

December 17, 2023  
Welcome  
Silent Meditation

Call to Worship: Luke 2:14

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

Hymn: Joy to the World  
Invocation

#195

The Law of Christ:

Jesus our Savior summarized the moral law of God by saying, Mark 12:29-31

**Congregation: Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. 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:

Great ever-present God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart, and we have failed to fulfill your command for us to love one another. We have not followed the law you have given us, choosing instead to follow our own. We have broken relationships; we have rebelled against you; we spend our time and money on gifts for those who give us gifts. We have not loved our neighbors, and we sometimes even spend time with family and friends out of obligation rather than sincere love. We have not heard the cry of the needy, the poor, the hungry, the broken as you tell us to. Lord, we have sinned and ask that we be forgiven through the blood of Christ. In Him free us for joyful obedience. In this Advent season may our hearts be turned to the Lord Jesus Christ, Our Messiah, Our Hope. Amen.

Personal (silent)

Assurance of Pardon: Ps 103:2-4

Praise the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits--who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion,

**Congregation: We give praise to God for the abundance of His blessings. For His forgiveness of all our sins.**

Pastor: What has He done with your sins?

**Congregation: He has trampled them underfoot at the cross of Christ (Micah 7:19).**

**All: Praise and glory be to God our Father, Christ our Redeemer, and the Holy Spirit our Healer.**

Pastor: Rom 6:6-8

We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. <sup>7</sup> For one who has died has been set free from sin. <sup>8</sup> Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him.

**Congregation: O Lord, thank you that in your crucifixion we too died to sin. We thank you for freeing us from sin. Grant us your grace that we will live to your glory and grow in works that honor your name. Amen.**

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)**

Hymn: Good Christian Men Rejoice

#207

Confession of Faith: Shorter Catechism in Modern English

Q. 24. How does Christ fill the office of a prophet?

**Christ fills the office of a prophet in revealing to us by his Word<sup>[a]</sup> and Spirit<sup>[b]</sup> the will of God for our complete salvation.<sup>[c]</sup>**

Q. 25. How does Christ fill the office of a priest?

**Christ fills the office of a priest in his once offering up of himself to God as a sacrifice, to satisfy divine justice<sup>[a]</sup> and reconcile us to God;<sup>[b]</sup> and in making constant intercession for us.<sup>[c]</sup>**

Q. 26. How does Christ fill the office of a king?

**Christ fills the office of a king in making us his willing subjects, in ruling and defending us,<sup>[a]</sup> and in restraining and conquering all his and our enemies.<sup>[b]</sup>**

Song: His Name is Wonderful

His name is Wonderful, His name is Wonderful,  
His name is Wonderful, Jesus my Lord.  
He is the mighty King, Master of everything,  
His name is Wonderful, Jesus, my Lord.

He's the great Shepherd, the Rock of all ages,  
Almighty God is He.  
Bow down before Him, love and adore Him,  
His name is Wonderful, Jesus my Lord.

Pastoral Prayer

Gospel: John 1:1-28

Psalter: Ps 2 O Wherefore Do the Nations Rage

#314

Epistle: Eph 4:8-16

<sup>8</sup> Therefore it says, "When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men."  
**(In saying, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower regions, the earth?**

He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.)

**And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers,**  
to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ,  
**until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,**

so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.

**Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ,**

from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped,

**when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.**

Sermon: My Covenant with David

Jer 33:15-24

[Licentiate: RE Matt Seufert]

Lord's Supper

Bread: What Child Is This

#213

Cup: Glorious Impossible

See the Virgin is delivered  
In a cold and crowded stall  
Mirror of the Father's glory  
Lies beside her in the straw

He is Mercy's incarnation  
Marvel at this miracle!  
For the Virgin gently holds  
The Glorious Impossible

Love has come to walk on water  
Turn the water into wine  
Touch the leper, bless the children  
Love both human and divine

Praise the wisdom of the Father  
Who has spoken through His Son  
Speaking still, He calls us to  
The Glorious Im - poss - ible

Halle lu jah  
Halle lu jah  
Halle lu jah  
Glorious Impossible

He was bruised for our transgressions  
And He bears e - ter - nal scars  
He was raised for our salvation  
And His righteousness is ours

Praise, oh praise Him, praise the glory  
Of this lavish grace so full  
Lift your souls now and receive the  
Glorious Impossible!

Halle lu jah

Halle lu jah  
Halle lu jah  
Glorious Impossible

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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