

A SERVICE OF THE WORD & SACRAMENT

March 12, 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 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.

Hymn #218

Mighty God, While Angels Bless You

1. Mighty God, while angels bless you,
may a mortal sing your name?
Lord of men as well as angels,
you are ev'ry creature's theme.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Amen.
2. Lord of ev'ry land and nation,
ancient of eternal days,
sounded through the wide creation
be your just and lawful praise.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Amen.
3. For the grandeur of your nature,
grand beyond a seraph's thought,
for created works of power,
works with skill and kindness wrought.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Amen.
4. But your rich, your free redemption,
dark through brightness all along,
thought is poor, and poor expression,
who dare sing that wondrous song?
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Amen.
5. Brightness of the Father's glory,
shall your praise unuttered lie?
Fly, my tongue, such guilty silence,
sing the Lord who came to die.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Amen.

6. From the highest throne in glory,
to the cross of deepest woe,
all to ransom guilty captives,
flow my praise, forever flow.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Amen.

The Invocation & Prayer of Praise

-THE LORD ASSURES US OF HIS FORGIVENESS-

The Call to Confession

Psalm 51:1-3

¹ Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.² Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin! ³ For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

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

1 John 1:8-9

⁸ If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Hymn #465

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

1. Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heav'n to earth come down:
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown:
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter ev'ry trembling heart.
2. Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit
into ev'ry troubled breast;
let us all in thee inherit,
let us find the promised rest:
take away the love of sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
End of faith, as its Beginning,
set our hearts at liberty.
3. Come, Almighty to deliver,
let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never,
nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray and praise thee without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.
4. Finish, then, thy new creation;
pure and spotless let us be:
let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee;
changed from glory into glory,
'til in heav'n we take our place,
'til we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise.

Baptism

Hymn #189

Lord Jesus Christ, Our Lord Most Dear

1. Lord Jesus Christ, our Lord most dear,
as thou wast once an infant here,
so give this child of thine, we pray,
thy grace and blessing day by day.

Refrain:

*O holy Jesus, Lord divine,
we pray thee guard this child of thine.*

2. As in thy heav'nly kingdom, Lord,
all things obey thy sacred word,
do thou thy mighty succor give,
and shield this child by morn and eve. [*Refrain*]

3. Their watch let angels round him keep,
where'er he be, awake, asleep;
thy saving grace on him bestow,
that he in thee may live and grow. *[Refrain]*

The Prayer of the Church

1 Peter 5:6-7

⁶ Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, ⁷ casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.

-THE LORD INSTRUCTS US FROM HIS WORD-

The Old Testament Reading

Ecclesiastes 5:10-20

¹⁰ He who loves money will not be satisfied with money, nor he who loves wealth with his income; this also is vanity. ¹¹ When goods increase, they increase who eat them, and what advantage has their owner but to see them with his eyes? ¹² Sweet is the sleep of a laborer, whether he eats little or much, but the full stomach of the rich will not let him sleep. ¹³ There is a grievous evil that I have seen under the sun: riches were kept by their owner to his hurt, ¹⁴ and those riches were lost in a bad venture. And he is father of a son, but he has nothing in his hand. ¹⁵ As he came from his mother's womb he shall go again, naked as he came, and shall take nothing for his toil that he may carry away in his hand. ¹⁶ This also is a grievous evil: just as he came, so shall he go, and what gain is there to him who toils for the wind? ¹⁷ Moreover, all his days he eats in darkness in much vexation and sickness and anger. ¹⁸ Behold, what I have seen to be good and fitting is to eat and drink and find enjoyment in all the toil with which one toils under the sun the few days of his life that God has given him, for this is his lot. ¹⁹ Everyone also to whom God has given wealth and possessions and power to enjoy them, and to accept his lot and rejoice in his toil—this is the gift of God. ²⁰ For he will not much remember the days of his life because God keeps him occupied with joy in his heart.

The New Testament Reading

James 1:2-15

² Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, ³ for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. ⁴ And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. ⁵ If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. ⁶ But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. ⁷ For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; ⁸ he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways. ⁹ Let the lowly brother boast in his exaltation, ¹⁰ and the rich in his humiliation, because like a flower of the grass he will pass away. ¹¹ For the sun rises with its scorching heat and withers the grass; its flower falls, and its beauty perishes. So also will the rich man fade away in the midst of his pursuits. ¹² Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him. ¹³ Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. ¹⁴ But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. ¹⁵ Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death. will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

The Sermon

Rev. Dr. Michael J. Matossian

For the End of It All
James 1:9-12

Hymn #196

At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing

1. At the Lamb's high feast we sing
praise to our victorious King,
who has washed us in the tide
flowing from his pierced side;
praise we him whose love divine
gives his sacred blood for wine,
gives his body for the feast,
Christ the victim, Christ the priest.
2. Where the paschal blood is poured,
death's dark angel sheathes his sword;
Israel's hosts triumphant go
through the wave that drowns the foe.
Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed,
paschal victim, paschal bread;
with sincerity and love
eat we manna from above.
3. Mighty victim from the sky,
pow'rs of hell beneath thee lie;
death is conquered in the fight,
thou hast brought us life and light:
hymns of glory and of praise,
risen Lord, to thee we raise;
holy Father, praise to thee,
with the Spirit, ever be.

-THE LORD FEEDS US FROM HIS TABLE-

The Confession of Faith

The 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

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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