



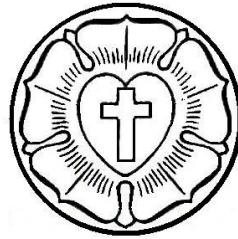
# ABOUT THE PROPERs

*An Explanation of the Variable Parts of the Divine Service*



## Presentation of the Augsburg Confession

June 26, 2022



Grace Alone, Faith Alone, Scripture Alone

On June 25, 1530, our Lutheran forefathers made a public declaration of a new summary of the ancient Biblical truth: mankind is justified by God's grace through faith in Christ Jesus. Written by Philipp Melanchthon, approved by Martin Luther, and signed by princes, dukes, and other civil leaders, the Augsburg Confession was presented to Charles V, the Holy Roman Emperor in the German town of Augsburg. It was a great triumph for those who believed the Biblical gospel of justification by grace through faith apart from the works of the law. It was and still is considered to be the most important man-made statement of what Lutherans believe. After Holy Scripture, it is the heart of the Lutheran Church.

### The Propers

*The Proper*s are those portions of the service that change (or, are "proper" to) each Sunday or season of the church year. The Propers differ from the Ordinary (from the Latin *ordo*, which means "regular order") portions of the liturgy, which do not change (e.g. the Lord's Prayer). The Propers offer the variety to the worship service and emphasize particular worship themes throughout the liturgical calendar.

#### **First Reading**                      Isaiah 55:6-11

God's plan to save sinners is so lofty that natural man cannot comprehend it. It is a plan of pure mercy and free pardon. The only hope for sinners is to abandon their proud, self-righteous thoughts and receive God at his time and on his terms.

#### **Second Reading**                      Romans 10:5-17

God's Word proclaims to us the good news of salvation and works faith in our hearts through which we are saved. This faith expresses itself through an outward confession of faith in Jesus as our Lord and Savior.

#### **Gospel**                                      Matthew 10:32-39

When we are at peace with God, we are, of necessity, at war with the world, which has rejected our Savior. Our love for Jesus may sever the closest bonds of human love, or it may cost us our lives. Nevertheless, we can be sure that when we suffer crosses with Jesus, we will receive eternal life by the grace of God.

#### **Psalm of the Day**                      Psalm 46

This favorite Reformation psalm is the song of those whose whole trust is in the gospel promises of God for their salvation. We gladly join to sing it in the gospel-formed faith that God remains forever true to his gracious Word. God upholds the Church through his holy Word. He "is within her." His name will be exalted throughout the world. (This Psalm inspired Luther to hold to God's truth even though the authorities around him so bitterly opposed him.)

## Gospel Acclamation

John 17:17

“Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.” On the night he was betrayed, Jesus, our Great High Priest prayed for his disciples as he looked ahead to the time when he would no longer be with them. He asked that the Father would set them apart as his own and preserve them in the faith until he takes them out of this world to himself in heaven. The tool by which God accomplishes this is his Word of Truth.

## Prayer of the Day

O Lord, favorably receive the prayers of your church, that being instructed by the doctrine of the blessed apostles, we may always make a pure confession of your saving truth; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## Hymn of the Day

538 “The Church’s One Foundation” (Samuel J. Stone, 1839-1900)

The hymn explores the doctrine of the Holy Christian Church, the bride of Christ. The first two stanzas focus on the invisible Church, believers who united to Christ by water and the Word. All Christians belong to this Church, whether living on earth today or with Jesus in heaven. The visible church seems to the world “oppressed,” “rent asunder,” and “distressed” (st. 4). Yet, she “ever shall prevail” and will be “the Church victorious” and the “Church at rest” (st. 4) because Jesus Christ is her one foundation (cf. Ephesians 2:19-22; 1 Peter 2:4-10).

## Church Year Season <sup>1</sup>

Sundays after Pentecost

After reliving the great events of the life of Christ, the worshipping Church spends half a year focusing on the teachings of Christ. The Church wears green during the season of Pentecost as the Spirit uses those teachings of Jesus to grow the faith of believers. The appointed lessons cover a great body of doctrine for faith and life.

## Minor Festivals

St. Peter and St. Paul, Apostles (June 29)

This is one of the oldest saints’ days. The apostleships of Peter and Paul represent the Church’s complete ministry to both the Jews and the Gentiles. Peter was one of the Twelve, chosen by Jesus to be his disciple early in his ministry. Paul was called to be an apostle by Jesus after he rose from the dead and ascended into heaven. The book of Acts pays special attention to the ministries of both apostles (Peter in chapters 1-12; Paul in chapters 13-28).

## Colors & Symbolism

Presentation of the Augsburg Confession: White

White is the color of our Triune God and heaven. It also symbolizes joy, celebration, gladness, light, purity and innocence. We receive these blessings through faith because Christ, our righteousness Savior, has forgiven all our sins.

## Nain Paraments

Easter

Superfrontal: *Alleluia* is taken from a Hebrew word which means, “Praise the LORD.” It is a word of joy and gladness and most commonly used in the Psalms (e.g. 103). An ancient custom is to refrain from using the term during Lent in order to distinguish the penitential nature of that season from the joy and hope filled nature of the Easter season that follows. The vines and vegetation branching out from the *Alleluia* represent the spiritual life that Jesus, the vine brings to God’s children, the branches (John 15:5).

Lectern antependium: The doves flying in front of the cross represent purity, innocence (Matthew 10:16), as well as spiritual and eternal rest (Psalm 55:6). When the dove has an olive branch or leaf in its beak, it is a symbol of hope and peace (Genesis 8:11). Each of these blessings and more come by Jesus’ death on the cross and through the gift of faith (Galatians 1:3,4).

Pulpit antependium: The cross is formed by the Greek letters Chi (X) and Rho (P). Chi and Rho are the first two letters in the Greek word for Christ (Χριστός). This ancient symbol represents Jesus and his office as the Messiah, the anointed King of kings and Savior of the world (Matthew 16:16). The vines and vegetation branching out from the cross represent the spiritual life that Jesus, the vine brings to God’s children, the branches (John 15:5).

<sup>1</sup> Courtesy of “Planning Christian Worship: Year C”. Joel J. Gawrisch, Author; Jonathan E. Schroeder, Editor.  
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