

A SERVICE OF THE WORD & SACRAMENT

May 14, 2023

The Welcome & Announcements
The Prelude & Silent Preparation

-THE LORD CALLS US TO WORSHIP-

The Salutation

2 Thessalonians 1:2

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

The Call to Worship

Romans 11:33-36

³³ Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! ³⁴ "For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?" ³⁵ "Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?" ³⁶ For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.

Hymn #377

Join All the Glorious Names

1. Join all the glorious names
of wisdom, love, and pow'r,
that ever mortals knew,
that angels ever bore:
all are too poor to speak his worth,
too poor to set my Savior forth.
2. Great Prophet of my God,
my tongue would bless thy name:
by thee the joyful news
of our salvation came,
the joyful news of sins forgiv'n,
of hell subdued and peace with heav'n.
3. Jesus, my great High Priest,
offered his blood and died;
my guilty conscience seeks
no sacrifice beside:
his pow'rful blood did once atone
and now it pleads before the throne.
4. Thou art my Counselor,
my pattern, and my Guide,
and thou my Shepherd art;
O keep me near thy side;
nor let my feet e'er turn astray
to wander in the crooked way.
5. My Savior and my Lord,
my Conqu'ror and my King,
thy scepter and thy sword,
thy reigning grace, I sing:
thine is the pow'r; behold I sit
in willing bonds beneath thy feet.

The Invocation & Prayer of Praise

Unison:

O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth. You made the heavens and earth by your great power and your outstretched arm. Your invisible attributes, your eternal power and divine nature are clearly seen through what you have made. The heavens declare your glory!

You are the governor and sustainer of all things. In you, all things hold together. In you we live and move and have our being. You give to all life and breath and all things. You work all things after the counsel of your own will. You have numbered even the hairs upon our heads, not even a sparrow falls from a tree apart from your will. We praise you, our God, for these your great works of creation and providence.

You are also our redeemer God. There is no other God besides you, no other Savior, no other Rock to whom the ends of the earth may turn and be saved. We rejoice that you so loved the world that you gave your only begotten Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, to be the Savior of the world; and your Spirit to abide with us and in us and to teach us all things.

We thank you for the fellowship we have with you, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

-THE LORD ASSURES US OF HIS FORGIVENESS-

The Call to Confession

James 2:10-11

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.

The Confession of Sin

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

Unison:

O eternal God and merciful Father, we humble ourselves before Your great Majesty against which we have frequently and grievously sinned. We acknowledge that we deserve nothing less than eternal death. We continually transgress Your commandments, failing to do what You have commanded us and doing that which You have expressly forbidden. We all like sheep have gone astray; we have turned everyone to his own way. We acknowledge our waywardness, and are deeply sorry for all our sins. In ourselves, we are not worthy to be called Your children, nor to lift up our eyes heavenward to You in prayer.

Nevertheless, O Lord God and gracious Father, we know that you do not desire the death of the sinner but rather that he should turn to You and live; we know that Your mercy toward those who turn to You is infinite; and so we take courage to call upon You from the depths of our hearts, trusting in our Mediator Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God Who takes away the sin of the world. Forgive all our sins for Christ's sake. Have compassion upon us in our infirmities. Wash us in the pure fountain of Christ's blood so that we may be clean and white as snow. Cover us with His innocence and righteousness for the glory of Your Name. Deliver our understanding from all blindness and our hearts from all willfulness and rebellion. We praise you, O God, for your mercy. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Assurance of Pardon

Isaiah 1:18

¹⁸ "Come now, let us reason together, says the Lord: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool.

Hymn #335

Praise the Savior Now and Ever

1. Praise the Savior now and ever;
praise him, all beneath the skies;
prostrate lying, suff'ring, dying
on the cross, a sacrifice.
Vict'ry gaining, life obtaining,
now in glory he doth rise.
2. Man's work faileth, Christ's availeth;
he is all our righteousness;
he, our Savior, has forever
set us free from dire distress.
Thro' his merit we inherit
light and peace and happiness.
3. Sin's bond severed, we're delivered;
Christ has bruised the serpent's head;
death no longer is the stronger;
hell itself is captive led.
Christ has risen from death's prison;
o'er the tomb he light has shed.
4. For his favor, praise forever
unto God the Father sing;
praise the Savior, praise him ever,
Son of God, our Lord and King.
Praise the Spirit; thro' Christ's merit
he doth us salvation bring.

The Prayer of the Church

Psalm 10:1,12

¹ Why, O Lord, do you stand far away? Why do you hide yourself in times of trouble? ¹² Arise, O Lord; O God, lift up your hand; forget not the afflicted.

-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. ¹⁰ And 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. ¹² You 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. ¹⁴ You 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. ¹⁶ You 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. ¹⁸ You 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

The End Guides the Means
James 2:8-13

Hymn #436

My Faith Has Found a Resting Place

1. My faith has found a resting place,
from guilt my soul is freed;
I trust the ever-living One,
his wounds for me shall plead.

Refrain:

*I need no other argument,
I need no other plea,
it is enough that Jesus died,
and that he died for me.*

2. Enough for me that Jesus saves,
this ends my fear and doubt;
a sinful soul, I come to him,
he'll never cast me out. [Refrain]

3. My heart is leaning on the Word,
the written Word of God,
salvation by my Savior's name,
salvation thro' his blood. [Refrain]

4. My great Physician heals the sick,
the lost he came to save;
for me his precious blood he shed,
for me his life he gave. [Refrain]

-THE LORD FEEDS US FROM HIS TABLE-

The Confession of Faith

Heidelberg Catechism Q & A #1

Q. *What is your only comfort in life and in death?*

A. Unison:

That I am not my own, but belong —body and soul, in life and in death—to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ.

He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood, and has delivered me from the tyranny of the devil. He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven; in fact, all things must work together for my salvation.

Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, also assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him. (*Trinity Psalter Hymnal, p. 872*)

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

Hymn #213 v 1 (*Glory Be to God the Father*)

1. Glory be to God the Father,
glory be to God the Son,
glory be to God the Spirit,
God Almighty, Three in One!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
Glory be to him alone.

The Postlude (*Please stand if you are able). Scripture quotations taken from the ESV.
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