

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN KINGDOMTIDE

October 30, 2022

The Apostles' Creed:

What It Means, and Why It Matters

"The Gift of Forgiveness"

Scripture: Psalm 32:1-11 (New Revised Standard Version)

¹ Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered.

² Happy are those to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity,
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

³ While I kept silence, my body wasted away
through my groaning all day long.

⁴ For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.

⁵ Then I acknowledged my sin to you,
and I did not hide my iniquity;

I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,"
and you forgave the guilt of my sin.

⁶ Therefore let all who are faithful
offer prayer to you;

at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters
shall not reach them.

⁷ You are a hiding place for me;
you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with glad cries of deliverance.

⁸ I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go;
I will counsel you with my eye upon you.

⁹ Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding,
whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle,
else it will not stay near you.

¹⁰ Many are the torments of the wicked,
but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the Lord.

¹¹ Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, O righteous,
and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

~ SERMON NOTES ~

Our focus today is on this Article of the Apostles' Creed:

"I believe in the forgiveness of sins."

The psalmist David had experienced a serious lapse in judgment and the gnawing of guilt had been eating away at his soul like emotional cancer. Today's Psalm is what biblical scholars believe David wrote reflecting back on his shortcomings and how he found peace and grace and experienced the gift of forgiveness.

Let's look at the three steps of restoration that David followed and how we can find the gift of forgiveness as well:

1. Admit _____.

"When I kept silent, my bones grew old through my groaning all the day long." (v.3)

2. Acknowledge _____.

"Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity." (v.5)

3. Accept _____.

"You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with glad cries of deliverance." (v. 7)
