

A SERVICE OF THE WORD & SACRAMENT

May 8, 2022

The Welcome & Announcements
The Prelude & Silent Preparation

-THE LORD CALLS US TO WORSHIP-

The Salutation

1 Corinthians 1:3

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

The Call to Worship

Psalm 95:1-3

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.

Hymn #219

O Worship the King

1. O worship the King, all glorious above,
O gratefully sing his pow'r and his love;
our Shield and Defender, the Ancient of Days,
pavilioned in splendor and girded with praise.
2. O tell of his might, O sing of his grace,
whose robe is the light, whose canopy space.
His chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds form,
and dark is his path on the wings of the storm.
3. The earth with its store of wonders untold,
Almighty, your pow'r has founded of old;
has 'stablished it fast by a changeless decree,
and round it has cast, like a mantle, the sea.
4. Your bountiful care, what tongue can recite?
It breathes in the air, it shines in the light;
it streams from the hills, it descends to the plain,
and sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.
5. Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail,
in you do we trust, nor find you to fail;
your mercies how tender, how firm to the end,
our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend!
6. O measureless Might! Ineffable Love!
While angels delight to hymn you above,
the humbler creation, though feeble their lays,
with true adoration shall lisp to your praise.

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The Invocation & Prayer of Praise

Unison:

O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
Author of all blessings we enjoy, of all we hope for.

You have taught us
Neither the experience of present evils,
nor the remembrances of former sins,
nor the remonstrances of friends,
will or can affect a sinner's heart,
except you vouchsafe to reveal your grace
and bring to life those who are dead in sin
by the effectual working of your Spirit's power.

You have shown us
that the sensible effusions of divine love in the soul
are superior to and distinct from bodily health,
and that oft-times spiritual comforts are at their highest
when physical well-being is at its lowest.

You have given us the ordinance of song as a means of grace;
Make us fit to play our part in that music ever new
which elect angels and saints made perfect
now sing before your throne and before the Lamb.
We bless you for tempering every distress with joy;

too much of the former might weigh us down,
too much of the latter might puff us up;
You are wise to give us a taste of both.

We love you
For giving us clusters of grapes in the wilderness,
and drops of heavenly wine
that set our longing to be filled with you.
Apart from you, we quickly die,
bereft of you, we starve
far from you, we thirst and droop.

But you are all we need.
Let us continually grasp your promise,
"I will never leave you nor forsake you."

We praise you, O God. Amen.

-Modified from *The Valley of Vision* (p.159)

-THE LORD ASSURES US OF HIS FORGIVENESS-

The Call to Confession

Lamentations 3:1-3

¹ I am the man who has seen affliction under the rod of his wrath; ² he has driven and brought me into darkness without any light; ³ surely against me he turns his hand again and again the whole day long.

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

Lamentations 3:22-24

²² The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; ²³ they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. ²⁴ "The LORD is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him."

Hymn #351

How Deep the Father's Love for Us

1. How deep the Father's love for us
how vast beyond all measure,
that He should give His only Son
to make a wretch His treasure.
How great the pain of searing loss:
the Father turns His face away
as wounds which mar the Chosen One
bring many sons to glory.
2. Behold the man upon a cross,
my sin upon His shoulders;
ashamed, I hear my mocking voice
call out among the scoffers.
It was my sin that held him there
until it was accomplished;
his dying breath has brought me life-
I know that it is finished.

3. I will not boast in anything,
no gifts, no pow'r, no wisdom;
but I will boast in Jesus Christ,
his death and resurrection
Why should I gain from His reward?
I cannot give an answer,
but this I know with all my heart:
his wounds have paid my ransom.

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Reception of New Members

Mike, Andrea, Micah, and Esther Cornwell

Hymn #409

Blest be the Tie That Binds

1. Blest be the tie that binds
our hearts in Christian love;
the fellowship of kindred minds
is like to that above.

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The Prayer of the Church

Lamentations 3:25-26

²⁵ The LORD is good to those who wait for him, to the soul who seeks him. ²⁶ It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD.

-THE LORD INSTRUCTS US FROM HIS WORD-

The Old Testament Reading

Exodus 40:34-38

³⁴ Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. ³⁵ And Moses was not able to enter the tent of meeting because the cloud settled on it, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. ³⁶ Throughout all their journeys, whenever the cloud was taken up from over the tabernacle, the people of Israel would set out. ³⁷ But if the cloud was not taken up, then they did not set out till the day that it was taken up. ³⁸ For the cloud of the LORD was on the tabernacle by day, and fire was in it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel throughout all their journeys.

Leviticus 1:1-17

¹ The LORD called Moses and spoke to him from the tent of meeting, saying, ² "Speak to the people of Israel and say to them, When any one of you brings an offering to the LORD, you shall bring your offering of livestock from the herd or from the flock. ³ "If his offering is a burnt offering from the herd, he shall offer a male without blemish. He shall bring it to the entrance of the tent of meeting, that he may be accepted before the LORD. ⁴ He shall lay his hand on the head of the burnt offering, and it shall be accepted for him to make atonement for him. ⁵ Then he shall kill the bull before the LORD, and Aaron's sons the priests shall bring the blood and throw the blood against the sides of the altar that is at the entrance of the tent of meeting. ⁶ Then he shall flay the burnt offering and cut it into pieces, ⁷ and the sons of Aaron the priest shall put fire on the altar and arrange wood on the fire. ⁸ And Aaron's sons the priests shall arrange the pieces, the head, and the fat, on the wood that is on the fire on the altar; ⁹ but its entrails and its legs he shall wash with water. And the priest shall burn all of it on the altar, as a burnt offering, a food offering with a pleasing aroma to the LORD. ¹⁰ "If his gift for a burnt offering is from the flock, from the sheep or goats, he shall bring a male without blemish, ¹¹ and he shall kill it on the north side of the altar before the LORD, and Aaron's sons the priests shall throw its blood against the sides of the altar. ¹² And he shall cut it into pieces, with its head and its fat, and the priest shall arrange them on the wood that is on the fire on the altar, ¹³ but the entrails and the legs he shall wash with water. And the priest shall offer all of it and burn it on the altar; it is a burnt offering, a food offering with a pleasing aroma to the LORD. ¹⁴ "If his offering to the LORD is a burnt offering of birds, then he shall bring his offering of turtledoves or pigeons. ¹⁵ And the priest shall bring it to the altar and wring off its head and burn it on the altar. Its blood shall be drained out on the side of the altar. ¹⁶ He shall remove its crop with its contents and cast it beside the altar on the east side, in the place for ashes. ¹⁷ He shall tear it open by its wings, but shall not sever it completely. And the priest shall burn it on the altar, on the wood that is on the fire. It is a burnt offering, a food offering with a pleasing aroma to the LORD.

The New Testament Reading

Ephesians 2:11-22

¹¹ Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called "the uncircumcision" by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands— ¹² remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. ¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴ For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility ¹⁵ by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, ¹⁶ and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. ¹⁷ And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. ¹⁸ For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. ¹⁹ So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, ²⁰ built on the foundation of the apostles

and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, ²¹ in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. ²² In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

The Sermon

Rev. Dr. Michael J. Matossian

Near Yet Far

Exodus 40:34 – Leviticus 1:2

Hymn #181

Now Thank We All Our God

1. Now thank we all our God
with heart and hands and voices,
who wondrous things has done,
in whom his world rejoices;
who from our mothers' arms
has blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love,
and still is ours today.

2. O may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer us;
and keep us in his grace,
and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all ills
in this world and the next.

3. All praise and thanks to God
the Father now be given,
the Son, and him who reigns
with them in highest heaven—
the one eternal God,
whom earth and heav'n adore;
for thus it was, is now,
and shall be evermore.

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-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 #570

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below:
 alleluia, alleluia!
Praise him above, ye heav'nly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost:
 alleluia, alleluia, alleluia,
 alleluia, alleluia!

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The *Postlude* (*Please stand if you are able) NOTE: Scripture quotations taken from the ESV (English Standard Version of the Bible)