

# A SERVICE OF THE WORD & SACRAMENT

September 3, 2023

The Prelude

The Welcome & Announcements

The Silent Preparation

## -THE LORD CALLS US TO WORSHIP-

### **The Salutation**

1 Corinthians 1:3

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

### **The Call to Worship**

Psalm 106:1

<sup>1</sup> Praise the LORD! Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever!

### **Psalm #135**

*O Praise the LORD! His Praise Proclaim!*

1. O praise the LORD! His praise proclaim!  
All you his servants, praise his name,  
who stand within the house of the LORD  
and humbly serve within his courts.  
The LORD is good, his praise proclaim;  
since it is pleasant, praise his name!  
The LORD chose Jacob for himself  
and loves his treasure, Israel.
2. I know the LORD is high in state;  
above all gods our God is great.  
The LORD performs what he decrees  
in heav'n and earth, in depths and seas.  
He makes the vapors to ascend  
in clouds from earth's remotest end.  
The lightning and the rain he sends,  
and from his storehouse brings the winds.
3. He struck down Egypt's firstborn sons,  
both man and beast, their choicest ones.  
On Egypt, 'gainst the Pharaoh's might,  
the LORD sent signs and wonders great.  
He struck down nations, kings of might—  
both Sihon, Og, all Canaanites.  
He gave their lands to Israel,  
a heritage where they might dwell.

4. Your name, O LORD, fore'er endures;  
through ev'ry age your fame is sure.  
The LORD his people will defend,  
and great compassion shows to them.  
The gods of gold are made by hand;  
their mouths can't breathe, their eyes are blind,  
their ears are deaf, their mouths are dumb.  
All trusting them like them become.

5. O house of Isr'el, bless the LORD!  
O house of Aaron, bless the LORD!  
O house of Levi, bless the LORD!  
All you who fear him, bless the LORD!  
Now blest be God with one accord,  
the LORD from Zion be adored,  
who makes Jerus'lem his abode.  
Sing hallelujah! Praise the LORD!

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

Unison:

The earth is yours, O LORD, and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell in it. You have founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers. Who shall ascend your hill, O LORD? And who shall stand in your holy place? The one who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully. That one will receive blessing from the LORD and righteousness from the God of his salvation. Such is the generation of those who seek you, who seek your face O God of Jacob. We cry out, "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!"

You, O LORD, are our King and Savior. Empower us now to lift your name on high, to express gratitude truly from our hearts, and to praise you with our whole being. May you, Father, Son, and Spirit be honored by your children this day. Through Christ our Savior, Amen.

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

#### **The Call to Confession**

James 2:10-11

<sup>10</sup> For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become guilty of all of it. <sup>11</sup> For he who said, "Do not commit adultery," also said, "Do not murder." If you do not commit adultery but do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law.

#### **The Confession of Sin**

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

Unison:

To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.  
O my God, in you I trust;  
let me not be put to shame;  
let not my enemies exult over me.  
Remember your mercy, O LORD, and your steadfast love,  
for they have been from of old.  
Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions;

according to your steadfast love remember me,  
for the sake of your goodness, O LORD!  
For your name's sake, O LORD,  
pardon my guilt, for it is great.  
Turn to me and be gracious to me,  
for I am lonely and afflicted.  
The troubles of my heart are enlarged;  
bring me out of my distresses.  
Consider my affliction and my trouble,  
and forgive all my sins. Amen. (*Psalm 25:1-2, 6-7, 11, 16-18*)

### **The Assurance of Pardon**

Isaiah 1:18

<sup>18</sup>“Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool.

### **Hymn #246**

*Though Troubles Assail Us*

1. Though troubles assail us and dangers affright,  
though friends should all fail us and foes all unite,  
yet one thing secures us, whatever betide,  
the promise assures us, "The Lord will provide."
2. The birds, without garner or storehouse, are fed;  
from them let us learn to trust God for our bread.  
His saints what is fitting shall ne'er be denied  
so long as 'tis written, "The Lord will provide."
3. When Satan assails us to stop up our path,  
and courage all fails us, we triumph by faith.  
He cannot take from us, though oft he has tried,  
this heart-cheering promise, "The Lord will provide."
4. No strength of our own and no goodness we claim;  
yet, since we have known of the Savior's great name,  
in this our strong tower for safety we hide:  
the Lord is our power, "The Lord will provide."

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

Matthew 7:7-8

<sup>7</sup>“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. <sup>8</sup>For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.

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

### **The Old Testament Reading**

Ecclesiastes 5:1-9

<sup>1</sup> Guard your steps when you go to the house of God. To draw near to listen is better than to offer the sacrifice of fools, for they do not know that they are doing evil. <sup>2</sup> Be not rash with your mouth, nor let your heart be hasty to utter a word before God, for God is in heaven and you are on earth. Therefore let your words be few. <sup>3</sup> For a dream comes with much business, and a fool's voice with many words. <sup>4</sup> When you vow a vow to God, do not delay paying it, for he has no pleasure in fools. Pay what you vow. <sup>5</sup> It is better that you should not vow than that you should vow and not pay. <sup>6</sup> Let not your mouth lead you into sin, and do not say before the messenger that it was a mistake. Why should God be angry at your voice and destroy the work of your hands? <sup>7</sup> For when dreams increase and words grow many, there is vanity; but God is the one you must fear.

### **The New Testament Reading**

James 5:7-18

<sup>7</sup> Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. <sup>8</sup> You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. <sup>9</sup> Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. <sup>10</sup> As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. <sup>11</sup> Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful. <sup>12</sup> But above all, my brothers, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or by any other oath, but let your "yes" be yes and your "no" be no, so that you may not fall under condemnation. <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.

### **The Sermon**

Rev. Dr. Michael J. Matossian

*Between Patience and Prayer*  
James 5:12

### **Hymn #538**

*Take My Life, and Let It Be*

1. Take my life, and let it be  
consecrated, Lord, to thee.  
Take my moments and my days;  
let them flow in ceaseless praise,  
let them flow in ceaseless praise.
2. Take my hands, and let them move  
at the impulse of thy love.  
Take my feet, and let them be  
swift and beautiful for thee,  
swift and beautiful for thee.

3. Take my voice, and let me sing  
always, only, for my King.  
Take my lips, and let them be  
filled with messages from thee,  
filled with messages from thee.
4. Take my silver and my gold;  
not a mite would I withhold.  
Take my intellect and use  
ev'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose,  
ev'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.
5. Take my will and make it thine;  
it shall be no longer mine.  
Take my heart, it is thine own;  
it shall be thy royal throne,  
it shall be thy royal throne.
6. Take my love; my Lord, I pour  
at thy feet its treasure-store.  
Take my self, and I will be  
ever, only, all for thee,  
ever, only, all for thee.

## -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**

#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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