

# A general confession of sin and a prayer preceding the Sunday sermon and for fasting and prayer days



O eternal God and most merciful Father, with heartfelt humility we stand before your majesty against which we have so often and grievously sinned and concede that before your judgement we deserve nothing but eternal death. We are not only unclean and children of wrath through original sin, conceived in sin and born into unrighteousness, by which evil lusts abound inside us, warring against You and our neighbour, but we have also often and continually transgressed Your commandments by failing to obey Your commands and doing the expressly forbidden. We confess, with the deepest of sorrow, that we have strayed like sheep and sinned greatly against You; yes, we confess in humility and with praise for the mercy You have shown us that our sin is more than the hairs on our head and that we are guilty ten thousand talents with no means to pay. Therefore, we are also not worthy to be called Your children or to raise our eyes to heaven to lay our prayers before You. Yet, o Lord God and merciful Father, we know that You do not wish death upon the sinner, but for him to repent and live and that You show endless mercy to he who repents. We call on You with trust in our Mediator Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God who took away the sin of the world and pray for Your mercy on our weakness by forgiving all our sin for Christ's sake. Wash us in the pure fountain of His blood that we may become pure and white as snow. Cover our nakedness with His innocence and righteousness to the glory of Your Name. Purge our minds of all blindness and our hearts of all wilfulness and stubbornness. Open the mouth of Your servant and fill it with Your wisdom and knowledge that he may proclaim Your Word purely and with boldness. Make the heart of every one of us receptive to hearing, understanding and keeping it. Write Your laws, as You promised, on the tablets of our hearts and grant us the desire and strength to obey to the glory and exultation of Your Name and to the establishment of Your church.

We pray and seek all this, o merciful Father, in the Name of Jesus Christ who taught us to pray as follows:

Our Father who is in heaven,  
hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come.

Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread,  
and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever.

Amen.