**Option 1: Traditional Gathering Rite**

*Music Begins playing underneath spoken word.*

INVOCATION

*The name of the triune God and the sign of the cross remind worshipers of their baptisms.*

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son X and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

C: ♫ May the mind of Christ my Savior Live in me from day to day,

**By his love and pow’r inspiring All I do or say. *(CW467:1)***

CONFESSION

M:Dear friends, let us approach God with a true heart and confess our sins, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

**C: Lord of life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin.**

**For faithless worrying and selfish pride,   
For sins of habit and sins of choice,  
For the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do,**

**You should cast me away from your presence forever.   
O Lord, I am sorry for my sins. Forgive me, for Jesus’ sake.**

C: ♫ May the Word of God dwell richly In my heart from hour to hour,

So that all may see I triumph Only through his pow’r. *(CW467:2)*

**ABSOLUTION**

The use of the keys is that special power and right which Christ gave to his church on earth: to forgive the sins of penitent sinners” (The Small Catechism, First: What is the use of the keys?). See John 20:21-23.

M:Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. In his great mercy, God made us alive in Christ even when we were dead in our sins. Hear the word of Christ through his called servant:

I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son X and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

C: ♫ May the peace of God my Father Rule my life in everything,  
That I may be calm to comfort Sick and sorrowing.

May the love of Jesus fill me As the waters fill the sea,  
Him exalting self abasing – This is victory. *(CW467:3-4)*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M:Let us pray.

Lord, we pray that your mercy and grace may always go before and follow after us that, loving you with undivided hearts, we may glorify you in the way we use the gifts you give us to manage. Help us to live a God-lived life; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

C: ♫ May I run the race before me, Strong and brave to face the foe,  
Looking only unto Jesus As I onward go.

May his Spirit live within me As I seek the lost to win,  
And may they forget the channel, Seeing only him. *(CW467:5-6)*

***Please be seated***

**ALTERNATE CONFESSION OF SIN**

**C: Forgive my sins, O Lord – forgive the sins of my present and the sins of my past, the sins of my soul and the sins of my body; the sins which I have done to please myself, and the sins which I have done to please others. Forgive my sins of weakness and the sins that I committed deliberately. Forgive me for the sins I remember and the sins I have forgotten, the sins I have tried to hide from others and the sins I long to hide from my own memory. Out of your great mercy, Lord, forgive me of *all* my wrongs!**

**Option 2: Sunday Focus Gathering Rite - Month 1**

*Music Begins playing underneath spoken word.*

M: We begin our worship in the same way we were baptized: In the name of the Father and of the Son X and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

**confession**

M: Heavenly Father, you have given us indescribable riches in your Word. But we have failed to appreciate your Word as we should. We have not read or learned it as we should have and so we can be deceived. Forgive us and let your peace rule our lives.

C: ♫ May the peace of God my Father Rule my life in everything,  
That I may be calm to comfort Sick and sorrowing. *(CW467:3)*

M: Dear Savior Jesus, we admit that by our sinful nature we lack complete confidence in the power of your Word which you give us to share with others. We easily give way to doubt or fail to fully trust that you speak with power in your Word. Forgive us and let your love fill our lives.

C: ♫ May the love of Jesus fill me As the waters fill the sea,  
Him exalting self abasing – This is victory. *(CW467:4)*

M: O Holy Spirit, give us and all believers unity in your word. Teach us to discern what is truth and what is deception. Forgive us for not taking seriously your warnings about false teachers. Give us and all believers wisdom and unity through your Word, and live within us.

C: ♫ May his Spirit live within me As I seek the lost to win,  
And may they forget the channel, Seeing only him. *(CW467:6)*

**absolution**

M: As a called servant of the Triune God, I announce to you his grace and forgiveness. On behalf of and by the command of our Savior Jesus Christ, I forgive you all of your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

C: ♫ May the mind of Christ my Savior Live in me from day to day,  
By his love and pow’r inspiring All I do or say.

May the Word of God dwell richly In my heart from hour to hour,  
So that all may see I triumph Only through his pow’r. *(CW467:1-2)*

M:We pray:

Gracious Heavenly Father, our refuge and strength, pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them dedicated to and unwavering in your Word. Protect and comfort your believers in all temptations. Defend them against anything that threatens their trust in Jesus. Help us to live God-lived lives and grant us your peace; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

C: ♫ May I run the race before me, Strong and brave to face the foe,  
Looking only unto Jesus As I onward go. *(CW467:5)*

*BE SEATED*