

A SERVICE OF THE WORD & SACRAMENT

March 19, 2023

The Welcome & Announcements
The Prelude & Silent Preparation

-THE LORD CALLS US TO WORSHIP-

The Salutation

Philemon 3

³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Call to Worship

Psalm 29:1-2

¹ Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.² Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness.

Hymn #250

I Sing the Almighty Power of God

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 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

Job 38:1-3

¹ Then the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind and said: ² "Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge? ³ Dress for action like a man; I will question you, and you make it known to me.

The 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.

The Assurance of Pardon

Job 42:1-6

¹ Then Job answered the Lord and said: ² "I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted. ³ 'Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge?' Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know. ⁴ 'Hear, and I will speak; I will question you, and you make it known to me.' ⁵ I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees you; ⁶ therefore I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes."

Hymn #479

Jesus, I Am Resting, Resting

1. Jesus, I am resting, resting
in the joy of what thou art;
I am finding out the greatness
of thy loving heart.
Thou hast bid me gaze upon thee,
as thy beauty fills my soul,
for by thy transforming power,
thou hast made me whole.

Refrain:

*Jesus, I am resting, resting,
in the joy of what thou art;
I am finding out the greatness
of thy loving heart.*

2. O how great thy lovingkindness,
vaster, broader than the sea!
O how marvelous thy goodness
lavished all on me!
Yes, I rest in thee, Beloved,
know what wealth of grace is thine,
know thy certainty of promise
and have made it mine. *[Refrain]*

3. Simply trusting thee, Lord Jesus,
I behold thee as thou art,
and thy love, so pure, so changeless,
satisfies my heart;
satisfies its deepest longings,
meets, supplies its ev'ry need,
compasseth me round with blessings:
thine is love indeed. *[Refrain]*

4. Ever lift thy face upon me
as I work and wait for thee;
resting 'neath thy smile, Lord Jesus,
earth's dark shadows flee.
Brightness of my Father's glory,
sunshine of my Father's face,
keep me ever trusting, resting,
fill me with thy grace. *[Refrain]*

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 1:8-19

⁸ Hear, my son, your father's instruction, and forsake not your mother's teaching, ⁹ for they are a graceful garland for your head and pendants for your neck. ¹⁰ My son, if sinners entice you, do not consent. ¹¹ If they say, "Come with us, let us lie in wait for blood; let us ambush the innocent without reason; ¹² like Sheol let us swallow them alive, and whole, like those who go down to the pit; ¹³ we shall find all precious goods, we shall fill our houses with plunder; ¹⁴ throw in your lot among us; we will all have one purse"—¹⁵ my son, do not walk in the way with them; hold back your foot from their paths, ¹⁶ for their feet run to evil, and they make haste to shed blood. ¹⁷ For in vain is a net spread in the sight of any bird, ¹⁸ but these men lie in wait for their own blood; they set an ambush for their own lives. ¹⁹ Such are the ways of everyone who is greedy for unjust gain; it takes away the life of its possessors.

The New Testament Reading

James 1:2-18

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. ¹⁶ Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers. ¹⁷ Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. ¹⁸ Of his own 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

Who's to Blame?

James 1:13-18

Hymn #220

Give Praise to God

1. Give praise to God, who reigns above,
for perfect knowledge, wisdom, love;
his judgments are divine, devout,
his paths beyond all tracing out.

Refrain:

*Come, lift your voice to heav'n's high throne,
and glory give to God alone!*

2. No one can counsel God all-wise
or truths unveil to his sharp eyes;
he marks our paths behind, before;
he is our steadfast Counselor. *[Refrain]*

3. Nothing exists that God might need,
for all things good from Him proceed.
We praise Him as our Lord, and yet
we never place God in our debt. *[Refrain]*

4. Creation, life, salvation too,
and all things else both good and true,
come from and through our God always,
and fill our hearts with grateful praise. *[Refrain]*

-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

#564 - Now Blessed Be Jehovah God

1. Now blessed be Jehova 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.