

July 30, 2023  
Welcome  
Silent Meditation

Call to Worship: Psalm 95:1-3

Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song. For the LORD is the great God, the great King above all gods.

Hymn: Give to Our God Immortal Praise  
Invocation

#3

The Law of Christ:

Eph 4:21-24

Pastor: The Apostle Paul summarized the moral law of God when he said:

**Congregation: Surely you heard of him and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.**

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

Corporate Confession of sin:

**Merciful God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid, we confess that we have sinned against you and against one another. We have broken your law in thought, word, and deed. We name the name of Christ, but we do not make his presence real in our lives. We pay lip service to your truth, but we fear the truth about ourselves. We sing of your grace, but we cling to illusions that keep us from experiencing your joy. We claim to live by faith, but we want to have our own way. We want to be free, but we avoid the discipline that would set us free. We lay claim to your promises in our need, but we feel little compassion for the needs of others. Thank you for the abundant mercy in Christ and your gracious forgiveness in him. Renew us we pray and grant us a new life of obedience through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Personal (silent)

Assurance of Pardon:

1 John 1:8-9

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

**Congregation: We give praise to God who is faithful and just. Who has forgiven our sins and cleansed us of unrighteousness.**

Pastor: How pure has the blood of Christ made you?

**Congregation: Although our sins were like crimson, they are as white as wool (Isa 1:18).**

**All: Praise and glory be to God the Father, Christ the Son, and the Holy Spirit the Lord.**

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: 1 John 2:1, 29; 5:12

If anyone sins, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. If you know that He is righteous, you may be sure that everyone who practices righteousness has been born of Him. The one who has the Son has life.

**Congregation: Lord Jesus Christ, you are our life, and in You we live. Thank you for causing us to be born again by your Holy Spirit so that we might live in Your love. Help us see and overcome the destruction we work to our bodies, our minds, and our hearts; strengthen us to pursue the good and thankful use of this world, rather than to abuse it; and animate us to pursue earnestly Your upbuilding and life-giving love and peace for those around us.**

Hymn: What Shall I Render to My God

#637

Confession of Faith: Shorter Catechism in Modern English

Q. 4. What is God?

**God is a Spirit, infinite, eternal, and unchangeable in his being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth.**

Q. 5. Are there more Gods than one?

**There is only one God, the living and true God.**

Q. 6. How many persons are there in the Godhead?

**There are three persons in the Godhead: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one God, the same in substance, equal in power and glory.**

Song: He Will Hold Me Fast

When I fear my faith will fail, Christ will hold me fast;  
When the tempter would prevail, He will hold me fast.  
I could never keep my hold through life's fearful path;  
For my love is often cold; He must hold me fast.  
He will hold me fast, He will hold me fast;  
For my Savior loves me so, He will hold me fast.

Those He saves are His delight, Christ will hold me fast;  
Precious in his holy sight, He will hold me fast.  
He'll not let my soul be lost; His promises shall last;  
Bought by Him at such a cost, He will hold me fast.  
He will hold me fast, He will hold me fast;  
For my Savior loves me so, He will hold me fast.

For my life He bled and died, Christ will hold me fast;  
Justice has been satisfied; He will hold me fast.  
Raised with Him to endless life, He will hold me fast  
'Till our faith is turned to sight, When He comes at last!  
He will hold me fast, He will hold me fast;  
For my Savior loves me so, He will hold me fast.

Offertory

Pastoral Prayer

Gospel: Luke 15

Psalter: Ps 128      Blest the Man That Fears Jehovah      #717

Epistle: Gal 2:1-10

Then after fourteen years I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, taking Titus along with me.

**I went up because of a revelation and set before them (though privately before those who seemed influential) the gospel that I proclaim among the Gentiles, in order to make sure I was not running or had not run in vain.**

But even Titus, who was with me, was not forced to be circumcised, though he was a Greek.

**Yet because of false brothers secretly brought in--who slipped in to spy out our freedom that we have in Christ Jesus, so that they might bring us into slavery--**

to them we did not yield in submission even for a moment, so that the truth of the gospel might be preserved for you.

**And from those who seemed to be influential (what they were makes no difference to me; God shows no partiality)--those, I say, who seemed influential added nothing to me.**

On the contrary, when they saw that I had been entrusted with the gospel to the uncircumcised, just as Peter had been entrusted with the gospel to the circumcised

**(for he who worked through Peter for his apostolic ministry to the circumcised worked also through me for mine to the Gentiles),**

and when James and Cephas and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given to me, they gave the right hand of fellowship to Barnabas and me, that we should go to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised.

**Only, they asked us to remember the poor, the very thing I was eager to do.**

Sermon: Esther's Help      Esther 4:1-5:8

Lord's Supper

Bread: O Sacred Head Now Wounded

#247

Cup: Selected Scripture

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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