

“Grace does not depend on what we have done for God, but rather what God has done for us.” Philip Yancey

O Loving, Forgiving, Compassionate God, we come to this table today knowing that you have done everything you could for us. You have loved us, forgiven us, taught us, guided us, suffered for us, and did the ultimate – you died for us. And so we realize there is nothing we can do to earn your love, to earn your mercy, to earn your grace. You give it freely and fully, and all we have to do is accept it. And yet, too, Lord, we know that your grace is not cheap – it came at a price. And so, out of love and gratitude we want to give back to you. We want to live lives that are pleasing to you, because that’s what you do when you love someone. And so please accept our confessions as offerings to you. Offerings that say we want to be honest with you, we want to change, we want to be different, we want to be more Christ-like. As we come before you, may we do so not wanting to hide or be ashamed, but wanting to be cleansed and forgiven. Then, when we take the body and blood of Christ, our hearts and souls will be emptied of all that is impure, so that we can be filled with all that holy. And so, Lord, in silence, we bring to you our personal prayers and confessions.

As the Apostle John said, when we confess our sins, you are faithful to forgive us. And so we thank you once again for your amazing grace.

Lord, this day, we pray, not only for ourselves, but for others. And we pray not only for concerns, but for joys. For there are celebrations for which we are grateful. For healing that has happened, for family time together, for encouragement we received, for friends and the joy of fellowship, for love that was given, for projects that were accomplished. Lord, we sometimes let our concerns outweigh our joys, especially in prayer, and yet know we need to acknowledge that you are the source of goodness and beauty and love and we thank you for those gifts we too often take for granted. And, we do come with prayers for those in need. You have heard those on our prayer list, but hear us now as people lift aloud the names for whom we ask your blessing.