

# WHAT IS WORSHIP?

## 1. THE PREPARATION

### Confession and Absolution

As His children we come into His presence so that He can bless us. And as we make our appearance Psalm 51 reminds us that we are beggars, seeking to receive.

"Have mercy upon me, O God. Against You, You only, have I sinned...My sin is ever before me...Deliver me."

Confession is the act by which a person admits or confesses sin and the guilt of sin.

God gathers His people in worship to give them His grace and mercy. So we are reminded in 1 John 1:8-9 "If we say we have not sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

Silence is for reflection and self-examination.

Psalm 32:5 reminds us "I acknowledge my sin to You...I will confess my transgressions to the Lord, and You forgave the iniquity of my sin."

Absolution is the announcement of forgiveness to the penitent sinner.

Our Lord declares through the mouth of His servant, the pastor, that by His grace and mercy our sins are forgiven. The Absolution speaks the Gospel into our ears in a very personal way.