the salvation won for us at the cross through the shed blood of Jesus. We have not been faithful to You as You have been faithful to us in all things. Father, forgive us for our ingratitude through the reconciling sacrifice of Jesus Christ our all-sufficient Mediator, we pray. Amen.

#26
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Oh thrice Holy God, who bless us continually in every part of life, we are daily ungrateful in thought, word and deed. We have not imitated Your Son, our Lord and Savior, as we ought. We have neglected obedience to Your holy commandments. We bow in dust before You and beg Your mercy in Jesus Christ. Without Your forgiveness we are without hope in this wicked world. We praise You for the finished work of Your Son on the cross. We place our trust in His all sufficient sacrifice for us. By Your abounding grace we ask that You would renew us by Your Holy Spirit in our commitment to live more and more for Your Glory through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.
[G. Reynolds]