

# A SERVICE OF WORD & SACRAMENT

March 24, 2024

The Prelude

The Welcome & Announcements

The Silent Preparation

## -THE LORD CALLS US TO WORSHIP-

### Salutation

Galatians 1:3

<sup>3</sup>Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

### Call to Worship

Psalm 48:1-3

<sup>1</sup> Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised in the city of our God! His holy mountain, <sup>2</sup> beautiful in elevation, is the joy of all the earth, Mount Zion, in the far north, the city of the great King. <sup>3</sup> Within her citadels God has made himself known as a fortress.

### Hymn #163

*Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty*

1. Open now thy gates of beauty,  
Zion, let me enter there,  
where my soul in joyful duty  
waits for him who answers prayer.  
Oh, how blessed is this place,  
filled with solace, light, and grace!
2. Lord, my God, I come before thee,  
come thou also unto me;  
where we find thee and adore thee,  
there a heav'n on earth must be.  
To my heart, O enter thou,  
let it be thy temple now!
3. Here thy praise is gladly chanted,  
here thy seed is duly sown;  
let my soul, where it is planted,  
bring forth precious sheaves alone,  
so that all I hear may be  
fruitful unto life in me.
4. Thou my faith increase and quicken,  
let me keep thy gift divine,  
howsoe'er temptations thicken;  
may thy Word still o'er me shine  
as my guiding star through life,  
as my comfort in my strife.
5. Speak, O God, and I will hear thee,  
let thy will be done indeed;  
may I undisturbed draw near thee  
while thou dost thy people feed.  
Here of life the fountain flows,  
here is balm for all our woes.

## 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-**

#### **Call to Confession**

Isaiah 64:6-7

<sup>6</sup>We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. <sup>7</sup>There is no one who calls upon your name, who rouses himself to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have made us melt in the hand of our iniquities.

#### **Confession of Sin**

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

Unison:

Almighty God, rich in mercy to all who call upon you. Hear us as we come to you humbly confessing our sins and transgressions, imploring your mercy and forgiveness. We have broken your holy laws by our deeds and words, and by the sinful affections of our hearts. We confess before you our disobedience and ingratitude, our pride and willfulness; and all our failures and shortcomings toward you and our fellow humans. Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; and of your great goodness grant that we may hereafter serve and please you in newness of life; through the merit and mediation of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### **Assurance of Pardon**

1 Corinthians 6:9-11

<sup>9</sup>Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality,<sup>10</sup> nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. <sup>11</sup>And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

## Hymn #172

*Speak, O Lord*

1. Speak, O Lord, as we come to you  
to receive the food of your Holy Word.  
Take your truth, plant it deep in us;  
shape and fashion us in your likeness,  
that the light of Christ might be seen today  
in our acts of love and our deeds of faith.  
Speak, O Lord, and fulfill in us  
all your purposes for your glory.

2. Teach us, Lord, full obedience,  
holy reverence, true humility;  
Test our thoughts and our attitudes  
in the radiance of your purity.  
Cause our faith to rise, cause our eyes to see  
your majestic love and authority.  
Words of pow'r that can never fail,  
let their truth prevail over unbelief.

3. Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds;  
help us grasp the heights of your plans for us:  
truths unchanged from the dawn of time,  
that will echo down thro' eternity.  
And by grace we'll stand on your promises;  
and by faith we'll walk as you walk with us.  
Speak, O Lord, 'til your church is built,  
and the earth is filled with your glory.

## Prayer of the Church

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

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

## -THE LORD INSTRUCTS US FROM HIS WORD-

### Old Testament Reading

Zechariah 9:1-17

<sup>1</sup> The oracle of the word of the Lord is against the land of Hadrach and Damascus is its resting place. For the Lord has an eye on mankind and on all the tribes of Israel, <sup>2</sup> and on Hamath also, which borders on it, Tyre and Sidon, though they are very wise. <sup>3</sup> Tyre has built herself a rampart and heaped up silver like dust, and fine gold like the mud of the streets. <sup>4</sup> But behold, the Lord will strip her of her possessions and strike down her power on the sea, and she shall be devoured by fire. <sup>5</sup> Ashkelon shall see it, and be afraid; Gaza too, and shall writhe in anguish; Ekron also, because its hopes are confounded. The king shall perish from Gaza; Ashkelon shall be uninhabited; <sup>6</sup> a mixed people shall dwell in Ashdod, and I will cut off the pride of Philistia. <sup>7</sup> I will take away its blood from its mouth, and its abominations from between its teeth; it too shall be a remnant for our God; it shall be like a clan in Judah, and Ekron shall be like the Jebusites. <sup>8</sup> Then I will encamp at my house as a guard, so that none shall march to and fro; no oppressor shall again march over them, for now I see with my own eyes. <sup>9</sup> Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. <sup>10</sup> I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the war horse from Jerusalem; and the battle bow shall be cut off, and he shall speak peace

to the nations; his rule shall be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth. <sup>11</sup> As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you, I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit. <sup>12</sup> Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope; today I declare that I will restore to you double. <sup>13</sup> For I have bent Judah as my bow; I have made Ephraim its arrow. I will stir up your sons, O Zion, against your sons, O Greece, and wield you like a warrior's sword. <sup>14</sup> Then the Lord will appear over them, and his arrow will go forth like lightning; the Lord God will sound the trumpet and will march forth in the whirlwinds of the south. <sup>15</sup> The Lord of hosts will protect them, and they shall devour, and tread down the sling stones, and they shall drink and roar as if drunk with wine, and be full like a bowl, drenched like the corners of the altar. <sup>16</sup> On that day the Lord their God will save them, as the flock of his people; for like the jewels of a crown they shall shine on his land. <sup>17</sup> For how great is his goodness, and how great his beauty! Grain shall make the young men flourish, and new wine the young women.

## **New Testament Reading**

John 12:9-26

<sup>9</sup> When the large crowd of the Jews learned that Jesus was there, they came, not only on account of him but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. <sup>10</sup> So the chief priests made plans to put Lazarus to death as well, <sup>11</sup> because on account of him many of the Jews were going away and believing in Jesus. <sup>12</sup> The next day the large crowd that had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. <sup>13</sup> So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying out, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!" <sup>14</sup> And Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, just as it is written, <sup>15</sup> "Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt!" <sup>16</sup> His disciples did not understand these things at first, but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written about him and had been done to him. <sup>17</sup> The crowd that had been with him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to bear witness. <sup>18</sup> The reason why the crowd went to meet him was that they heard he had done this sign. <sup>19</sup> So the Pharisees said to one another, "You see that you are gaining nothing. Look, the world has gone after him." <sup>20</sup> Now among those who went up to worship at the feast were some Greeks. <sup>21</sup> So these came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." <sup>22</sup> Philip went and told Andrew; Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. <sup>23</sup> And Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. <sup>24</sup> Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. <sup>25</sup> Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. <sup>26</sup> If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him.

### **Sermon**

Rev. Dr. Michael J. Matossian

*What Kind of King?*

John 12:9-26

## Hymn #329

*Ride On, Ride On in Majesty*

1. Ride on, ride on in majesty!  
Hark! all the tribes hosanna cry;  
O Savior meek, pursue your road  
with palms and scattered garments strowed.

2. Ride on, ride on in majesty!  
In lowly pomp ride on to die:  
O Christ, your triumphs now begin  
o'er captive death and conquered sin.

3. Ride on, ride on in majesty!  
The winged squadrons of the sky  
look down with sad and wond'ring eyes  
to see th'approaching sacrifice.

4. Ride on, ride on in majesty!  
Your last and fiercest strife is nigh;  
the Father on his sapphire throne  
expects his own anointed Son.

5. Ride on, ride on in majesty!  
In lowly pomp ride on to die;  
bow your meek head to mortal pain,  
then take, O God, your pow'r and reign.

## **-THE LORD FEEDS US FROM HIS TABLE-**

### **Confession of Faith**

The Nicene Creed

Unison:

We believe in one God, the Father Almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.  
And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of his Father before all worlds;  
God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God;  
begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;  
Who, for us and for our salvation,  
came down from heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary,  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered and was buried:  
and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures;  
and ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father;  
and he shall come again, with glory,  
to judge both the living and the dead  
whose kingdom shall have no end.  
And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life;  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son;  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified;  
who spoke by the prophets.

And we believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins;  
and we look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

### **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

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

#### **Doxology**

#150C (*Sing Hallelujah! Praise the Lord!*)

Sing hallelujah! Praise the Lord!  
Praise God within his sacred courts!  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!  
Praise, praise him in his heav'nly height!  
Praise, praise him for his deeds of might!  
O praise him! O praise him!  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!  
Hallelujah!