

LITANY ON SOLA GRATIA, SOLA FIDE, SOLA SCRIPTURA

A: Assisting Minister • **P:** Presiding Minister • **L1:** Lector 1 • **L2:** Lector 2 • **C:** Congregation

A: We are the people of God, in Christ Jesus, and we trust in these three things:

C: **Grace alone, faith alone, Scripture alone.**

These alone guide us and the whole church of Christ, always faithful yet ever-reforming.

P: Gracious Father, we pray for your holy catholic church.

C: **Fill it with all truth and peace.**

**Where it is corrupt, purify it; where it is in error, direct it;
where in anything it is amiss, reform it; where it is right, strengthen
it;**

**where it is in need, provide for it; where it is divided, reunite it,
for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ.**

[Prayer of the Day]

SOLA GRATIA

P: We trust in grace alone!

A: We know that we are blessed, and are given life solely by God's grace—
not as something that we earn or deserve, but as the gift of Divine Love:

C: **For God so loved the world as to give his only Son, so that whoever
believes in him might not be lost, but have eternal life.** [John 3:16]

A: As God's children, we rely upon this grace, from the moment of our baptism,
in the nurture of a Christian home, as we grow to maturity, and live the
struggles of our daily life.

*The song follows immediately. An accompanist may "give out" the melody quietly
during the A: part above.*

1 A - maz - ing grace, how sweet the sound, that
saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
now am found; was blind, but now I see.

SOLA FIDE

P: We trust in faith alone!

A: Let's be honest with ourselves. We know that all our efforts to please God and to obey the divine law are failures. We acknowledge our sin, and our helplessness to change those things which are not pleasing to God.

L1: A certain ruler asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: 'You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; Honor your father and mother.'" He replied, "I have kept all these since my youth." When Jesus heard this, he said to him, "There is still one thing lacking. Sell all that you own and distribute the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me." But when he heard this, he became sad; for he was very rich. [Luke 18:18–23]

C: **We admitted that we were powerless, that our lives had become unmanageable.**
We came to believe that a power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.
We made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God. [adapted from the 12 Steps]

P: We confess to God almighty:

A: Gracious God, have mercy on us.

C: **In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us, by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name.** [Confession of Sins]

P: We believe that for the sake of Christ and his merit, through faith alone, we are reconciled and in a right relationship to God Almighty.

As God's children, we rely upon the promises of faith, and trust that all things work together for good.

L2: "All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ. . . For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God." [Ephesians 2:3-8]

L1: It wasn't so long ago that you were mired in that old stagnant life of sin. You let the world, which doesn't know the first thing about living, tell you how to live.

You filled your lungs with polluted unbelief, and then exhales disobedience. We all did it, all of us doing what we felt like doing, when we felt like doing it, all of us in the same boat. It's a wonder God didn't lose his temper and do away with the whole lot of us.

Instead, immense in mercy and with an incredible love, he embraced us. He took our sin-dead lives and made us alive in Christ. He did all this on his own, with no help from us! Then he picked us up and set us down in highest heaven in company with Jesus, our Messiah.

Now God has us where he wants us, with all the time in this world and the next to shower grace and kindness upon us in Christ Jesus. Saving is all his idea, and all his work. All we do is trust him enough to let him do it. It's God's gift from start to finish!

[paraphrase of Ephesians 2 from *The Message* by Eugene H. Peterson]

P: As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins.

C: **God is generous and faithful, forgiving sins without number, welcoming all to the feast, giving us a place among the saints, through the humble obedience of ☩ Christ Jesus, who went to the cross for our sake, we are forgiven and made whole.**

The Spirit of God is at work in us, enabling us to live for one another.

SOLA SCRIPTURA

P: We trust in Scripture alone!

L2: We do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord. [Deuteronomy 26:11,8]

A: We cannot by our own reason or strength come to Christ or believe in him;

C: **except the Holy Spirit seeks us, teaches our hearts, calls us through the Gospel, and reveals all that is needful for salvation through the Holy Scriptures.** [Luther's Small Catechism]

L1: "Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?' Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.'" [John 14:5]

L2: “The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart. If you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. Faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the Word of Christ.” [Romans 10]

The song follows immediately. An accompanist may “give out” the melody quietly during the A: part above.

Refrain

Thy word is a lamp un-to my feet and a light un-to my path.

2 I will not for-get your love for me, and yet my heart for-ev-er is

wan-der-ing. Je-sus, be my guide and hold me to your side, and

I will love you all my days. _____ *to Refrain*

The Service continues with the Peace.

Note: *This dramatic reading was inspired by the threefold saying of the Protestant Reformation, and calls for at least three readers in addition to the Presiding Minister and Congregation. It includes a confession of sins and a creedal statement, usually a part of a Lutheran liturgical Sunday service order. It may be used in place of the Confession of Sins and Creed, or even in place of the Sermon. Other appropriate songs may be interwoven.*

The reading is most effective when the Presiding and Assisting Ministers are standing in their usual places to lead worship; Lectors may read from a Lectern or from their own seats. No pauses are necessary between the sections of the reading.

Litany on the Three “Solos” of the Reformation

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