

A SERVICE OF THE WORD & SACRAMENT

April 23, 2023

The Welcome & Announcements
The Prelude & Silent Preparation

-THE LORD CALLS US TO WORSHIP-

The Salutation

Ephesians 1:2

² Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Call to Worship

Psalm 148 (Responsively)

¹ Praise the LORD!

Praise the LORD from the heavens;
praise him in the heights!

² **Praise him, all his angels;
praise him, all his hosts!**

³ Praise him, sun and moon,
praise him, all you shining stars!

⁴ **Praise him, you highest heavens,
and you waters above the heavens!**

⁵ Let them praise the name of the LORD!
For he commanded and they were created.

⁶ **And he established them forever and ever;
he gave a decree, and it shall not pass away.**

⁷ Praise the LORD from the earth,
you great sea creatures and all deeps,

⁸ **fire and hail, snow and mist,
stormy wind fulfilling his word!**

⁹ Mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars!

¹⁰ **Beasts and all livestock,
creeping things and flying birds!**

¹¹ Kings of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the earth!

¹² **Young men and maidens together,
old men and children!**

¹³ Let them praise the name of the LORD,
for his name alone is exalted;
his majesty is above earth and heaven.

¹⁴ **He has raised up a horn for his people,
praise for all his saints,
for the people of Israel who are near to him.
Praise the LORD!**

Hymn

Come, People of the Risen King

1. Come, people of the risen King,
who delight to bring Him praise.
Come all, and tune your hearts to sing
to the Morning Star of grace.
From the shifting shadows of the earth
we will lift our eyes to Him,
where steady arms of mercy reach
to gather children in.

Refrain:

*Rejoice! Rejoice!
Let ev'ry tongue rejoice!
One heart, one voice;
oh, Church of Christ, rejoice!*

2. Come, those whose joy is morning sun,
and those weeping through the night.
Come, those who tell of battles won,
and those struggling in the fight.
For His perfect love will never change,
and His mercies never cease,
but follow us through all our days
with the certain hope of peace. *[Refrain]*

3. Come, young and old from ev'ry land,
men and women of the faith.
Come, those with full or empty hands;
find the riches of His grace.
Over all the world His people sing;
shore to shore we hear them call
the Truth that cries through ev'ry age:
"Our God is all in all". *[Refrain]*

The Invocation & Prayer of Praise

-THE LORD ASSURES US OF HIS FORGIVENESS-

The Call to Confession

Psalm 38:1-4

¹ O Lord, rebuke me not in your anger, nor discipline me in your wrath! ² For your arrows have sunk into me, and your hand has come down on me. ³ There is no soundness in my flesh because of your indignation; there is no health in my bones because of my sin. ⁴ For my iniquities have gone over my head; like a heavy burden, they are too heavy for me.

The Confession of Sin

- ❖ Silent Prayers of Confession
- ❖ General Prayer of Confession

Unison:

Holy God, Lord most gracious! Rebuke us not in your anger, nor chasten us in your wrath! Holy you are, and we cannot stand in your presence. Yet you have called us to come to you. We feel unworthy, for we have failed you again and again. We feel like running away, yet you keep calling us. Have mercy on us, O God. Have mercy!

Holy God, Father most gracious! Rebuke us not in your anger, nor chasten us in your wrath! Heal us from our sin, for we are troubled. Deliver us for the sake of your steadfast love. Our sins trouble us, O God. We are troubled by how they have hurt others. We are troubled by how they have hurt us. Your ways are right! O righteous God! And whenever we have refused to follow them we have found out how right they are. Have mercy on us, O God. Have mercy!

Holy God, God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on us for the sake of your Son, who died to free us from our sins. To you be honor and glory! Amen.

The Assurance of Pardon

Romans 6:23

²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Hymn #354

Not All the Blood of Beasts

1. Not all the blood of beasts
on Jewish altars slain,
could give the guilty conscience peace,
or wash away the stain.
2. But Christ, the heav'nly Lamb,
takes all our sins away,
a sacrifice of nobler name
and richer blood than they.
3. My faith would lay her hand
on that dear head of thine,
while like a penitent I stand,
and there confess my sin.
4. My soul looks back to see
the burdens thou didst bear,
when hanging on the cursed tree,
and knows her guilt was there.
5. Believing, we rejoice
to see the curse remove;
we bless the Lamb with cheerful voice,
and sing his bleeding love.

The Prayer of the Church

2 Chronicles 6:18-21

¹⁸“But will God indeed dwell with man on the earth? Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you, how much less this house that I have built! ¹⁹Yet have regard to the prayer of your servant and to his plea, O Lord my God, listening to the cry and to the prayer that your servant prays before you, ²⁰that your eyes may be open day and night toward this house, the place where you have promised to set your name, that you may listen to the prayer that your servant offers toward this place. ²¹And listen to the pleas of your servant and of your people Israel, when they pray toward this place. And listen from heaven your dwelling place, and when you hear, forgive.

-THE LORD INSTRUCTS US FROM HIS WORD-

The Old Testament Reading

Leviticus 19:9-18

⁹“When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap your field right up to its edge, neither shall you gather the gleanings after your harvest. ¹⁰And you shall not strip your vineyard bare, neither shall you gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard. You shall leave them for the poor and for the sojourner: I am the Lord your God. ¹¹“You shall not steal; you shall not deal falsely; you shall not lie to one another. ¹²You shall not swear by my name falsely, and so profane the name of your God: I am the Lord. ¹³“You shall not oppress your neighbor or rob him. The wages of a hired worker shall not remain with you all night until the morning. ¹⁴You shall not curse the deaf or put a stumbling block before the blind, but you shall fear your God: I am the Lord. ¹⁵“You shall do no injustice in court. You shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great, but in righteousness shall you judge your neighbor. ¹⁶You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not stand up against the life of your neighbor: I am the Lord. ¹⁷“You shall not hate your brother in your heart, but you shall reason frankly with your neighbor, lest you incur sin because of him. ¹⁸You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord.

The New Testament Reading

James 2:1-13

¹ My brothers, show no partiality as you hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory. ² For if a man wearing a gold ring and fine clothing comes into your assembly, and a poor man in shabby clothing also comes in, ³ and if you pay attention to the one who wears the fine clothing and say, “You sit here in a good place,” while you say to the poor man, “You stand over there,” or, “Sit down at my feet,” ⁴ have you not then made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts? ⁵ Listen, my beloved brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which he has promised to those who love him? ⁶ But you have dishonored the poor man. Are not the rich the ones who oppress you, and the ones who drag you into court? ⁷ Are they not the ones who blaspheme the honorable name by which you were called? ⁸ If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself,” you are doing well. ⁹ But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. ¹⁰ For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become guilty of all of it. ¹¹ For he who said, “Do not commit adultery,” also said, “Do not murder.” If you do not commit adultery but do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. ¹² So speak and so act as those who are to be judged under the law of liberty. ¹³ For judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

The Sermon

Rev. Dr. Michael J. Matossian

King Midas Meets Skid Row
James 2:1-7

Hymn #431

And Can It Be That I Should Gain

1. And can it be that I should gain
an int'rest in the Savior's blood?
Died he for me, who caused his pain?
For me, who him to death pursued?
Amazing love! How can it be
that thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

Refrain:

*Amazing love! How can it be
that thou, my God, shouldst die for me?*

2. 'Tis myst'ry all! Th'Immortal dies:
who can explore his strange design?
In vain the first-born seraph tries
to sound the depths of love divine.
'Tis mercy all! Let earth adore,
let angel minds inquire no more.

Refrain:

*Amazing love! How can it be
that thou, my God, shouldst die for me?*

3. He left his Father's throne above
(so free, so infinite his grace!),
humbled himself (so great his love!)
and bled for all his chosen race.
'Tis mercy all, immense and free;
for, O my God, it found out me.

[Refrain]

4. Long my imprisoned spirit lay
fast bound in sin and nature's night;
thine eye diffused a quick'ning ray;
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;
my chains fell off, my heart was free;
I rose, went forth, and followed thee.

[Refrain]

5. No condemnation now I dread;
Jesus, and all in him, is mine!
Alive in him, my living Head,
and clothed in righteousness divine,
bold I approach th'eternal throne,
and claim the crown, through Christ, my own.

[Refrain]

-THE LORD FEEDS US FROM HIS TABLE-

The Confession of Faith

The Apostles' Creed

Unison:

I believe in God the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Celebration of the Lord's Supper

- ❖ Words of Institution
- ❖ The Breaking of the Bread
- ❖ The Sharing of the Cup

-THE LORD DISMISSES US TO HIS SERVICE-

The Benediction

2 Corinthians 13:14

¹⁴The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

The Doxology #564

Now Blessed be Jehova God

1. Now blessed be Jehova God,
the God of Israel,
who only doeth wondrous works,
in glory that excel;
who only doeth wondrous works,
in glory that excel.
2. And blessed be his glorious name
to all eternity;
the whole earth let his glory fill;
amen: so let it be;
the whole earth let his glory fill;
amen: so let it be.