

After reading the Law and Scriptures (and singing a Psalm), the minister, who is to preach, is to strive to stir up both his own heart and the hearts of his listeners to a true sense of their sins. They should all mourn before the Lord, and earnestly desire the grace of God in Jesus Christ. This is done by making a more thorough confession of sin, with a sense of shame and holy humility, and by calling upon the Lord for this purpose:

We acknowledge our great sinfulness. Firstly, because of original sin, which, apart from the guilt that condemns us to everlasting damnation, is the root of all other sins. It has corrupted and poisoned all the faculties and powers of our soul and body, defiling even our best actions. If not restrained or renewed by grace, it would lead to countless transgressions and the greatest rebellions against the Lord ever committed by the vilest of men. Secondly, because of our actual sins—our own sins, the sins of rulers, ministers, and the whole nation, in which we are in many ways complicit. Our sins are further aggravated by the fact that we have violated all the commandments of God's holy, just, and good law. We have done what is forbidden and neglected what is commanded, not only out of ignorance and weakness but also knowingly, against the light of our understanding, the warnings of our consciences, and the promptings of the Holy Spirit. We have no excuse for our sins. Moreover, we have not only disregarded God's kindness, patience, and tolerance, but have also resisted many invitations and offers of grace in the gospel. We have failed to seek Christ in faith as we should, or to live lives worthy of him.

And because we have been unprofitable hearers in times past, and now cannot of ourselves receive, as we should, the deep things of God, the mysteries of Jesus Christ, which require a spiritual discerning; to pray, that the Lord, who teacheth to profit, would graciously please to pour out the Spirit of grace, together with the outward means thereof, causing us to attain such a measure of the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus our Lord, and, in him, of the things which belong to our peace, that we may account all things but as dross in comparison of him; and that we, tasting the first-fruits of the glory that is to be revealed, may long for a more full and perfect communion with him, that where he is, we may be also, and enjoy the fulness of those joys and pleasures which are at his right hand for evermore

Excerpt from the Westminster Directory for Public Worship

NETHERLANDS REFORMED CONGREGATION

Sioux Falls, SD



*Praise him for his mighty acts: praise
him according to his excellent greatness.
Psalm 150:2*

Services at 9:30 a.m. and 2:30 or 6:30 p.m.