

# The Lamb's High Feast

## Lesson 6

Review of Lesson 1: Worship on Earth is patterned after the Worship of Heaven

Review of Lesson 2: God Communicates with Mankind through Sacraments

Review of Lesson 3: The Liturgy opens with prayers and actions as appropriate before a holy, holy, holy LORD.

Review of Lesson 4: Thus saith the Lord: God's word is His perfect self revelation

## Confession and Absolution in the Anglican Way In the Book of Common Prayer

Daily Morning Prayer Pp 7-8  
Daily Evening Prayer pp 24-25  
Holy Communion pp 106-108  
Communion of the Sick p 515  
Family Morning Prayer p 593  
Family Evening Prayer p 595

Each day, Anglicans awake and say their morning prayers which always begin with a confession of sin and assurances of pardon and absolution. On the Lord's Day and Feast Days when we gather to celebrate the Lord's Supper, the priest closes the door of his vestry and prays the Confiteor, a prayer of confession, never daring to go to the Altar rail without first confessing his sins. Later, when he invites the faithful to join him at the altar, he instructs them to make confession for themselves, granting them absolution and admittance to the sacrament. Each evening, before we lay our heads upon our pillows we make our confession so that we may sleep in the quietness of peaceful forgiveness.

In a very important way, it is the Confession and Absolution that holds all our liturgies together. No matter the purpose, goal or specifics of our various services, no service of worship can proceed without confession and absolution, the Sacrament of Penance.

The Sacrament of Penance is usually celebrated publicly in the Anglican Tradition as part of our regular liturgies. And even though it is also offered privately (in other words Anglican may go to a priest privately for the Sacrament of Penance), it is the forms of the liturgies which guide our understanding of what Penance is and how it ought to be celebrated.

The sheer multiplicity of opportunities for Penance in Anglicanism is a clear and unmistakable indication of the importance and centrality of this Sacrament to our faith and our spirituality.

For Anglicans, the Sacrament of Penance consists of:

1. An EXHORTATION to self-examination and contemplation
2. A GENERAL CONFESSION of personal and actual sins
3. The ABSOLUTION granted by a Bishop or Priest
4. The COMFORTABLE WORDS for assurance of forgiveness and blessing.



Traditional Confessional stalls are somewhat rare in Anglican Churches, yet are part of our patrimony

## The EXHORTATION (BCP 107 & 108)

**Y**E who do truly and earnestly repent you of your sins, and are in love and charity with your neighbours, and intend to lead a new life, following the commandments of God, and walking from henceforth in his holy ways; Draw near with faith, and take this holy Sacrament to your comfort; and make your humble confession to Almighty God, devoutly kneeling

**Scripture References**

**Key Lessons**

**My Notes**

## The GENERAL CONFESSION (BCP 107)

**A**LMIGHTY God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Maker of all things, Judge of all men; We acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness, Which we, from time to time, most grievously have committed, By thought, word, and deed, Against thy Divine Majesty, Provoking most justly thy wrath and indignation against us. We do earnestly repent, And are heartily sorry for these our misdoings; The remembrance of them is grievous unto us; The burden of them is intolerable. Have mercy upon us, Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; For thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, Forgive us all that is past; And grant that we may ever hereafter Serve and please thee In newness of life, To the honour and glory of thy Name; Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

**Scripture References**

**Key Lessons**

**My Notes**

## ABSOLUTION and COMFORTABLE WORDS

**A**LMIGHTY God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him; Have mercy upon you; pardon and deliver you from all your sins; confirm and strengthen you in all goodness; and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

**Scripture References**

**Key Lessons**

**My Notes**

**H**ear what comfortable words our Saviour Christ saith unto all who truly turn to him.

Come unto me, all ye that travail and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you. **St. Matthew 11:28**

So God loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son, to the end that all that believe in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. **St. John 3:16**

**H**ear also what Saint Paul saith.

This is a true saying, and worthy of all men to be received, That Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. **1 Timothy 1:15**

**H**ear also what Saint John saith.

If any man sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the Propitiation for our sins. **1 St. John 2:1, 2**

**NEXT WEEK:**

**The Sursum Corda - Heaven Comes Down and Earth Ascends**

Book of Common Prayer page 109-111