

2016 PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

January 3

Holy God, we come before You on this first Sunday of a new year to give You honor and praise and to open our hearts to You. This week we will observe Epiphany, the day that marks the visit of the magi to the baby Jesus. Like those wise men of old who came to bow down before You and offer their gifts, we do the same. Even as we offer ourselves and our gifts, we also come with hearts that need You. We confess that we are sinners who have often turned away from Your light. We have followed our own way. We have not loved You with our whole hearts. We haven't loved the people You have put in our lives or the stranger among us, and we haven't even truly loved ourselves. Please forgive us, Jesus. May we listen to Your voice, follow Your way, and serve the world as Your hands and feet. Give us Your strength and love as we move into this new year. In Jesus' Name we pray, Amen.

January 10

Loving God, We pause this morning to confess our sin to You. We enter into confession with both gratitude and reluctance. We're grateful we have a gracious God to whom we can confess, but we're reluctant that a deep confession might push the limits of that grace. So we confess, but not too deeply. We admit our wrongdoing, but omit the specifics. But You know our hearts, O Lord. You see what is done in secret. You hear our anxious thoughts, and know our evil deeds. Forgive us for our deceptiveness even in our confession. Lead us into the depth of our brokenness, that we may experience the height of Your love. And then teach us how to exhibit Your love to a world that is broken. In the Name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

January 17

Gracious heavenly Father, the Giver and Author of life, You have loved us with an everlasting love, but we have gone astray, rejecting Your will for our lives. In humility, we admit that we are sinners in need of Your grace. Instead of seeking the inner peace of Your presence, we have given in to our fears and temptations. Forgive us, Lord, for being impatient and failing to turn our hearts toward You. Grant us the courage to trust You as You guide us through life. For the sake of Your Son who died for us, forgive us, cleanse us, and create in us the desire to live every moment for You, and to please You in every way. We pray these things in the Name of our precious Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

January 24

Lord, because of Your kindness and goodness, You took the initiative to meet us at our greatest point of need. We are so grateful for our salvation in Christ. For that reason and others, we want to be more like You, but we confess that we fall quite short. We are kind to those who are kind to us, but it is hard for us to be kind to those who are unkind. Still, You have called us to become more like You: tenderhearted and forgiving with brotherly love. May we yield completely to Your Holy Spirit. Give us the supernatural ability to show goodness even to those who don't deserve it, to react with goodness to those who hurt us, and to reflect Your generous heart like a light shining in the darkness. We know we can only do this by Your grace and power. And so we pray this expectantly in Christ's Name. Amen.

January 31

Pastor: God, we come to You knowing that we often live life apart from You.

People: Forgive us and help us to be faithful.

Pastor: In our busyness we put our spiritual life behind many other things.

People: Forgive us and help us to be faithful.

Pastor: We focus on what we need rather than on what You ask of us.

People: Forgive us and help us to be faithful.

Pastor: We marginalize our sin and allow it to become commonplace in our lives.

People: Forgive us and help us to be faithful.

Pastor: We are slow to forgive even though You have given us great grace.

People: Forgive us and help us to be faithful.

Pastor: Shape us and mold us so that we can be as faithful to You as You are to us.

In Jesus' Name we pray. Amen.

February 7 (Super Bowl Sunday / Scout Sunday)

Loving God, Our efforts to faithfully follow You often feels like a dance, one step forward and two steps back. We follow and we falter; we try and we give up. The good we do seems to fall flat, and the wrong we do gets magnified. For all our failings, for all our missteps, You never give up on us. We thank You, Lord, for walking with us even when we lose our way. Grant us self-control that we can live each day according to Your Word and fill us with Your Holy Spirit to guide us each step of the way. And when our dance on this earth ends, grant us the hope of things to come. This we pray in the name of Jesus, our Savior. Amen.

February 14

Lord, as we enter this Lenten season, we are reminded in a dramatic way that You are Love. As Your children, we want to emulate that kind of love. Unfortunately, without repentance from our sin, we are stuck in our own selfishness. This leaves us with a counterfeit love based on our own devices and desires. Have mercy on us. We confess that our methods of loving are incomplete. Thankfully, You have placed Your Spirit in our hearts. This changes everything. Now, as we set our gaze toward the Cross, may our hearts be filled with the greatest love of all: Your unconditional sacrificial love. We pray for this transformation, in Christ's Name. Amen.

February 21

Dear Lord, we come to You this day to give You our thanks and praise for Your unbelievable love for us. When we stop to think about how much You love us and what You have done for us by

dying on the cross, we are overwhelmed and almost speechless. Is it really true that You died for us? That You forgive us when we confess to You? That You can and do change us? Thank You, Lord, for Your grace and love. Knowing this, we are confident, even eager, to lay it all out before You. We confess that we have sinned, and fallen short of who You would have us be and how You would have us act. Please hear our silent prayers of confession... We are sorry and we ask You to forgive us. Thank You, Holy Spirit, for giving us the courage, strength, and hope to cling to You, and to follow You more closely. In Jesus' Name we pray, Amen.

February 28

Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. Forgive what our lips tremble to name, what our hearts can no longer bear, and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment. Set us free from a past that we cannot change; open to us a future in which we can be changed, and grant us grace to grow more and more in Your likeness and image, through Jesus Christ, the Light of the world. Amen.

*From the PCUSA Book of Common Worship
Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 1993; p. 88*

March 6 (Confirmation Sunday - Prayers by Youth)

Heavenly Father, we are human and we need forgiveness. We make mistakes. We are prideful and selfish. So many things in life happen for good and bad and we're often unsure of decisions, stressed out, and even lost. It is incredibly hard to admit, but at times we do not know why Jesus' dying on the cross was such a huge deal. We have learned that Jesus not only died an excruciating death, but He also was ripped from His Father's presence. Was one person's suffering worth the whole world's forgiveness? In First Corinthians 15:22, Paul says, "For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive." This reminds us that no matter how hard we may mess up and disobey Him, God will still love us and help us. I have experienced forgiveness in my life. Even though I may stray from God's ways, I will always trust in Him and live my life knowing that He loves me. He has given me the privilege of being His child, and for that I'm thankful. Amen.

March 13

Lord, You have called us to be a community of faith. You have given us the freedom to speak openly and often about Your love. Yet, we too often spend our time in fear or indifference. We neglect to remember the amazing things You have done. You have arranged for us to enjoy a new life in Christ, but we regularly reject Your goodness and Your faithfulness. Father, as we pray silently now, bring to our minds the ways we have forgotten to celebrate all You have done for us. (*silent prayers*) Forgive us, Lord. You have given us everything in Jesus. In fact, every perfect gift we have comes from You. May we share Your joy lavishly with our family, our friends, and those we encounter. We pray this humbly, in Christ's Name. Amen.

March 20 (Palm Sunday)

Lord, we often are so focused on going about our days that we fail to consider You. We fail to remember the cost You paid on the cross so that we could experience life with You. We see our Bibles on our nightstands, but decide that sleep is more important than time spent with You. We claim that we are too busy to worship You each day, but seem to find time for Netflix. We forget

that the “good life” is only found in taking up our crosses daily and following You. Lord, forgive us. Interrupt us. Focus our gaze on You. Amen.

March 27 (Easter Sunday)

Lord God, today we celebrate the greatest day in all of human history. Yet, we confess that sometimes we do not see all that You want us to see. In fact, at times, we are not looking for any answers at all. Sometimes we even are walking in the wrong direction. But You, O Lord, are a God of great faithfulness. We confess our sins of indifference and confusion. Have mercy upon us. Forgive our sin, O God. Today we come to You confidently, with eyes wide open, ready to be filled with understanding and wisdom. May our hearts be filled as You encourage us with Your truth and grace, by the power of the Holy Spirit. We ask this in Jesus’ Holy Name. Amen.

April 3

O Holy God, forgive us for failing to live our lives in faithful obedience to You. We often turn our backs on the opportunities You place before us to share Your love and grace. Our lives are filled with fear. We are afraid of the unknown, afraid of what is beyond our understanding, and afraid of what might happen if we truly turn control of our lives over to You. You’ve sent us into the world to be Your disciples, but fear seems to stop us in our tracks and hinder our actions. Empower us, O Lord, to be faithful in all that we say and do. Grant us the courage to step out in faith and go where You send us. With faith-filled hearts and open hands, help us to set aside our fears, and walk confidently on the paths where You lead us. In Christ’s Name we pray. Amen.

April 10

Holy God, You are the anchor amidst our fears. You know the sins we can’t even admit to ourselves. You show Your faithfulness even when we reject You. You offer grace even when we offer judgement. Forgive us, God. Help us overcome our fears. Help us face all of our sins. Help us to be faithful. Help us to be full of grace. Remind us that we are a people of redemption, not a people imprisoned by our sins. And help us to live as people of hope, shaped by Your forgiving love. Amen.

April 17

Dear Lord, We are so grateful that we have found our home in Your church. We have been forever changed by the new identity You give us as forgiven and beloved children. We are refreshed again and again as we dive deeper into Christian fellowship, Your Word, and prayer. But, Father, we confess that we are not so good about sharing this safe and loving home with others. You want us to be able to talk plainly about the difference You have made in our lives, but we confess that we are plagued with apathy, laziness, and fear. You want for us to be overflowing with hope and peace, but we are often consumed by the cares and distractions of this world. Father, we confess that we just don’t get how important all of this is. We have been selfish, and blind to the truth. Please forgive us. Give us clean hearts, a clear conscience, and a willingness to speak boldly about the forgiveness and love that You so freely give. In Jesus’ Name we pray. Amen.

April 24

Dear Lord, we come to You this morning to give You our thanks and praise. You are God Almighty, the giver of life, hope, and forgiveness. We confess that we often forget that You are God and the King of our lives, and we live as though we are in charge of the world. So many other things about this life beg for our attention and even worship. We stray from You and begin to believe the message of this world instead of Your message of grace. We also confess that we have sinned in so many other ways and have fallen short of Your glory. Forgive us for being harsh and judgmental toward others, for being too quick to speak, for not bringing all of our thoughts and words before You in prayer. Help us to keep our eyes on You and our hearts centered in Your love. In Jesus' Name we pray, Amen.

May 1 (Youth Senior Sunday)

We pray to You, Lord, that all our sins may be forgiven. Our sins bind us like a straight jacket and we are unable to get free through our own strength. We've been lost. Haunted by our own materialistic wants, we've shunned You from our lives in hopes of finding happiness. Yet You wait for us with wide open arms. Free us from our worldly wants and sins, Wash us in Your glory. We call upon Your grace, love, and mercy as we confess our sins. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

May 8 (Mother's Day)

Dear Lord, we come to You this morning first to give You our worship and praise. You are the King, You are the Lord, You are the one who did indeed create us and give us life. You never leave us. You always reach out Your hand to us. We praise You. We come because we need to confess our sins to You, to open the hidden places of our hearts before You. We confess that we forget that You love us more than anything and that You call us to follow You alone. We arrange our lives around the idols of this world and not around You. We want what others have or what they tell us to want. We are afraid of rejection by the world, forgetting that You are the only one we need to serve. We look for love in ways that will never bring us peace or lasting joy. Lord, we are sorry. Please forgive us. In Jesus' Name we pray, Amen.

May 15 (Pentecost Sunday)

Holy God, we have deceived ourselves into believing our sins aren't that bad, that Your grace isn't enough, and that we can earn Your forgiveness. We have embraced the stable misery of sin-fractured relationships rather than seeking true reconciliation through Your grace and mercy. We have lived as people pacified by our possessions and dulled by our duties, rather than being jolted by Your Spirit to live as Christ out in the world. We speak of sacrifice flippantly, we refuse to step outside of our comfort zones, and we don't want to do what it really takes to take up Your cross and follow You. Change us from the inside out, so that we can be one of Your sent ones in the world. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

May 22

Almighty God, there is no one like You in heaven above or on the earth below. You keep promises like no one else. You listen to us without distraction. You answer us with divine wisdom. You brought us eternal salvation when all seemed lost and hopeless. We confess that our prayers fall short of what they should be. We admit that our lives fall short of what they could be. Yet You call us to repentance, and in You we find the abundant life. Forgive us, Lord, for our failures and lack

of trust, and grant us the precious gift of Your loving grace. In the Name of Jesus, our Savior we pray. Amen.

May 29 (Memorial Weekend) – One morning Service @ 10am

Dear God, You are the King, You are the Lord, You are the One who delivers us from the darkness. You are our Maker and our Redeemer and our Comforter. We give You praise. You are all wise and You know us inside and out. We come to You now to open the doors of our hearts and let You into our hidden places of darkness and sin. We confess that we have said and done things that are against Your will and that have hurt others. Among other things, we have stepped on other people, acted selfishly, and said hurtful things, falling short of who You would have us be. We also confess that we have often been too busy to stop and listen to Your voice. We don't act on the promise to rest in You. Lord, we are sorry. Please forgive us. Holy Spirit, fill us with Your hope and peace. In Jesus' Name we pray, amen.

June 5

Father in heaven, I have a problem called sin. It makes me do things I don't want to do, say things I don't want to say, and think things I don't want to think. It keeps me from living fully for You each day. I want to be free.

I want to obey You and Your word. I want to be a light of hope to a hurting world. I want my life to count. I want to be a Sent One. I need Your forgiveness. I need Your help. Today and every day. In Jesus' Name we pray.

Amen.

June 12

Creator God, we confess that we often hide the sins that are so prevalent in our lives. We are embarrassed by the fact that we too easily give in to the temptations that confront us. Forgive us, Lord, for our failure to live up to Your expectations. Forgive us for failing to recognize that it is our sin that separates us from You and from each other. Forgive us for allowing the sin in our lives to deceive us into thinking that we can ignore You and the needs of those who are suffering in our midst. Forgive us, O Lord, and grant us the strength and courage to trust You to overcome our sinfulness. Enable us to live in the light of Your truth, and in the warmth of Your loving grace, remembering the forgiveness that is ours through our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. In His Name we pray. Amen.

June 19

Dear Lord, You are the strong and mighty God, the Creator of the universe and every living creature. You are all-powerful, faithful, and just, and You have loved us since before we were born. We come to You as Your children who need You. You have called us to follow You and to serve You with our whole lives, but we haven't done so. We confess that we are sinners who often ignore You and continue to hurt You and others and ourselves. We put our trust in the wrong things, thinking that we know what we need and how to take care of ourselves. We damage relationships because we are scared, angry, or jealous. We sometimes refuse to forgive and ask forgiveness of others and of You. We are sorry, please forgive us. Help us to turn away from our own selfish desires and give ourselves wholly to You. Holy Spirit, give us the strength

and courage and grace to love You and to love others in Your Name. Guide our lives as we seek to follow You more closely.

In Jesus' Name we pray, Amen.

June 26

Lord, thank You for the gift of Your Word. You are a God who wants to be known and heard. You have spoken and continue to speak to humanity through Jesus, Your Incarnate Word, and Scripture, Your written Word. Thank You. Lord, forgive us for failing to listen to Your Word. Sometimes when You speak to us, we question whether we heard You correctly. At other times, we know You have spoken but we choose not to listen. Many times, we are too distracted with the rest of our lives to hear You speaking at all.

Forgive us. Lord, help us trust and obey Your Word. Give us clarity and wisdom to recognize Your voice.

Give us confidence and courage to follow You. Help us. We believe, Lord, but help our unbelief. In the Name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

July 3 (Patriotic Sunday – One service at 10am)

Lord, you choose us to carry out your will in the world. You call us to bring your light and hope into a world that desperately needs it. You call out to your people saying, “whom shall I send? And who will go for us?” And far too often we refuse your call. We fall for the lies that say we don’t know enough. We fall for the lies that say we can’t speak well enough. We fall for the lies that say we are not enough. We think that there must be others you’d much rather call who are more equipped than us. When in reality you chose us to share your Gospel. You chose us to reach out to the least, the last, and the lost. You equip us for the works you’ve set before us. Your power is made perfect in our weakness, and you use our inadequacies to show your great might. Forgive us for giving in to our fears. Forgive us for running from your call. Forgive us for having too small a view of how big and powerful you are. Forgive us for not trusting in you and your plan. Forgive us Lord, and strengthen us, Holy Spirit, to listen to your call and say, “Here I am Lord, Send me”. In Jesus Name, Amen

July 10

Spirit of God, descend upon our hearts and fill us with new life. We are worn out by temptation, confused by our own double-mindedness and compromises with evil. We confess that we settle for shallow roots. We confess that we are like chaff that swirls around wherever the wind blows. We confess that we have forsaken the life of disciplined obedience. Forgive us, we pray. Transplant us beside Your stream of living water, for we ask it in Jesus’ Name. Amen.

July 17

Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. Forgive what our lips tremble to name, what our hearts can no longer bear, and what has become for us a cloud of guilt and shame. Set us free from a past that we cannot change, open to us a future in which we can be changed, and grant us grace to grow into Your likeness and image, through Jesus Christ, the Light of the world. Amen.

July 24

How great and glorious You are, O God. There is no one like You. You transform our weakness into strength. You forgive our stubbornness and arrogance, and fill us with Your generous wisdom. You turn our errors into stepping stones and our defeats into victories. You create beauty out of the ashes of our sinful nature. Forgive us, Lord, for being silent about Your goodness and for trusting the foolish wisdom of this world. Help us not to give up or give in to the temptations around us and to keep our eyes focused on Your loving grace. In Christ's Name we pray. Amen.

July 31

Father in Heaven, we are in awe Your creative power: You delight us with sunflowers and alpine lakes and chocolate; You designed us to crave friendship and heroes and purpose; You created us in Your image and said it was very good. But we confess that we are often very bad. Sometimes the muck that flows from our hearts shocks us and causes us to despair. We have sinned, and fallen short of Your hope for us. But You are a mighty rescuer. Your love is everlasting. Through Jesus, You forgive us our sin; You transform muck into pure, living water; Your mercy abounds. We are sinners, saved by grace. We are grateful. Amen.

August 7

Dear Lord, we worship You as our God and King, as the One true God, as the faithful Guardian of our souls. We come to You in this time of worship to stop, to breathe, and to listen. We want to open our hearts to You and share our secrets, our sins, and our lack of faith. We lay it all out before You. We confess that we have sinned and are in desperate need of Jesus, our Redeemer. We have followed the enticing idols offered by the world instead of worshiping You alone. In the safe place of prayer, Lord, hear our hearts speak. We are sorry; please forgive us. Holy Spirit, come inside our hearts and transform us by Your love and forgiveness. Fill us with Your grace and hope. In the Name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

August 14

Holy God, You say that You are the Light of the World, yet we still refuse to let You into the darkest places of our lives. You say that You are the Good Shepherd, but we fail to follow where You lead. We are sheep that have gone astray. You say that You are the bread of life, but we seek out other things to satisfy us. You say that You are the Way, but we often make our own paths. You say that You are the Truth, but we find ways to deceive ourselves and others. You say that You are Life. Forgive us and help us to embrace the mercy, forgiveness, and grace that You offer us so that we can have an abundant life with You. In Jesus' Name we pray, Amen

August 21

To the God who owns the cattle on a thousand hills, and who stills the raging seas with a word: Forgive us, Lord. We often forget Your power when we come to You in prayer. We ask You for too little, settling for a morsel of Your grace when You've prepared for us a banquet. Forgive us for believing that You are not an abundant God. And now with boldness we silently share with You what we want You to do for us. [pause for silent prayer] If these things are Your will, may they be so. In the Name of Jesus Christ, who is enough, Amen.

August 28

Almighty God, we come to You now as Your children because we know we are broken and sinful and need You so much. You are our Lord and King, and You love us more than we can imagine. Even knowing this we still run from You and try to live as if we don't need You. We have broken our relationship with You and have done things that have hurt You, others and ourselves. We have said ugly and mean words, and acted in judgmental and arrogant ways. We have been impatient and self-centered. We are sorry. Please forgive us.

We repent and turn our faces toward You to receive Your love and forgiveness. Help us to live as blessed ones who give You our whole lives. Thank You for never leaving us or forsaking us. In Jesus' Name we pray, Amen

September 4 - (Labor Day weekend)

Holy God, we cry out to You, and name You as eternal, ever-present, and boundless in love. Yet there are times, O God, when we fail to recognize You in the routine of our lives. Shame clenches tightly around our hearts, and we hide our true feelings. Fear makes us small, and we miss the chance to speak from Your strength. Doubt invades our hopefulness and we degrade Your divine wisdom. We accept responsibility for our sinfulness and seek Your forgiveness and cleansing. Holy God, remind us again of Your holy presence.

Free us from shame and self-doubt. Help us to see You in the call to live honestly, to act courageously, and to speak from Your love. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

September 11

Almighty and compassionate God, You have loved us with unfailing, self-giving mercy, but we have not loved You. You constantly call us, but we do not listen. You ask us to love, but we walk away from neighbors in need, wrapped in our own concerns. You call us to be reconciled to one another, yet we fail to seek forgiveness from those we have sinned against. Our pride prevents us from being the people You called us to be in Your Word. God of grace, as You come to us in mercy, we repent in spirit and in truth, admit our sin, and gratefully receive the forgiveness You offer us through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer and Lord. Hear our prayer, O Lord. In Your Son's Name we pray. Amen.

September 18

Holy God, When we confess our sins to you, When we don't cover them up, We are joyful because you lift the burden of our guilt. When we come to you in need. You are our hiding place. You save us from trouble. You protect us with your constant love. Teach us Lord, in the ways we should go. So that we can live as you intended. And rejoice in your love forever. In Jesus Name, Amen

September 25

God, You loved us long before we knew our own names. Your Spirit prayed for us before we could even form words. You knew the number of hairs on our heads before our first haircuts. And for that we are grateful. But you did the same for our brothers and sisters in Mexico, and Ethiopia, and Iran, and every other nation on earth. Forgive us for thinking You are an American God, whose attention is fixed only on America. Make our world larger so that we might share Your desire for the nations. Incline our hearts to love beyond our borders. We ask this in the Name of Jesus Christ, whom You gave because You so loved the world, Amen.

October 2 (World Communion and First Communion)

God of grace, we come to You this morning as one part of the whole of Your people. On this World Communion Sunday, we join with all Your people around the world to give You honor and glory as the God of all creation and as the Savior of our souls. We need You, Lord. We confess that we too often think of ourselves, our church, and our country as the center of the universe. We want what we want, when we want it. We forget that we are not the center, but You are. We have sinned against You, others, and ourselves in our quest for happiness. We are sorry; please forgive us. Holy Spirit, turn our eyes toward You, melt our hearts for the world, and fill us with Your grace, love, and hope. Give us eyes to see what part of the Kingdom work You have for us. Give us the strength and courage to be Your hands and feet and voice in the world. In the Name of Jesus we pray, Amen.

October 9

Almighty and gracious God, Your love is everlasting and filled with patience. In our sinfulness, we run away, yet You seek after us. We make foolish choices in spite of the fact that You teach us a better way. We hurt You and others, and, instead of hurting us back, You forgive us. Our pride often gets in the way of our efforts to reveal Your glory and goodness. We try to bear the imprint of Christ throughout the world, yet we often do just the opposite and fail to be the people You've called us to be in Your Word. Forgive the sin in our lives and grant us hearts to follow the example that You gave us in Your Son, Jesus. In His precious Name we pray. Amen.

October 16

Dear Lord, You are the almighty God, the Creator of the Universe. You are the King of the world and the keeper of our souls. You are infinite and yet You care for us who are finite. You are strong and mighty and yet You comfort the weak and broken. You are complete in Yourself and yet You reach out for a relationship to us.

We praise You, oh God. We come to You now to open our hearts to You. We are in search of forgiveness, for we have sinned...against You and others and even ourselves. We love You, but too many times we have tried to live life by our own rules and have not followed You with our whole hearts. We have tried to prove ourselves and have not let You lead us. We have just been plain stubborn and wanted our own way. We have not been generous with our hearts, our money, or our time. Being too busy and focused on our own lives, we have often neglected to care for Your Kingdom people out there in the world. Please hear us as we confess our sins silently. We are sorry. Please forgive us. Holy Spirit, change us. Turn us in a new direction. Build a fire in us so that we might share with others what You have so graciously given to us, especially Your Son, Jesus. Fill us with Your grace. In Jesus' Name we pray, Amen.

October 23

Almighty God, we confess that we are often swept up in the tide of our generation. We have failed in our calling to be Your holy people, a people set apart for Your divine purpose. We live more in apathy born of fatalism than in passion born of hope. We are moved more by private ambition than by social justice. We dream more of privilege and benefits than of service and generosity. We try to speak in Your Name without relinquishing our glories, without nourishing our souls, without relying wholly on Your grace. Help us to make room in our hearts and lives for You. By

Your Holy Spirit, forgive us, revive us, and reshape us into Your image. In Christ's Name we pray.
Amen

October 30

Holy God, You call us to a passionate, all-consuming faith. Yet, frequently, we give You half-hearted obedience or distracted, leftover moments of our time. You tell us that we are the salt of the earth and the light of the world, but we find ourselves to be dull and blind in our love for others. You ask for our wholehearted faith, and we meet You with anxiety and fear. We recognize our desperate need for You today. Please work within us. Change us from the inside out. Fan into flame the desire to want more of You. We are thankful for Your never-changing, unending love for us. We thank You for pursuing us when we turn our backs on You. We thank You for waking us up out of the monotony of selfish living. We place ourselves at Your Feet, but ask that You keep us there as we continue on in our daily living. Be with us now, be with us tomorrow, and forevermore. In Jesus' Name, Amen

November 6

Father in Heaven, You are holy and good. We trust that Your instruction gives life. You invite us to walk with You along the narrow road. We confess that we often choose the wide road, the easy road, the one which You have warned us brings destruction. Thank You for the gift of Your Son who forgives our sin, and helps us overcome our wandering. Grant us the grace and courage to submit to the teaching of Your Word and the leading of Your Spirit. In Jesus' Name we pray.
Amen

November 13

Almighty God, Some days our biggest sin is trying to control our lives and everything in them. We don't give You the big things or even the little things that consume us. We think that we can handle it on our own and You are just there for big emergencies. We don't start with You, we go to You as a last resort. We fiercely hang on to our families, our finances, our jobs, our vices, our plans, and our futures. We are too scared to let them go. Remind us that You are the foundation upon which we build our lives. Remind us that You are in control and we can trust You with it all. Forgive us when we place our trust in shifting sand. Forgive us for building our lives on anything but You. In Jesus Holy Name we pray, Amen.

November 20

Lord Jesus, You know that, on our better days, we desire to be good and faithful. We discipline ourselves to resist evil and avoid its many temptations. These commitments can isolate us from the world's lost, unclean, and broken people. Your greatest concern is to reach out to them, but we confess that our inclination is to avoid them. Forgive us for isolating ourselves from the very people You came to save. Give us a deep and open-hearted concern for the lost sheep of this world. Remind us that, we too were lost until You found us with Your amazing grace. For we ask it in Jesus' Name. Amen.

November 27 (Thanksgiving weekend)

Loving and gracious God, We do not live as you called us to live. We turn away from You, and from our best selves. You command us to shine Your light, but we hide it instead. We are prideful and self-righteous, and desire control over trust. We know that You love us, and You do not abandon us, and that You pursue us even when we turn away from You. Thank You for loving us unconditionally, Forgive us, we pray, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

December 4

God of grace and truth, in Jesus Christ, You came among us to call us to Yourself. You came as our Shepherd that we might hear Your voice and follow wherever You lead. Yet all too often we have been blind to Your presence, deaf to Your voice, and rebellious to Your will. Forgive us and our sheep-like ways. Take away our timid faith and excuses. In Your mercy, strengthen us with a renewed hope that we might follow and love You with our whole hearts. In Christ's Name we pray. Amen.

December 11

Dear Heavenly Father, we are a world in need. We need hope, forgiveness, love. We need Jesus. Your Word tells us that Jesus is the One Whose birth brings real hope, whose life inspires real love, Whose death and resurrection renders us forgiven. We confess that we often spin our wheels trying to fix things on our own, doubting Your power to effect change in our homes, our hearts, and our world. We ask for Your forgiveness, and for strength to be a people who believe that You are the One with real power to save. In Jesus' Name we pray. Amen.

December 18

Why, Lord, are we more interested in looking good to others than doing right by You? We go days without considering You, but we always are concerned about what others think of us. We pretend that appearing to have it all together makes it so. We pretend that our own efforts can make our lives whole, but our sin-infection produces chaos and vanity; our well-crafted appearances show cracks. Lord, thank You for not leaving us to our own devices. Thank You for Christ who heals our infection and the Holy Spirit who turns our affections to You. Take all of us, Lord. We are Yours. Amen.

December 24 Christmas Eve - Saturday

No prayer of confession for Christmas Eve services

December 25 Christmas Day - Sunday

No written prayer of confession for Christmas Eve services