

A SERVICE OF THE WORD & SACRAMENT

January 15, 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

Psalm 92:1-4

¹ It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to your name, O Most High; ² to declare your steadfast love in the morning, and your faithfulness by night, ³ to the music of the lute and the harp, to the melody of the lyre. ⁴ For you, O Lord, have made me glad by your work; at the works of your hands I sing for joy.

Hymn #214

Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above

1. Sing praise to God who reigns above,
the God of all creation,
the God of pow'r, the God of love,
the God of our salvation.
My soul with comfort rich he fills,
and ev'ry grief he gently stills:
to God all praise and glory!
2. What God's almighty pow'r has made,
in mercy he is keeping;
by morning glow or evening shade
his eye is never sleeping.
And where he rules in kingly might,
there all is just and all is right:
to God all praise and glory!
3. We sought the Lord in our distress;
O God, in mercy hear us.
Our Savior saw our helplessness
and came with peace to cheer us.
For this we thank and praise the Lord,
who is by one and all adored:
to God all praise and glory!
4. Let all who name Christ's holy name
give God the praise and glory.
Let all who know his pow'r proclaim
aloud the wondrous story.
Cast ev'ry idol from its throne;
the Lord is God and he alone:
to God all praise and glory!

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

Micah 7:18-20

¹⁸Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity and passing over transgression for the remnant of his inheritance? He does not retain his anger forever, because he delights in steadfast love. ¹⁹He will again have compassion on us; he will tread our iniquities underfoot. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea. ²⁰You will show faithfulness to Jacob and steadfast love to Abraham, as you have sworn to our fathers from the days of old.

The Confession of Sin

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

Unison:

Most holy and merciful Father, we acknowledge and confess before You our sinful nature—prone to evil and slothful in good—and all our shortcomings and offenses against You. You alone know how often we have sinned in wandering from Your ways, in wasting Your gifts, in forgetting Your love. O Lord, have mercy on us, who are ashamed and sorry for all wherein we have displeased You. Teach us to hate our errors, cleanse us from our secret faults, and forgive our sins for the sake of Your dear Son. And O most holy and loving Father, send Your purifying grace into our hearts, we beseech You, that we may henceforth live in Your light and walk in Your ways, according to the commandments of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Assurance of Pardon

Romans 7:24-8:1

²⁴Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? ²⁵Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin. ¹There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

Psalm 1A
That Man Is Blest

1. That man is blest who, fearing God,
from sin restrains his feet,
who will not stand with wicked men,
who shuns the scorners' seat.
2. Yea, blest is he who makes God's law
his portion and delight,
and meditates upon that law
with gladness day and night.
3. That man is nourished like a tree
set by the river's side;
its leaf is green, its fruit is sure,
and thus his works abide.
4. The wicked, like the driven chaff,
are swept from off the land;
they shall not gather with the just,
nor in the judgment stand.
5. The Lord will guard the righteous well,
their way to him is known;
the way of sinners, far from God,
shall surely be o'erthrown.

The Prayer of the Church

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray without ceasing, ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

-THE LORD INSTRUCTS US FROM HIS WORD-

The Old Testament Reading

Proverbs 1:1-7

¹ The proverbs of Solomon, son of David, king of Israel: ² To know wisdom and instruction, to understand words of insight, ³ to receive instruction in wise dealing, in righteousness, justice, and equity; ⁴ to give prudence to the simple, knowledge and discretion to the youth—⁵ Let the wise hear and increase in learning, and the one who understands obtain guidance, ⁶ to understand a proverb and a saying, the words of the wise and their riddles. ⁷ The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.

The New Testament Reading

James 3

¹ Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. ² For we all stumble in many ways. And if anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle his whole body. ³ If we put bits into the mouths of horses so that they obey us, we guide their whole bodies as well. ⁴ Look at the ships also: though they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. ⁵ So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things.

How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire! ⁶ And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness. The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life, and set on fire by hell. ⁷ For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by mankind, ⁸ but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. ⁹ With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. ¹⁰ From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so. ¹¹ Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and salt water? ¹² Can a fig tree, my brothers, bear olives, or a grapevine produce figs? Neither can a salt pond yield fresh water. ¹³ Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom. ¹⁴ But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. ¹⁵ This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. ¹⁶ For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice. ¹⁷ But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. ¹⁸ And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

The Sermon

Rev. Dr. Deryck Barson

Wisdom for Life

James 3:13-18

Hymn #273

Break Thou the Bread of Life

1. Break thou the bread of life, dear Lord, to me,
as thou didst break the loaves beside the sea;
throughout the sacred page I seek thee, Lord,
my spirit pants for thee, O living Word.
2. Bless thou the truth, dear Lord, to me, to me,
as thou didst bless the bread by Galilee;
then shall all bondage cease, all fetters fall;
and I shall find my peace, my All in all.
3. Thou art the Bread of Life, O Lord, to me,
thy holy Word the truth that saveth me;
give me to eat and live with thee above;
teach me to love thy truth, for thou art love.
4. O send thy Spirit, Lord, now unto me,
that he may touch mine eyes and make me see:
show me the truth concealed within thy Word,
and in thy Book revealed I see the Lord.

-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

Gloria Patri (Tune: Regent Square #213)

Glory be to God the Father;
Glory be to God the Son;
Glory be to God the Spirit, ever three and ever one:
As it was in the beginning, now and evermore shall be.

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