

A SERVICE OF THE WORD & SACRAMENT

June 4, 2023

The Prelude

The Welcome & Announcements

The Silent Preparation

-THE LORD CALLS US TO WORSHIP-

The Salutation

Romans 1:7b

¹ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Call to Worship

Psalm 34:1-3

¹ I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth.² My soul makes its boast in the Lord; let the humble hear and be glad.³ Oh, magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together!

Hymn #230

Holy, Holy, Holy!

1. Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!
2. Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,
casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,
who wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.
3. Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,
though the eye of sinful man thy glory may not see,
only thou art holy; there is none beside thee
perfect in pow'r, in love, and purity.
4. Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

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

1 John 1:8,10

⁸ If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ¹⁰ If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

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

1 John 1:9

⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Hymn #324

Thou Who Was Rich beyond All Splendor

1. Thou who wast rich beyond all splendor,
all for love's sake becamest poor;
thrones for a manger didst surrender,
sapphire-paved courts for stable floor.
Thou who wast rich beyond all splendor,
all for lov'e sake becamest poor.
2. Thou who art God beyond all praising,
all for love's sake becamest man;
stooping so low, but sinners raising
heav'nward by thine eternal plan.
Thou who art God beyond all praising,
all for love's sake becamest man.
3. Thou who art love beyond all telling,
Savior and King, we worship thee.
Emmanuel, within us dwelling,
make us what thou wouldst have us be.
Thou who art love beyond all telling,
Savior and King, we worship thee.

The Prayer of the Church

Psalm 34:8-10

⁸ Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him! ⁹ Oh, fear the Lord, you his saints, for those who fear him have no lack! ¹⁰ The young lions suffer want and hunger; but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing.

-THE LORD INSTRUCTS US FROM HIS WORD-

The Old Testament Reading

Proverbs 9:1-12

¹ Wisdom has built her house; she has hewn her seven pillars. ² She has slaughtered her beasts; she has mixed her wine; she has also set her table. ³ She has sent out her young women to call from the highest places in the town, ⁴ "Whoever is simple, let him turn in here!" To him who lacks sense she says, ⁵ "Come, eat of my bread and drink of the wine I have mixed. ⁶ Leave your simple ways, and live, and walk in the way of insight. "Whoever corrects a scoffer gets himself abuse, and he who reproves a wicked man incurs injury. ⁸ Do not reprove a scoffer, or he will hate you; reprove a wise man, and he will love you. ⁹ Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser; teach a righteous man, and he will increase in learning. ¹⁰ The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight. ¹¹ For by me your days will be multiplied, and years will be added to your life. ¹² If you are wise, you are wise for yourself; if you scoff, you alone will bear it.

The New Testament Reading

James 3:1-18

¹ Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. ² For we all stumble in many ways. And if anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle his whole body. ³ If we put bits into the mouths of horses so that they obey us, we guide their whole bodies as well. ⁴ Look at the ships also: though they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. ⁵ So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things. How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire! ⁶ And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness. The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life, and set on fire by hell. ⁷ For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by mankind, ⁸ but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. ⁹ With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. ¹⁰ From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so. ¹¹ Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and salt water? ¹² Can a fig tree, my brothers, bear olives, or a grapevine produce figs? Neither can a salt pond yield fresh water. ¹³ Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom. ¹⁴ But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. ¹⁵ This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. ¹⁶ For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice. ¹⁷ But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. ¹⁸ And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

The Sermon

Rev. Dr. Michael J. Matossian

Wisdom True and False
James 3:13-18

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

Heidelberg Catechism Q & A #49

Q. How does Christ's ascension to heaven benefit us?

A. Unison:

First, he is our advocate in heaven in the presence of his Father.

Second, we have our own flesh in heaven as a sure pledge that Christ our head will also take us, his members, up to himself.

Third, he sends his Spirit to us on earth as a corresponding pledge. By the Spirit's power we seek not earthly things but the things above, where Christ is, sitting at God's right hand.

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

¹⁴ 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

Hymn #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

Scripture quotations taken from the ESV.
#11063671

All Lyrics Used by Permission: CCLI