



REFORMATION COVENANT CHURCH

Loving the Triune God, Loving our Neighbors, Transforming the Fallen World

ASH WEDNESDAY
A PRAYER SERVICE
14 February 2024



Salutation & Call to Worship

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit!

Amen!

The LORD be with you!

And also with you!

Blessed be the name of the Lord our God,

Who redeems us from sin and death.

For us and for our salvation, Christ became obedient to the point of death,

Even the death of the cross.

In God I have put my trust:

I will not be afraid what man can do unto me.

Yea, in the shadow of thy wings will I make my refuge,

Until these calamities have passed by.

Be merciful to me, O God,

For my soul trusts in you.

Blessed be the name of the Lord!

From this time forth and for evermore!

Collect

Let us pray:

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing you have made, and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.



Psalm 119:169-176

Before Thee Let My Cry Come Near

RUSSIA (L.M.)

Daniel Read, 1786

Psalm 119:169-176

The Book of Psalms for Singing, 1973

1. ¹⁶⁹Be - fore Thee let my cry come near, O LORD; true to Thy word, teach
2. ¹⁷¹Since Thou Thy stat - utes teach - est me, O let my lips Thy praise con -

(Melody)

me. fess. ¹⁷⁰Be - fore Thee let word my ¹⁷²Yea, of Thy word my

(Soprano) ¹⁷⁰Be - fore Thee let word my ¹⁷²Yea, of Thy word my

(Alto) ¹⁷⁰Be - fore Thee let word my ¹⁷²Yea, of Thy word my

(Tenor) ¹⁷⁰Be - fore Thee let word my ¹⁷²Yea, of Thy word my

(Bass) ¹⁷⁰Be - fore Thee let word my ¹⁷²Yea, of Thy word my

fore Thee let my plead - ing come; True to Thy prom - ise, res - cue me.
of Thy word my tongue would sing, For Thy com - mands are right - eous-ness.

plead - ing come; True to Thy prom - ise, res - cue me.
tongue would sing, For Thy com - mands are right - eous-ness.

to Thy promise, res - cue me, True to Thy prom - ise, res - cue me.
Thy com - mands are right - eous - ness, For Thy com - mands are right - eous-ness.

res - - - cue me, True to Thy prom - ise, res - cue me.
right - - - eous - ness, For Thy com - mands are right - eous-ness.

3. ¹⁷⁰Be ready with Thy hand to help,
Because Thy precepts are my choice.
¹⁷⁴I've longed for Thy salvation, LORD,
And in Thy holy law rejoice.

4. ¹⁷⁵O let Thine ordinances help;
My soul shall live and praise Thee yet.
¹⁷⁶A straying sheep, Thy servant, seek,
For Thy commands I ne'er forget



Penitential Psalms

The first of the Seven

Chide Me, O LORD, No Longer

NE VEUILLES PAS, Ô SIRE (77 6. 77 6)

Psalm 6

W. W. J. VanOene, 1972; rev.

Genevan Psalter, 1542

harm. Claude Goudimel, 1564; alt.

1. Chide me, O LORD, no long - er, Nor chas - ten
2. My soul is trou - bled great - ly. O has - ten
3. How can the dead a - dore Thee Or bring their
4. All night, in - stead of sleep - ing, I drench my
5. De - part from me, trans - gres - sors. Flee now, all
6. The LORD heard when I plead - ed And my ap -

me in an - ger. In mer - cy hear my groans;
Thou to aid me. Why dost Thou tar - ry, LORD?
thanks be - fore Thee, Or praise Thy ho - ly Name?
couch with weep - ing. With grief my eyes grow weak,
you op - pres - sors: The LORD did heed my cry!
peals He heed - ed. My foes shall be a - shamed,

O LORD, see how I lan - guish. Heal Thou
Turn back and show Thy fa - vor; Me in
I'm wea - ry with my moan - ing, Worn out
Since foes with hate sur - round me And with -
He heard my sup - pli - ca - tion, My plea
For sud - den fear shall shake them, And pan -

my bit - ter an - guish, For trou - bled are my bones.
Thy love de - liv - er, Ac - cord - ing to Thy word!
with con - stant groan - ing And o - ver - come with shame.
out ceas - ing hound me; My ru - in they all seek.
for con - so - la - tion, And with His help is nigh.
ic o - ver - take them. Their doom has He pro - claimed.



Responsive Reading: Psalm 6

O LORD, rebuke me not in your anger,
 nor discipline me in your wrath.
Be gracious to me, O LORD, for I am languishing;
 heal me, O LORD, for my bones are troubled.
My soul also is greatly troubled.
 But you, O LORD—how long?

Turn, O LORD, deliver my life;
 save me for the sake of your steadfast love.
For in death there is no remembrance of you;
 in Sheol who will give you praise?

I am weary with my moaning;
 every night I flood my bed with tears; I drench my couch with my weeping.
My eye wastes away because of grief;
 it grows weak because of all my foes.

Depart from me, all you workers of evil,
 for the LORD has heard the sound of my weeping.
The LORD has heard my plea;
 the LORD accepts my prayer.
All my enemies shall be ashamed and greatly troubled;
 they shall turn back and be put to shame in a moment.

Homily



Penitential Psalms

The third of the Seven

LORD, Rebuke Me Not in Anger

LAS! EN TA FUREUR AIGÜË (8 4 7 8 4 7)

Psalm 38:1-11

Genevan Psalter, 1542

harm. Claude Goudimel, 1564; alt.

William Helder, 1980

1. LORD, re - buke me not in an - ger, And no long - er
2. Thou hast of all strength be - reft me; Health has left me,
3. All my wounds are foul and reek - ing; Ev - er weak - ening,
4. I am crushed and numb with an - guish As I lan - guish,
5. How my pound - ing heart is strain - ing; Strength is wan - ing,

Let Thy wrath on me de - scend. Thou hast pierced me with Thy ar - rows,
And Thy wrath is my de - spair; My in - i - qui - ties dis - tress me
I am ut - ter - ly bowed down. Bit - ter fruits of fol - ly reap - ing,
And I groan in mis - er - y. Thou dost hear my mourn - ful cry - ing,
And my eyes are fail - ing me. I am by my friends ne - glect - ed

Brought me sor - rows, Bowed me down with Thy own hand.
And op - press me; They are more than I can bear.
I go weep - ing, For my vig - or is all gone.
And my sigh - ing Is not hid - den, LORD, from Thee.
And re - ject - ed; Kins - men see my plague and flee.

CONTINUE



LORD, Rebuke Me Not in Anger

Psalm 38:12-22

6. Those who lie in wait to snare me Will not spare me
7. Thou, O LORD my God, wilt hear me And be near me;
8. I am prone to fall or stumble, And I tremble,
9. Count - less might - y foes be - rate me, Fierce - ly hate me;
10. LORD, for - sake me not but hear me; Be Thou near me

All the mis - chief they de - vise. Seem - ing deaf and dumb be - fore them,
Thou, O LORD, wilt heed my voice. Though my foot may slip and wav - er,
Think - ing of my grief and pain. I ac - knowl - edge my trans - ges - sion
With - out cause I am op - pressed. Ill for good they al - ways ren - der;
As my help and shield, I pray. Has - ten to my aid, O Sav - ior;

I ig - nore them And I of - fer no re - plies.
Show Thy fa - vor And let not my foes re - joice.
In con - fes - sion, Deep - ly trou - bled by my sin.
Me they slan - der Since I strive for what is best.
Show Thy fa - vor. O my God, do not de - lay.



Penitential Psalms

The fourth of the Seven

Psalm 51

Tone 8



1. Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your | steadfast love;
According to Your abundant mercy blot out my trans- | gressions.
2. Wash me thoroughly from my in- | iquity,
And cleanse me | from my sin!
3. For I know my trans- | gressions,
And my sin is ever be- | fore me.
4. Against You, You only, have I sinned and done what is evil | in Your sight.
So that You may be justified in Your words and blameless in Your | judgment.
5. Behold, I was brought forth in in- | iquity,
And in sin did my mother con- | ceive me.
6. Behold, You delight in truth in the inward | being,
And You teach me wisdom in the | secret heart.
7. Purge me with hyssop, and I | shall be clean;
Wash me, and I shall be whit- | er than snow.
8. Let me hear joy and | gladness;
Let the bones that You have bro- | ken rejoice.
9. Hide Your face | from my sins.
And blot out all my in- | iquities.
10. Create in me a clean heart, | O God,
And renew a right spirit with- | in me.
11. Cast me not away from your | presence,
And take not your Holy Spirit | from me.
12. Restore to me the joy of your sal- | vation,
And uphold me with a willing | spirit.

CONTINUE



Psalm 51

(cont.)



13. Then I will teach transgressors | your ways,
And sinners will re- | turn to you.
14. Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God,
O God of my sal- | vation;
And my tongue will sing aloud of Your | righteousness.
15. O LORD, open | my lips,
And my mouth will de- | clare Your praise.
16. For You will not delight in sacrifice, or I would | give it,
You will not be pleased with a burnt | offering.
17. The sacrifices of God are a broken | spirit;
A broken and contrite heart, O God, You will | not despise.
18. Do good to Zion in Your good | pleasure.
Build up the walls of Je- | rusalem;
19. Then will You delight in right sacrifices, in burnt offerings and
whole burnt | offerings;
Then bulls will be offered on Your | altar.

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son
And to the Holy | Spirit
As it was in the be- | ginning,
Is now, and will be forever. | Amen



Penitential Psalms

The fifth of the Seven

LORD, Hear My Prayer

LORD, HEAR MY PRAYER (8 8. 8 8. 8 8. 8 8.)

From Psalm 102

The Psalter, 1912

Gregory D. Wilbur, 2009

1. LORD, hear my pray'r and let my cry Have read - y ac - cess un - to Thee.
2. My heart is with - ered like the grass, And I for - get my dai - ly bread.
3. But Thou, Je - ho - vah, shalt en - dure, Thy throne for - ev - er is the same;
4. O Lord, re - gard the pray'r of those Who love the walls of Zi - on well,

2 When in dis - tress to Thee I fly, O hide not Thou Thy face from me.
6 In lone - ly grief my days I pass 7 And sad my thoughts up - on my bed.
And to all gen - e - ra - tions sure Shall be Thy great mem - or - ial name.
Whose hearts are heav - y for her woes, Who sad a - mid her ru - ins dwell.

At - tend, O LORD, to my de - sire And haste to an - swer when I pray.
8 My foes re - proach me all the day, 9 My drink is tears, my bread is grief,
13 The time for Zi - on's help is near, The time ap - point - ed in Thy love;
15 Then all the kings of earth shall fear And heath - en na - tions serve the LORD.

3 For grief con - sumes my strength like fire; My days as smoke pass swift a - way.
10 For in Thy wrath I pine a - way, 11 My days are like a fad - ing leaf.
O let Thy gra - cious aid ap - pear, Look Thou in mer - cy from a - bove.
16 Thy pow'r and glo - ry shall ap - pear, And Zi - on's walls shall be re - stored.

CONTINUE



5. ¹⁷The Lord has heard and an - swered pray'r And saved His peo - ple in dis - tress;
6. ²¹All men in Zi - on shall de - clare His gra - cious name with one ac - cord,
7. Oh, cut not short my life's brief day, O Thou whose years e - ter - nal run,

18 This to the com - ing age de - clare, That they His ho - ly name may bless.
22 When kings and na - tions gath - er there To serve and wor - ship God the LORD.
25 Thou who didst earth's foun - da - tions lay, Cre - a - tor of the stars and sun.

19 The LORD, ex - alt - ed on the throne, Looked down from Heav'n with pi - ty'ng eye
23 Be - fore my jour - ney is com - plete My vig - or fails, my years de - cline;
26 The earth and heav'n's shall pass a - way, Like ves - ture worn and laid a - side,

8. ²⁸Thy ser - vants' chil - dren shall re - main For ev - er - more be - fore Thy face;

20 To still the low - ly cap - tive's moan And save His peo - ple doomed to die.
24 My God, O spare me, I en - treat; The days of life are whol - ly Thine.
27 But change - less Thou shalt live for aye, Thy years for - ev - er shall a - bide.
En - dur - ing hon - or they shall gain, Es - tab - lished ev - er in Thy grace.



Penitential Psalms

The sixth of the Seven

Psalm 130

Tone 7



1. Out | of the depths
I cry to You, | O LORD!
2. O LORD, | hear my voice!
Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleas for | mercy!
3. If You, O LORD, should mark in- | iquities,
O LORD, | who could stand?
4. But with You there is for- | givenness,
That You | may be feared.
5. I wait for the LORD, my | soul waits,
And in His | word I hope;
6. My soul waits for the LORD more than watchmen for the | morning,
More than watchmen for the | morning.
7. O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is | steadfast love,
And with Him is plentiful re- | demption.
8. And He will redeem | Israel
From all his in- | iquities.

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son
And to the Holy | Spirit
As it was in the be- | ginning,
Is now, and will be forever. | Amen



Lenten Litany of Confession

Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

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. 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 unto mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord. And grant, O merciful Father, for his sake; that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life; to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

Remember not, Lord, our offenses, nor the offenses of our forefathers; neither take thou vengeance of our sins, whom thou hast redeemed with thy most precious blood, and be not angry with us forever.

Spare us, good Lord.

From all evil and mischief; from sin; from the crafts and assaults of the devil; from thy wrath, and from everlasting damnation,

Good Lord, deliver us.

From all blindness of heart; from pride, vainglory, and hypocrisy; from envy, hatred, and malice, and all uncharitableness,

Good Lord, deliver us.

From all inordinate and sinful affections; and from all the deceits of the world, the flesh, and the devil,

Good Lord, deliver us.

From lightning and tempest; from earthquake, fire, and flood; from plague, pestilence, and famine; from battle and murder, and from sudden death,

Good Lord, deliver us.

From all sedition, conspiracy, and rebellion; from all false doctrine, heresy, and schism; from hardness of heart, and contempt of thy Word and Commandment,

Good Lord, deliver us.

By the mystery of thy holy Incarnation; by thy holy Nativity and Circumcision; by thy Baptism, Fasting, and Temptation,

Good Lord, deliver us.

By thine Agony and Bloody Sweat; by thy Cross and Passion; by thy precious Death and Burial; by thy glorious Resurrection and Ascension, and by the Coming of the Holy Ghost,

Good Lord, deliver us.

In all time of our tribulation; in all time of our prosperity; in the hour of death, and in the day of judgment,

Good Lord, deliver us.

We sinners do beseech thee to hear us, O Lord God; and that it may please thee to rule and govern thy holy Church universal in the right way;

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

All: Amen.



Absolution:

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who in his great mercy has promised forgiveness of sins to all those who sincerely repent and with true faith turn to him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Penitential Psalms

The seventh of the Seven

To My Prayer, O LORD, Give Ear

From Psalm 143

REDHEAD (7 7 . 7 7 . 7 7)

Richard Redhead, 1820

John Unger, 2017

1. To my prayer, O LORD, give ear, And my sup - pli - ca - tions hear;
2. Per - se - cut - ed by the foe, He has crushed and laid me low.
3. Yet I muse on days of old, And Thy wond - rous works un - told.
4. Let me ear - ly hear Thy love, For I trust in Thee ab - ove.
5. Teach me, Lord to do Thy will, Thou my God, my Sav - ior still.
6. For Thy just - ice' sake, LORD, save Me from trou - ble and the grave.

5
In Thy faith - ful - ness re - ply; In Thy righ - teous - ness draw nigh;
Count - less times I made my bed In deep dark - ness as the dead.
Un - to Thee I spread my hands, Long - ing as a thirs - ty land.
Cause me now Thy way to see, For I lift my soul to Thee.
Thy good Spir - it is at hand, Lead me in the up - right land.
In Thy mer - cy slay my foes; Cut them off who still op - pose.

9
Spare Thy ser - vant, do not smite; None is righ - teous in Thy sight.
Thus my spir - it has no rest, And my heart is sore dis - tressed.
An - swer quick - ly, lest I fail, Lest I sink in my tra - vail.
Save me, LORD, from all my foes; In Thee now I take re - pose.
For Thy name's sake, save me, LORD; Grant me life to keep Thy word.
For I serve Thee, and am Thine; Thou, O God, shalt e'er be mine.



Benediction:

Now may our God and Father Himself, and our Lord Jesus Christ, direct our way. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love to one another and to all. So that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints.