

# A SERVICE OF THE WORD & SACRAMENT

September 17, 2023

The Prelude

The Welcome & Announcements

The Silent Preparation

## -THE LORD CALLS US TO WORSHIP-

### The Salutation

Galatians 1:3

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

### The Call to Worship

Psalm 98:1-6

<sup>1</sup> 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.**

<sup>2</sup> The LORD has made known his salvation;

**he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.**

<sup>3</sup> 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.**

<sup>4</sup> Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;

**break forth into joyous song and sing praises!**

<sup>5</sup> Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre,

**with the lyre and the sound of melody!**

<sup>6</sup> With trumpets and the sound of the horn

**make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD!**

### Hymn #215

*Give to Our God Immortal Praise*

1. Give to our God immortal praise;  
mercy and truth are all his ways:  
wonders of grace to God belong;  
repeat his mercies in your song.

2. Give to the Lord of lords renown;  
the King of kings with glory crown:  
his mercies ever shall endure,  
when lords and kings are known no more.

3. He built the earth, he spread the sky,  
and fixed the starry lights on high:  
wonders of grace to God belong;  
repeat his mercies in your song.

4. He fills the sun with morning light;  
he bids the moon direct the night:  
his mercies ever shall endure,  
when suns and moons shall shine no more.

5. He sent his Son with pow'r to save  
from guilt and darkness and the grave:  
wonders of grace to God belong;  
repeat his mercies in your song.

6. Through this vain world he guides our feet,  
and leads us to his heav'nly seat:  
his mercies ever shall endure,  
when this vain world shall be no more.

### **The Invocation & Prayer of Praise**

## **-THE LORD ASSURES US OF HIS FORGIVENESS-**

### **The Call to Confession**

Psalm 14:1-3

<sup>1</sup> The fool says in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds; there is none who does good. <sup>2</sup> The Lord looks down from heaven on the children of man, to see if there are any who understand, who seek after God. <sup>3</sup> They have all turned aside; together they have become corrupt; there is none who does good, not even one.

### **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**

Ephesians 2:8-9

<sup>8</sup> For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, <sup>9</sup> not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

### **Hymn #343**

*What Wondrous Love Is This*

1. What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,  
what wondrous love is this, O my soul!  
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss  
*to bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,  
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul!*
2. When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down,  
when I was sinking down, sinking down;  
when I was sinking down beneath God's righteous frown,  
*Christ laid aside his crown for my soul, for my soul,  
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul!*

3. To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing,  
to God and to the Lamb, I will sing;  
to God and to the Lamb, who is the great I AM,  
*while millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing,  
while millions join the theme, I will sing!*

4. And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on,  
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on;  
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be,  
*and through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on,  
and through eternity I'll sing on!*

### **The Prayer of the Church**

Colossians 4:2-4

<sup>2</sup> Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. <sup>3</sup> At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison— <sup>4</sup> that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak.

## **-THE LORD INSTRUCTS US FROM HIS WORD-**

### **The Old Testament Reading**

1 Kings 17:1-7; 18:41-46

<sup>1</sup> Now Elijah the Tishbite, of Tishbe in Gilead, said to Ahab, "As the LORD, the God of Israel, lives, before whom I stand, there shall be neither dew nor rain these years, except by my word." <sup>2</sup> And the word of the LORD came to him: <sup>3</sup> "Depart from here and turn eastward and hide yourself by the brook Cherith, which is east of the Jordan. <sup>4</sup> You shall drink from the brook, and I have commanded the ravens to feed you there." <sup>5</sup> So he went and did according to the word of the LORD. He went and lived by the brook Cherith that is east of the Jordan. <sup>6</sup> And the ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning, and bread and meat in the evening, and he drank from the brook. <sup>7</sup> And after a while the brook dried up, because there was no rain in the land.

<sup>41</sup> And Elijah said to Ahab, "Go up, eat and drink, for there is a sound of the rushing of rain." <sup>42</sup> So Ahab went up to eat and to drink. And Elijah went up to the top of Mount Carmel. And he bowed himself down on the earth and put his face between his knees. <sup>43</sup> And he said to his servant, "Go up now, look toward the sea." And he went up and looked and said, "There is nothing." And he said, "Go again," seven times. <sup>44</sup> And at the seventh time he said, "Behold, a little cloud like a man's hand is rising from the sea." And he said, "Go up, say to Ahab, 'Prepare your chariot and go down, lest the rain stop you.'" <sup>45</sup> And in a little while the heavens grew black with clouds and wind, and there was a great rain. And Ahab rode and went to Jezreel. <sup>46</sup> And the hand of the LORD was on Elijah, and he gathered up his garment and ran before Ahab to the entrance of Jezreel.

### **The New Testament Reading**

James 5:13-20

<sup>13</sup> Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise. <sup>14</sup> Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. <sup>15</sup> And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. <sup>16</sup> Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working. <sup>17</sup> Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. <sup>18</sup> Then he prayed again, and heaven gave rain, and the earth bore its fruit. <sup>19</sup> My brothers, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and someone brings him back, <sup>20</sup> let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from his wandering will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

## **The Sermon**

Rev. Dr. Michael J. Matossian

*Expressing Faith in All of Life*  
James 5:13-18

### **Hymn #403**

*Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken*

1. Glorious things of thee are spoken,  
Zion, city of our God;  
he whose word cannot be broken  
formed thee for his own abode;  
on the Rock of Ages founded,  
what can shake thy sure repose?  
With salvation's walls surrounded,  
thou may'st smile at all thy foes.
2. See the streams of living waters,  
springing from eternal love,  
well supply thy sons and daughters,  
and all fear of want remove;  
who can faint while such a river  
ever flows their thirst t'assuage?  
Grace, which like the Lord, the giver,  
never fails from age to age.
3. Round each habitation hov'ring,  
see the cloud and fire appear  
for a glory and a cov'ring,  
showing that the Lord is near;  
thus deriving from their banner  
light by night and shade by day,  
safe they feed upon the manna  
which he gives them when they pray.
4. Savior, if of Zion's city  
I, thro' grace, a member am,  
let the world deride or pity,  
I will glory in thy name;  
fading is the worldling's pleasure,  
all his boasted pomp and show;  
solid joys and lasting treasure  
none but Zion's children know.

## **-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

<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.

#### **The Doxology**

*#564 - Now Blessed Be Jehova 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.