

A SERVICE OF THE WORD & SACRAMENT
August 9, 2020

The Welcome & Announcements
The Prelude & Silent Preparation

-THE LORD CALLS US TO WORSHIP-

The Call to Worship

(Psalm 98:1-3)

¹ Oh sing to the LORD a new song,
for he has done marvelous things!
His right hand and his holy arm
have worked salvation for him.

² The LORD has made known his salvation;
he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.

³ He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness
to the house of Israel.
All the ends of the earth have seen
the salvation of our God.

The Salutation

(2 Corinthians 1:2)

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

The Invocation & Prayer of Praise

-THE LORD ASSURES US OF HIS FORGIVENESS-

The Call to Confession

(Psalm 130:3-4)

³ If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities,
O Lord, who could stand?

⁴ But with you there is forgiveness,
that you may be feared.

The Confession of Sin

Silent Prayers of Confession

General Prayer of Confession

Minister:

Almighty God, rich in mercy to all who call upon you. Hear us as we come to you humbly confessing our sins and transgressions, imploring your mercy and forgiveness. We have broken your holy laws by our deeds and words, and by the sinful affections of our hearts. We confess before you our disobedience and ingratitude, our pride and willfulness; and all our failures and shortcomings toward you and our fellow humans. Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; and of your great goodness grant that we may hereafter serve and please you in newness of life; through the merit and mediation of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Assurance of Pardon

(Psalm 130:7-8)

⁷ O Israel, hope in the LORD!
For with the LORD there is steadfast love,
and with him is plentiful redemption.
⁸ And he will redeem Israel
from all his iniquities.

Hymn #275

Arise, My Soul, Arise

1. Arise, my soul, arise,
shake off your guilty fears;
the bleeding Sacrifice
in my behalf appears:
before the throne my Surety stands,
before the throne my Surety stands,
my name is written on his hands.

2. He ever lives above,
for me to intercede,
his all-redeeming love,
his precious blood to plead;
his blood atoned for ev'ry race,
his blood atoned for ev'ry race,
and sprinkles now the throne of grace.

3. Five bleeding wounds he bears,
received on Calvary;
they pour effectual prayers,
they strongly plead for me.
"Forgive him, O forgive," they cry,
"forgive him, O forgive," they cry,
"nor let that ransomed sinner die!"

4. My God is reconciled;
his pard'ning voice I hear;
he owns me for his child,
I can no longer fear;
with confidence I now draw nigh,
with confidence I now draw nigh,
and "Father, Abba, Father!" cry.

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The Prayer of the Church

(Psalm 118:5)

⁵ Out of my distress I called on the LORD;
the LORD answered me and set me free.

-THE LORD INSTRUCTS US FROM HIS WORD-

The Old Testament Reading

Psalm 116 (ESV)

¹ I love the LORD, because he has heard
my voice and my pleas for mercy.

² Because he inclined his ear to me,
therefore I will call on him as long as I live.

³ The snares of death encompassed me;
the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me;
I suffered distress and anguish.

⁴ Then I called on the name of the LORD:
"O LORD, I pray, deliver my soul!"

⁵ Gracious is the LORD, and righteous;
our God is merciful.

⁶ The LORD preserves the simple;
when I was brought low, he saved me.

⁷ Return, O my soul, to your rest;
for the LORD has dealt bountifully with you.

⁸ For you have delivered my soul from death,
my eyes from tears,
my feet from stumbling;

⁹ I will walk before the LORD
in the land of the living.

¹⁰ I believed, even when I spoke:
"I am greatly afflicted";

¹¹ I said in my alarm,
"All mankind are liars."

¹² What shall I render to the LORD
for all his benefits to me?

¹³ I will lift up the cup of salvation

and call on the name of the LORD,
¹⁴ I will pay my vows to the LORD
in the presence of all his people.
¹⁵ Precious in the sight of the LORD
is the death of his saints.
¹⁶ O LORD, I am your servant;
I am your servant, the son of your maidservant.
You have loosed my bonds.
¹⁷ I will offer to you the sacrifice of thanksgiving
and call on the name of the LORD.
¹⁸ I will pay my vows to the LORD
in the presence of all his people,
¹⁹ in the courts of the house of the LORD,
in your midst, O Jerusalem.
Praise the LORD!

The New Testament Reading
2 Corinthians 4:7-5:10 (ESV)

⁷ But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. ⁸ We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; ⁹ persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; ¹⁰ always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. ¹¹ For we who live are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. ¹² So death is at work in us, but life in you.

¹³ Since we have the same spirit of faith according to what has been written, "I believed, and so I spoke," we also believe, and so we also speak, ¹⁴ knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence. ¹⁵ For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

¹⁶ So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. ¹⁷ For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, ¹⁸ as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

⁵ ¹ For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. ² For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling, ³ if indeed by putting it on we may not be found naked. ⁴ For while we are still in this tent, we groan, being burdened—not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. ⁵ He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.

⁶ So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, ⁷ for we walk by faith, not by sight. ⁸ Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. ⁹ So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. ¹⁰ For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.

The Sermon

Rev. Dr. Michael J. Matossian

To Die Well

(2 Corinthians 4:16 – 5:10)

Hymn #360

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

1. "Christ the Lord is ris'n today," Al-le-lu-ia!
sons of men and angels say; Al-le-lu-ia!
raise your joys and triumphs high; Al-le-lu-ia!
sing ye heav'ns and earth reply. Al-le-lu-ia!
4. Lives again our glorious King; Al-elu-ia!
where, O death, is now thy sting? Al-le-lu-ia!
Once he died, our souls to save; Al-le-lu-ia!
where thy victory, O grave? Al-le-lu-ia!
5. Soar we now where Christ hath led, Al-le-lu-ia!
foll'wing our exalted Head; Al-le-lu-ia!
made like him, like him we rise; Al-le-lu-ia!
ours the cross, the grave, the skies. Al-le-lu-ia!
6. Hail, the Lord of earth and heav'n! Al-le-lu-ia!
Praise to thee by both be giv'n; Al-le-lu-ia!
thee we greet triumphant now; Al-le-lu-ia!
hail, the Resurrection, thou! Al-le-lu-ia!

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-THE LORD FEEDS US FROM HIS TABLE-

The Confession of Faith

The Heidelberg Catechism Question & Answer 1

What is your only comfort in life and in death?

Unison:

That I with body and soul, both in life and death, am not my own, but belong unto my faithful savior Jesus Christ; who, with his precious blood, has fully satisfied for all my sins, and delivered me from all the power of the devil; and so preserved me that without the will of my heavenly Father, not a hair can fall from my head; yea, that all things must be subservient to my salvation, and therefore, by his Holy Spirit, he also assures me of eternal life, and makes me sincerely willing and ready, henceforth, to live unto him.

The Celebration of the Lord's Supper

The Words of Institution

The Breaking of the Bread

The Sharing of the Cup

-THE LORD DISMISSES US TO HIS SERVICE-

The Benediction

(Numbers 6:24-25)

²⁴ The LORD bless you and keep you;
²⁵ the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;
²⁶ the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

The Doxology #569

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heav'nly host:
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

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