

January 29, 2023
Welcome
Silent Meditation

Call to Worship: Psalm 113:1-4

Praise the LORD. Praise, O servants of the LORD, praise the name of the LORD.

2 Let the name of the LORD be praised, both now and forevermore. 3 From the rising of the sun to the place where it sets, the name of the LORD is to be praised. 4 The LORD is exalted over all the nations, his glory above the heavens.

Hymn: Join All the Glorious Names
Invocation

#301

The Law of Christ:

Mark 12:31

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus summarized the moral law of God by saying,

Congregation: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."

Pastor: Beloved we have not done this as we ought; therefore, let us confess our sin:

Corporate Confession of sin:

O, Lord our God, we humbly confess that we are not what we should be. So often the demands, longings and cravings of our hearts get in the way of our resting in you. We are so often distracted by the allurements of the world; and our flesh is always ready to follow those basic principles, rather than follow after you. Ingratitude, greed and envy are present in our lives. We add to our guilt every day. Break our hearts over our sin and cause us to mourn over them. We thank you that Christ has taken all of our guilt and nailed it to the cross and He has brought us a righteousness from you apart from the works of the Law, so that we are now righteous in Him. Help us and turn us away from the basic principles of the world and may we live in new freedom and gratitude in Christ our blessed Redeemer. Amen

Personal (silent)

Assurance of Pardon: Micah 7:18

Who is a God like you, who pardons sin and forgives the transgression of the remnant of his inheritance? You do not stay angry forever but delight to show mercy.

Congregation: We give praise to God for although he was angry with us his anger has been turned away and by faith in Christ our sins are forgiven.

Pastor: How far has he separated your sins from you?

Congregation: As far as the East is from the West, and he has replaced them with the righteousness of Christ

All: Praise and glory be to God our Father and to his Son Jesus our only Savior!

Response:

Minister: It is good to praise the LORD and make music to your name, O Most High, to proclaim your love in the morning and your faithfulness at night. (Ps 92:1)

Congregation: For you make me glad by your deeds, O LORD; I sing for joy at the works of your hands. How great are your works, O LORD, how profound your thoughts! (Ps 92:4-5)

Pastor: Colossians 3:1

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.

³ For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

Congregation: We praise you for the position we have in Christ. We pray that our lives will reflect him in all we do. Thank you that in Christ we too have died to sin. Help us to set our minds on the heavenly things so that we would love you above all and our neighbors as ourselves.

Hymn: Blessed Are the Undefined

#557

Confession of Faith: Belgic Confession Article 22: The Righteousness of Faith

We believe that for us to acquire the true knowledge of this great mystery the Holy Spirit kindles in our hearts a true faith that embraces Jesus Christ, with all his merits, and makes him its own, and no longer looks for anything apart from him.

For it must necessarily follow that either all that is required for our salvation is not in Christ or, if all is in him, then he who has Christ by faith has his salvation entirely.

Therefore, to say that Christ is not enough but that something else is needed as well is a most enormous blasphemy against God-- for it then would follow that Jesus Christ is only half a Savior. And therefore we justly say with Paul that we are justified "by faith alone" or by faith "apart from works." However, we do not mean, properly speaking, that it is faith itself that justifies us-- for faith is only the instrument by which we embrace Christ, our righteousness. But Jesus Christ is our righteousness in making available to us all his merits and all the holy works he has done for us and in our place. And faith is the instrument that keeps us in communion with him and with all his benefits. When those benefits are made ours they are more than enough to absolve us of our sins.

Song: The Power of the Cross

Oh, to see the dawn
Of the darkest day:
Christ on the road to Calvary.
Tried by sinful men,
Torn and beaten, then
Nailed to a cross of wood.

Chorus:

This, the power of the cross:
Christ became sin for us
Took the blame, bore the wrath—
We stand forgiven at the cross.

Oh, to see the pain
Written on Your face,

Bearing the awesome weight of sin.
Every bitter thought,
Every evil deed
Crowning Your bloodstained brow.

Chorus:

Now the daylight flees
Now the ground beneath
Quakes as its Maker bows His head.
Curtain torn in two,
Dead are raised to life;
"Finished!" the victory cry.

Chorus:

Oh, to see my name
Written in the wounds,
For through Your suffering I am free.
Death is crushed to death
Life is mine to live,
Won through Your selfless love.

This, the power of the cross:
Son of God—slain for us
What a love! What a cost!
We stand forgiven at the cross.

Pastoral Prayer

Gospel: Luke 2:1-24

Psalter: Ps 32 How Blest Is He Whose Trespass

#551

Epistle: 1 Cor 16:1-14

Now concerning the collection for the saints: as I directed the churches of Galatia, so you also are to do.

On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper, so that there will be no collecting when I come.

And when I arrive, I will send those whom you accredit by letter to carry your gift to Jerusalem.

If it seems advisable that I should go also, they will accompany me.

I will visit you after passing through Macedonia, for I intend to pass through Macedonia, and perhaps I will stay with you or even spend the winter, so that you may help me on my journey, wherever I go.

For I do not want to see you now just in passing.

I hope to spend some time with you, if the Lord permits.

But I will stay in Ephesus until Pentecost, for a wide door for effective work has opened to me, and there are many adversaries.

When Timothy comes, see that you put him at ease among you, for he is doing the work of the Lord, as I am.

So let no one despise him.

Help him on his way in peace, that he may return to me, for I am expecting him with the brothers.

Now concerning our brother Apollos, I strongly urged him to visit you with the other brothers, but it was not at all his will to come now.

He will come when he has opportunity.

Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love.

Sermon: Faith without Works James 2:14-26

Lord's Supper

Bread: Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted

#257

Cup: Amazing Love

My Lord, what love is this, that pays so dearly
That I, the guilty one may go free?

Chorus: Amazing love, O what sacrifice!
 The Son of God, giv'n for me.
 My debt He pays, and my death He dies
 That I might live, that I might live.

And so, they watched him die, despised, rejected.
But O, the blood He shed flowed for me.

Chorus

And now, this love of Christ shall flow like rivers.
Come wash your guilt away...live again!

Chorus

Offering:
Doxology:

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise him all creatures here below.
Praise him above ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Prayer

Closing Song: **May the Grace of Christ Our Savior**

May the grace of Christ our Savior
And the Father's boundless love,
With the Holy Spirit's favor,
Rest upon us from above.

Thus may we abide in union
With each other and the Lord,
And possess, in sweet communion,
Joys, which earth cannot afford.

Benediction

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