

A SERVICE OF WORD & SACRAMENT

February 18, 2024

The Prelude
The Welcome & Announcements
The Silent Preparation

-THE LORD CALLS US TO WORSHIP-

Salutation

2 Thessalonians 1:2

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

Call to Worship

Psalm 96:1-9 (Responsively)

- ¹ Oh sing to the LORD a new song;
sing to the LORD, all the earth!
- ² Sing to the LORD, bless his name;
tell of his salvation from day to day.
- ³ Declare his glory among the nations,
his marvelous works among all the peoples!
- ⁴ For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised;
he is to be feared above all gods.
- ⁵ For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols,
but the LORD made the heavens.
- ⁶ Splendor and majesty are before him;
strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.
- ⁷ Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength!
- ⁸ Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;
bring an offering, and come into his courts!
- ⁹ Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness;
tremble before him, all the earth!

Hymn #250

I Sing the Almighty Power of God
(Tune: Ellacombe)

1. I sing th'almighty pow'r of God
that made the mountains rise,
that spread the flowing seas abroad
and built the lofty skies.
I sing the wisdom that ordained
the sun to rule the day;
the moon shines full at his command
and all the stars obey.
2. I sing the goodness of the Lord
that filled the earth with food;
he formed the creatures with his word,
and then pronounced them good.
Lord, how your wonders are displayed
where'er I turn my eye,
if I survey the ground I tread
or gaze upon the sky!
3. There's not a plant or flow'r below
but makes your glories known;
and clouds arise and tempests blow
by order from your throne;
while all that borrows life from you
is ever in your care,
and ev'rywhere that man can be,
you, God, are present there.

-THE LORD ASSURES US OF HIS FORGIVENESS-

Call to Confession

Matthew 22:34-40

³⁴ But when the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. ³⁵ And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. ³⁶ "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" ³⁷ And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. ³⁸ This is the great and first commandment. ³⁹ And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. ⁴⁰ On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."

Confession of Sin

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

Unison:

Most merciful Father in heaven above, we are your people because of Jesus Christ your eternal Son who died for the forgiveness of our sins and rose again for our justification.

O God, we are your children because you have sent to us your Holy Spirit who is the Spirit of Adoption, who has transformed our stony hearts into hearts of flesh.

Yet, O Lord, even as your people and your children, being still in our fallen flesh, we confess that we so often break your holy laws and disobey your righteous commands. We confess that we do what we ought not to do and leave undone what we ought to do.

Please, gracious Father, forgive us and cleanse us again by the blood of our Savior, Jesus Christ, and fill us afresh with your Holy Spirit that we may go forth to live holy lives as you are holy until Christ comes again. We ask these things in his name. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Hosea 2:1

¹ Say to your brothers, "You are my people," and to your sisters, "You have received mercy."

Hymn

Sovereign Ruler of the Skies

1. Sov'reign Ruler of the skies,
ever gracious ever wise;
all my times are in Your hand,
all events at Your command.

Chorus:

*Ever faithful, ever true,
keep my heart to only You.
Since I cannot part from Thee,
Sovereign Ruler ever be.*

2. His decree Who formed the earth,
fixed my first and second birth;
now my life to Him I owe.
Where He leads me I will go. *[Chorus]*
3. Plagues and deaths around me fly;
'til He bids, I cannot die.
Not a single shaft can hit
'til the God of love thinks fit. *[Chorus]*
4. Times the temper's pow'r to prove,
times to taste a Savior's love:
all must come, and last and end,
as shall please my heav'nly Friend. *[Chorus]*
5. He that formed me in the womb,
He shall guide me to the tomb.
All my times shall ever be
ordered by His wise decree. *[Chorus]*
6. Thee, at all times, will I bless;
having Thee, I all possess.
Since I cannot part from Thee,
Sovereign Ruler ever be. *[Chorus]*

Prayer of the Church

Proverbs 16:1,3

¹ The plans of the heart belong to man, but the answer of the tongue is from the Lord. ³ Commit your work to the Lord, and your plans will be established.

-THE LORD INSTRUCT S US FROM HIS WORD-

Old Testament Reading

Joel 2:28-32

²⁸“And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. ²⁹Even on the male and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit. ³⁰“And I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and columns of smoke. ³¹The sun shall be turned to darkness, and the moon to blood, before the great and awesome day of the Lord comes. ³²And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved. For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be those who escape, as the Lord has said, and among the survivors shall be those whom the Lord calls.

New Testament Reading

Galatians 3:1-14

¹ O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? It was before your eyes that Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified. ²Let me ask you only this: Did you receive the Spirit by works of the law or by hearing with faith? ³Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh? ⁴Did you suffer so many things in vain—if indeed it was in vain? ⁵Does he who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you do so by works of the law, or by hearing with faith— ⁶just as Abraham “believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness”? ⁷ Know then that it is those of faith who are the sons of Abraham. ⁸ And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, “In you shall all the nations be blessed.” ⁹ So then, those who are of faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith. ¹⁰ For all who rely on works of the law are under a curse; for it is written, “Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law, and do them.” ¹¹ Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law, for “The righteous shall live by faith.” ¹² But the law is not of faith, rather “The one who does them shall live by them.” ¹³ Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree”— ¹⁴ so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith.

Sermon

Rev. Dr. Michael J. Matossian

Bewitched

Galatians 3:1-6

Hymn #286

Let Us Love and Sing and Wonder

1. Let us love and sing and wonder,
let us praise the Savior's name!
He has hushed the law's loud thunder,
he has quenched Mount Sinai's flame:
he has washed us with his blood,
he has brought us nigh to God.
2. Let us love the Lord who bought us,
pitied us when enemies,
called us by his grace and taught us,
gave us ears and gave us eyes:
he has washed us with his blood,
he presents our souls to God.
3. Let us sing, though fierce temptation
threaten hard to bear us down!
For the Lord, our strong salvation,
holds in view the conqu'ror's crown:
he who washed us with his blood
soon will bring us home to God.
4. Let us wonder; grace and justice
join and point to mercy's store;
when thro' grace in Christ our trust is,
justice smiles and asks no more:
he who washed us with his blood
has secured our way to God.

5. Let us praise, and join the chorus
of the saints enthroned on high;
here they trusted him before us,
now their praises fill the sky:
"You have washed us with your blood;
you are worthy, Lamb of God!"

-THE LORD FEEDS US FROM HIS TABLE-

Confession of Faith

Heidelberg Catechism Q & A #53

Q: What do you believe concerning "the Holy Spirit"?

A: First, that the Spirit with the Father and the Son, is eternal God.
Second, that he is given also to me, so that, through true faith, he makes me share in Christ and all his benefits, comforts me, and will remain with me forever.

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

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

-THE LORD DISMISSES US TO HIS SERVICE-

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.

Doxology – #564 (Now Blessed Be Jehovah God)

1. Now blessed be Jehovah 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.