

WORSHIP

Confession of Sins

Confessing our sins is very important! When we confess them to God, we see just how terribly sinful we are. We also know that sin brings nothing but eternal death and separation from God. When we confess our sins, not only do we see that we are sinful, but we are admitting to God that we deserve death and separation from him forever. We are free to admit all this to him because we know that Jesus has already died and paid for all of our sins.

The purpose of a public confession of sins at the beginning of the service is that we might be prepared to receive the grace of God during our worship. We begin humbly, admitting that we bring nothing worthy of the goodness that we are about to receive.

In Medieval times, this part of the service was conducted outside the Nave (the main worship hall). It was preparatory to the worship service. Once the people confessed their sins and received the absolution (forgiveness) from the pastor, only then did they consider themselves worthy to come into the house of God and receive the treasures of his grace.

Bible Reference: 1 John 1:8-9

Sources:

- ...Commission on Worship – Kids in the Divine Service
 - ...Commission on Worship – Taking a Tour of Heaven
 - ...Iowa District East – Worship Committee
 - ...Lutheran Church Worship
 - ...Meaningful Worship - CPH
 - ...Worship is Celebrating as Lutherans – CPH
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