

# THE MEANS OF GRACE

## CONFESSION

### DEVOTION

### CONFESSION

*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.

**If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:8–9)**

### FOR SHARING

1. During a summit meeting between Khrushchev and Kennedy, the president said to the Russian premier, “Do you ever admit to a mistake?”  
“Certainly I do,” Khrushchev replied. “In a recent speech I admitted all of Stalin’s mistakes.”  
Why is it difficult for many people to say, “I made a mistake”?
2. To confess means to agree with and say back to God what He has first spoken to us. What does God’s Law tell us about ourselves?
3. Luther wrote, “When I urge you to go to confession, I am simply urging you to be a Christian” (LC V 32). Explain.
4. Jesus is the “faithful and just” Savior who forgives us and cleanses us from all unrighteousness. How does Jesus provide these gifts to you personally?
5. The pastor’s announcement of forgiveness is the announcement of God’s forgiveness. Why is it important to know that Christ speaks His Word in the absolution?

### PRAYER

Gracious Father, I know what a sinner I am. But I also know what a loving God You are. Thank you for giving Your Son to death for me and all people. Create in me a clean heart, and lead me to live as Your child, guided by Your Word and Spirit. In Jesus’ name. Amen.