

A SERVICE OF THE WORD & SACRAMENT

January 29, 2023

The Welcome & Announcements
The Prelude & Silent Preparation

-THE LORD CALLS US TO WORSHIP-

The Salutation

Rom.1:7b

⁷ Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Call to Worship

Psalm 95:1-6

¹ Oh come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! ² Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise! ³ For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods. ⁴ In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also. ⁵ The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land. ⁶ Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!

Hymn #254

Let All Things Now Living

1. Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving
to God the Creator triumphantly raise,
who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us,
who guides us and leads to the end of our days.
His banners are o'er us, his light goes before us,
a pillar of fire shining forth in the night,
'til shadows have vanished and darkness is banished,
as forward we travel from light into light.
2. His law he enforces: the stars in their courses,
the sun in its orbit, obediently shine;
the hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains,
the deeps of the ocean proclaim him divine.
We too should be voicing our love and rejoicing,
with glad adoration a song let us raise,
'til all things now living unite in thanksgiving
to God in the highest, hosanna and praise!

The Invocation & Prayer of Praise

Unison:

O Lord, you are the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God. You are the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone possesses immortality and dwells in unapproachable light; whom no one has seen or can see. To you be honor and eternal dominion.

We bless you, the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ who has blessed us with every blessing in the heavenly places in Christ. We praise the glory of your grace that chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world that we should be holy and blameless before him. We thank you that in love you predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ. We rejoice that we have been sealed in Christ with the Holy Spirit of promise who is given as a pledge of our inheritance. We worship and adore you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Open the eyes of our hearts that we may know the hope of your calling, the riches of the glory of our inheritance and the surpassing greatness of your power toward us in Jesus Christ. All of this you have brought about in Christ when you raised him from the dead and seated him at your right hand in the heavenly places.

Receive now our worship and our praise to the glory of your grace.
In Jesus' name, Amen.

-THE LORD ASSURES US OF HIS FORGIVENESS-

The Call to Confession

1 John 1:10 – 2:1

¹⁰ If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. ¹ My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.

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

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.

Hymn #337

Ah, Holy Jesus, How hast Thou Offended

1. Ah, holy Jesus, how hast thou offended,
that man to judge thee hath in hate pretended?
By foes derided, by thine own rejected,
O most afflicted.
2. Who was the guilty who brought this upon thee?
Alas, my treason, Jesus hath undone thee.
'Twas I, Lord Jesus, I it was denied thee:
I crucified thee.
3. Lo, the Good Shepherd for the sheep is offered;
the slave hath sinned, and the Son hath suffered:
for man's atonement, while he nothing heedeth,
God intercedeth.

4. For me, kind Jesus, was thine incarnation,
thy mortal sorrow, and thy life's oblation:
thy death of anguish and thy bitter passion,
for my salvation.

5. Therefore kind Jesus, since I cannot pay thee,
I do adore thee, and will ever pray thee,
think on thy pity and thy love unswerving,
not my deserving.

The Prayer of the Church

Romans 8:31-32

³¹ What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³² He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?

-THE LORD INSTRUCTS US FROM HIS WORD-

The Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 56:1-8

¹ Thus says the Lord: "Keep justice, and do righteousness, for soon my salvation will come, and my righteousness be revealed. ² Blessed is the man who does this, and the son of man who holds it fast, who keeps the Sabbath, not profaning it, and keeps his hand from doing any evil." ³ Let not the foreigner who has joined himself to the Lord say, "The Lord will surely separate me from his people"; and let not the eunuch say, "Behold, I am a dry tree." ⁴ For thus says the Lord: "To the eunuchs who keep my Sabbaths, who choose the things that please me and hold fast my covenant, ⁵ I will give in my house and within my walls a monument and a name better than sons and daughters; I will give them an everlasting name that shall not be cut off. ⁶ "And the foreigners who join themselves to the Lord, to minister to him, to love the name of the Lord, and to be his servants, everyone who keeps the Sabbath and does not profane it, and holds fast my covenant—⁷ these I will bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples." ⁸ The Lord God, who gathers the outcasts of Israel, declares, "I will gather yet others to him besides those already gathered."

The New Testament Reading

3 John

¹ The elder to the beloved Gaius, whom I love in truth. ² Beloved, I pray that all may go well with you and that you may be in good health, as it goes well with your soul. ³ For I rejoiced greatly when the brothers came and testified to your truth, as indeed you are walking in the truth. ⁴ I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth. ⁵ Beloved, it is a faithful thing you do in all your efforts for these brothers, strangers as they are, ⁶ who testified to your love before the church. You will do well to send them on their journey in a manner worthy of God. ⁷ For they have gone out for the sake of the name, accepting nothing from the Gentiles. ⁸ Therefore we ought to support people like these, that we may be fellow workers for the truth. ⁹ I have written something to the church, but Diotrefes, who likes to put himself first, does not acknowledge our authority. ¹⁰ So if I come, I will bring up what he is doing, talking wicked nonsense against us. And not content with that, he refuses to welcome the brothers, and also stops those who want to and puts them out of the church. ¹¹ Beloved, do not imitate evil but imitate good. Whoever does good is from God; whoever does evil has not seen God. ¹² Demetrius has received a good testimony from everyone, and from the truth itself. We also add our testimony, and you know that our testimony is true. ¹³ I had much to write to you, but I would rather not write with pen and ink. ¹⁴ I hope to see you soon, and we will talk face to face. ¹⁵ Peace be to you. The friends greet you. Greet the friends, each by name.

The Sermon

Rev. Dr. Michael J. Matossian

"The Elder to the Beloved Gaius"

3 John

Hymn #403

Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken

1. Glorious things of thee are spoken,
 Zion, city of our God;
 he whose word cannot be broken
 formed thee for his own abode;
 on the Rock of Ages founded,
 what can shake thy sure repose?
 With salvation's walls surrounded,
 thou may'st smile at all thy foes.
2. See the streams of living waters,
 springing from eternal love,
 well supply thy sons and daughters,
 and all fear of want remove;
 who can faint while such a river
 ever flows their thirst t'assuage?
Grace, which like the Lord, the giver,
 never fails from age to age.
3. Round each habitation hov'ring,
 see the cloud and fire appear
 for a glory and a cov'ring,
 showing that the Lord is near;
 thus deriving from their banner
 light by night and shade by day,
 safe they feed upon the manna
 which he gives them when they pray.
4. Savior, if of Zion's city
 I, thro' grace, a member am,
 let the world deride or pity,
 I will glory in thy name;
fading is the worldling's pleasure,
 all his boasted pomp and show;
 solid joys and lasting treasure
 none but Zion's children know.

-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

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

The Doxology - (Psalm #69B, vs.4)

4. Let heav'n above his grace and glory tell,
let earth and sea and all that in them dwell;
salvation to his people God will give,
and they that love his name with him shall live.

The Postlude (*Please stand if you are able). Scripture quotations taken from the ESV. *All Lyrics Used by Permission: CCLI #11063671*