

## ✠ Opening Prayer ✠

Hymn: TLH #329:1-3

*"From Depths of Woe I Cry to Thee"*

**P** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C**  Amen.

**P** O Lord, open Thou my lips.



C: And my mouth shall show forth Your praise.

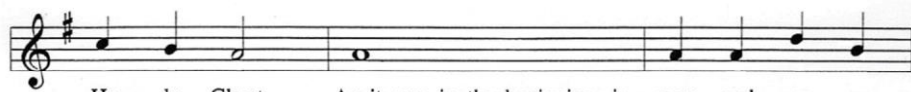
**P** Make haste, O God, to deliver me.



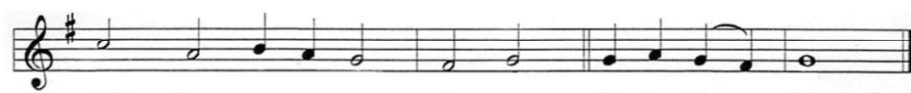
C: Make haste to help me, O Lord.



Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the



Ho - ly Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ev - er



shall be: for - ev - er - more. A - men. Al - le - lu - ia!

## Confession of Sins

**P** "God has no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but desires that sinners repent, turn from their wicked ways, and live."

*Ezek. 33:11*

**C** "Teach me, and I will be silent; make me understand how I have gone astray."

*Job 6:24*

**P** "None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one."

*Rom. 3:10-12*

**C** “I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against You, You only, have I sinned and done what is evil in Your sight.” Ps. 51:3-4

**P** Jesus declared: “I am the resurrection and the Life. He who believes in Me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?” John 11:25-26

**C** “Yes, we believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world.” John 11:27

### **Absolution of Sins**

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**P** “The Lord has put away your sin; you shall not die.” “In Jesus we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.”

**C** **Thanks be to God!** 2 Sam. 12:13; Eph. 1:7

### **Response**

*Tune of WS #761*

**C** *♩ My soul rejoices, My spirit voices— Sing the greatness of the Lord! For God my Savior Has shown me favor— Sing the greatness of the Lord! With praise and blessing, Join in confessing God, who is solely Mighty and holy— O sing the greatness of God the Lord! His mercy surely Shall rest securely On all who fear Him, Love and revere Him— O sing the greatness of God the Lord!*

*His arm now baring, His strength declaring— Sing the greatness of the Lord! The proud He scatters, Their rule He shatters— Sing the greatness of the Lord! Oppression halted; The meek exalted. Full are the hungry; Empty, the wealthy— O sing the greatness of God the Lord! Here is the token All that was spoken, To Abr'ham's offspring God is fulfilling— O sing the greatness of God the Lord!*



**Luke 1:5-25**

In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, of the division of Abijah. And he had a wife from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. <sup>6</sup> And they were both

righteous before God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and statutes of the Lord. <sup>7</sup> But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were advanced in years. <sup>8</sup> Now while he was serving as priest before God when his division was on duty, <sup>9</sup> according to the custom of the priesthood, he was chosen by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense. <sup>10</sup> And the whole multitude of the people were praying outside at the hour of incense. <sup>11</sup> And there appeared to him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. <sup>12</sup> And Zechariah was troubled when he saw him, and fear fell upon him. <sup>13</sup> But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. <sup>14</sup> And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, <sup>15</sup> for he will be great before the Lord. And he must not drink wine or strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. <sup>16</sup> And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God, <sup>17</sup> and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared." <sup>18</sup> And Zechariah said to the angel, "How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years." <sup>19</sup> And the angel answered him, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I was sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. <sup>20</sup> And behold, you will be silent and unable to speak until the day that these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time." <sup>21</sup> And the people were waiting for Zechariah, and they were wondering at his delay in the temple. <sup>22</sup> And when he came out, he was unable to speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the temple. And he kept making signs to them and remained mute. <sup>23</sup> And when his time of service was ended, he went to his home. <sup>24</sup> After these days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she kept herself hidden, saying, <sup>25</sup> "Thus the Lord has done for me in the days when he looked on me, to take away my reproach among people."

**I BELIEVE...**

**in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth;**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit; the Holy Christian Church, the Communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**Choir**

*“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”*

**Hymn: TLH #98:1-3**

*“Of the Father’s Love Begotten”*



**Luke 1:18-20**

And Zechariah said to the angel, "How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my

wife is advanced in years." <sup>19</sup> And the angel answered him, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I was sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. <sup>20</sup> And behold, you will be silent and unable to speak until the day that these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time."

**“The Silence of Zechariah”**

**Hymn: TLH #56:1-3**

*“Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring”*

**✠ The Offering of Thankful Hearts ✠**

**✠ The Lord’s Prayer & The Benediction ✠**

**Hymn: TLH #85:13-15** *“From Heaven Above to Earth I Come”*

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