

December 24, 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: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

#194

Invocation

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:

Almighty God, who has given us your only begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and was born of a pure virgin; grant that we being regenerate, and made your children by adoption and grace may be daily renewed in the Holy Spirit. We confess and bewail our manifold sins. We denounce them since we are no longer merely the Children of Adam but rather have been born from above, and united to our blessed Savior Jesus Christ. Turn us from serving self to loving as you have loved us. Turn us from greed to follow the self-denial of your Son. At this Christmas season, subdue us that we may demonstrate the love of Christ to all we meet. Through Christ your incarnate Son. Amen

Personal (silent)

Assurance of Pardon:

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!

Pastor: 1Pe 2:24-25

He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.²⁵ For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

Congregation: We give thanks to you, our blessed Lord, that in Christ's death we died to sin. Grant that we may live unto righteousness, and that we would delight in obedience to you commands. Please, Holy Spirit, continue your work in us to cause us to reflect the image of Christ in all of our dealings.

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: While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks #223

Confession of Faith: Nicene Creed p846

Hymn: Hark the Herald Angels Sing #203

Pastoral Prayer

Gospel: John 1:29-51

Psalter: Ps 96 Sing to the Lord, Sing His Praise #62

Epistle: Eph 4:17-32

Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds.

They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart.

They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity.

But that is not the way you learned Christ!--assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus,

to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires,

and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another.

Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and give no opportunity to the devil.

Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need.

Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.

³⁰ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice.

Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

Sermon: The Descendants of Abraham

Jer 33:25-26

Lord's Supper

Bread: Thou Didst Reign on High
Amazing Love

#241 Cup:

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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