

A SERVICE OF WORD & SACRAMENT

April 7, 2024

The Prelude

The Welcome & Announcements

The Silent Preparation

-THE LORD CALLS US TO WORSHIP-

Salutation

Philippians 1:2

² Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

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.

Psalm #98A

O Sing a New Song to the Lord (Stanzas 1-5)

NOTE: The last repeated line of each verse is sung as follows: Men sing it 4 times, women 3 times.

1. O sing a new song to the LORD,
*for wonders he has done,
for wonders he has done.*

By his right hand and holy arm
*the vict'ry he has won,
the vict'ry he has won,
the vict'ry he has won.*

2. God's great salvation is revealed,
*for he has made it known,
for he has made it known.*
He in the sight of nations all
*his righteousness has shown,
his righteousness has shown,
his righteousness has shown.*

3. He has remembered Isr'el's house
*in mercy and in truth,
in mercy and in truth.*
God's great salvation has been shown
*to all the ends of earth,
to all the ends of earth,
to all the ends of earth.*

4. O all the earth, exalt the LORD
*and make a joyful noise,
and make a joyful noise.*
Lift up your voice aloud to him;
*sing praises and rejoice,
sing praises and rejoice,
sing praises and rejoice.*

5. O praise the LORD with voice and harp,
*with harps your praises sing,
with harps your praises sing.*
Make joyful noise with trumpet and horn
*before the LORD, the King,
before the LORD, the King,
before the LORD, the King.*

Invocation & Prayer of Praise

Unison:

"The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein, for he has founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers. Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD? And who shall stand in his holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully. He will receive blessing from the LORD and righteousness from the God of his salvation. Such is the generation of those who seek him, who seek the face of the God of Jacob. Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. Who is this King of glory? The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD, mighty in battle! Lift up your heads, O gates! And lift them up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts, he is the King of glory!

-THE LORD ASSURES US OF HIS FORGIVENESS-

Call to Confession

Matthew 22:34-40

³⁴ But when the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. ³⁵ And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. ³⁶ "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" ³⁷ And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. ³⁸ This is the great and first commandment. ³⁹ And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. ⁴⁰ On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."

Confession of Sin

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

Unison:

Holy God, Lord most gracious! Rebuke us not in your anger, nor chasten us in your wrath! Holy you are, and we cannot stand in your presence. Yet you have called us to come to you. We feel unworthy, for we have failed you again and again. We feel like running away, yet you keep calling us. Have mercy on us, O God. Have mercy!

Holy God, Father most gracious! Rebuke us not in your anger, nor chasten us in your wrath! Heal us from our sin, for we are troubled. Deliver us for the sake of your steadfast love. Our sins trouble us, O God. We are troubled by how they have hurt others. We are troubled by how they have hurt us. Your ways are right, O righteous God! And whenever we have refused to follow them, we have found out how right they are. Have mercy on us, O God. Have mercy!

Holy God, God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on us for the sake of your Son, who died to free us from our sins. To you be honor and glory! Amen.

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 #265

In Christ Alone

1. In Christ alone my hope is found,
he is my light, my strength, my song;
this cornerstone, this solid ground,
firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My comforter, my all in all—
here in the love of Christ I stand.

2. In Christ alone! Who took on flesh,
fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness,
scorned by the ones he came to save.
'Til on that cross as Jesus died,
the wrath of God was satisfied;
for every sin on him was laid—
here in the death of Christ I live.

3. There in the ground his body lay,
light of the world by darkness slain;
then bursting forth in glorious day,
up from the grave he rose again!
And as he stands in victory,
sin's curse has lost its grip on me;
for I am his and he is mine—
bought with the precious blood of Christ.

4. No guilt in life, no fear in death:
this is the pow'r of Christ in me.
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man,
can ever pluck me from his hand;
'Til he returns or calls me home—
here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.

Prayer of the Church

Daniel 6:10

¹⁰ When Daniel knew that the document had been signed, he went to his house where he had windows in his upper chamber open toward Jerusalem. He got down on his knees three times a day and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as he had done previously.

-THE LORD INSTRUCTS US FROM HIS WORD-

Old Testament Reading

Deuteronomy 5:1-21

New Testament Reading

Galatians 3:15-29

Sermon

Rev. Dr. Michael J. Matossian

Why Then the Law?

Galatians 3:19-25

Hymn #498

I Will Sing of My Redeemer

1. I will sing of my Redeemer
and his wondrous love to me:
on the cruel cross he suffered,
from the curse to set me free.

Refrain:

*Sing, O sing of my Redeemer!
With his blood he purchased me;
on the cross he sealed my pardon,
paid the debt, and made me free.*

2. I will tell the wondrous story,
how my lost estate to save,
in his boundless love and mercy
he the ransom freely gave. *[Refrain]*

3. I will praise my dear Redeemer,
his triumphant power I'll tell:
how the victory he giveth
over sin and death and hell. *[Refrain]*

4. I will sing of my Redeemer
and his heav'nly love to me;
he from death to life has brought me,
Son of God, with him to be. *[Refrain]*

-THE LORD FEEDS US FROM HIS TABLE-

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*)

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

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

Doxology #226

O the Deep, Unbounded Riches

O the deep, unbounded riches
of God deserve our praise!
How unsearchable his judgments,
how marvelous his ways!
For who his thoughts has fathomed,
or counsel to him giv'n?
And who could make a debtor
of God, the Lord of heav'n?
For from and through and to him
are all things, now and then.
To him be all the glory
forevermore. Amen.

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