

Sunday, June 28th, 2026
Sermon Series: "Summer Psalms."
"Confession" Text(s): *Psalm 32.1-11*.
(Pentecost)

King David and Psalm 32

The _____ for Confession.

*Psalm 32.1-4 Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is **covered**.² Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.³ For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long.⁴ For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.*

כִּפַּר (kā·sā(h)): "To keep to one's self" "Cover" (Forgive)

*1 John 1.8-9 If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.⁹ If we **confess** our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

ὁμολογέω (homologeō): Lit., "To speak the same."

The _____ of Confession.

Psalm 32.5a, 6 I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity...⁶Therefore let everyone who is godly offer prayer to you at a time when you may be found; surely in the rush of great waters, they shall not reach him.

The _____ of Confession.

Psalm 32.5b, 7-9 ...I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," and you forgave the iniquity of my sin...⁷You are a hiding place for me; you surround me with shouts of deliverance.⁸ I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you.⁹ Be not like a horse or a mule, without understanding, which must be curbed with bit and bridle, or it will not stay near you.

Luke 9.20-22 Then he said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" And Peter answered, "The Christ of God."²¹ And he strictly charged and commanded them to tell this to no one,²² saying, "The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised."

2 Corinthians 5.21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

(Answers: Need. Way. Promise.)

What is Confession?

Confession has two parts. First, that we confess our sins, and second, that we receive absolution, that is, forgiveness, from the pastor as from God Himself, not doubting, but firmly believing that by it our sins are forgiven before God in heaven.

What sins should we confess?

Before God we should plead guilty of all sins, even those we are not aware of, as we do in the Lord's Prayer; but before the pastor we should confess only those sins which we know and feel in our hearts.

Which are these?

Consider your place in life according to the Ten Commandments: Are you a father, mother, son, daughter, husband, wife, or worker? Have you been disobedient, unfaithful, or lazy? Have you been hot-tempered, rude, or quarrelsome? Have you hurt someone by your words or deeds? Have you stolen, been negligent, wasted anything, or done any harm?...If, however, someone does not find himself burdened with these or greater sins, he should not trouble himself or search for or invent other sins, and thereby make confession a torture. Instead, he should mention one or two that he knows: In particular I confess that I have cursed; I have used improper words; I have neglected this or that, etc. Let that be enough.

What is the Office of the Keys?

The Office of the Keys is that special authority which Christ has given to His church on earth to forgive the sins of repentant sinners, but to withhold forgiveness from the unrepentant as long as they do not repent.

Where is this Written?

This is what St. John the Evangelist writes in chapter twenty: The Lord Jesus breathed on His disciples and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven." (John 20:22–23)¹

¹ Taken from *Luther's Small Catechism*. www.cph.org/catechism