

December 31, 2023
Welcome
Silent Meditation

Call to Worship: Ps 145:1-4

I will exalt you, my God the King; I will praise your name for ever and ever. Every day I will praise you and extol your name for ever and ever. Great is the LORD and most worthy of praise; his greatness no one can fathom. One generation will commend your works to another; they will tell of your mighty acts.

Hymn: Our God Our Help in Ages Past
Invocation

#30

The Law of Christ:

Col 3:8-9

Pastor: The Apostle Paul summarized the moral law of God by saying,

Congregation: But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices.

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

Corporate Confession of sin: *Adapted from John Knox's Liturgy of 1560:*

Almighty God, we are unworthy to come into your presence, because of our many sins. We do not deserve any grace or mercy from you, if you dealt with us as we deserve. We have sinned against you, O Lord, and we have offended you. And yet, O Lord, as we acknowledge our sins and offenses, so also do we acknowledge you to be a merciful God, a loving and favorable Father, to all who turn to you. And so we humbly ask you, for the sake of Christ your son, to show mercy to us, and forgive us all our offenses. By your Spirit, O God, take possession of our hearts, so that, not only the actions of our life, but also the words of our mouths, and the smallest thought of our minds, may be guided and governed by you. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever. *Amen.*

Personal (silent)

Assurance of Pardon: Col 2:13

And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our trespasses.

Congregation: We give praise to God who has liberated us from our trespasses.

Pastor: How has He freed you from your trespasses?

Congregation: He has canceled the record of debt that stood against us, having crucified it in Christ at the cross (Col 2:14).

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

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: My Times Are in Thy Hands (Tune Leominster #692)

#684

Confession of Faith: Westminster Shorter Catechism in Modern English

Q. 27. In what did Christ's humiliation consist?

Christ's humiliation consisted in being born, and that in a poor circumstance;^[a] in being subject to God's law;^[b] in undergoing the miseries of this life,^[c] the wrath of God^[d] and the curse of death on the cross;^[e] in being buried; and in continuing under the power of death for a time.^[f]

Q. 28. In what does Christ's exaltation consist?

Christ's exaltation consists in his rising again from the dead on the third day;^[a] in ascending into heaven;^[b] in sitting at the right hand^[c] of God the Father; and in coming to judge the world at the last day.^[d]

Q. 29. How are we made to share in the redemption purchased by Christ?

We are made to share in the redemption purchased by Christ by the effective application of it to us by his Holy Spirit.^[a]

Song: Be Exalted, O God

I will give thanks to You,
O Lord, among the people.
I will sing praises to You among the nations.
For Your steadfast love is great,
Is great to the heavens;
And Your faithfulness, Your faithfulness to the clouds.

Be exalted, O God, above the heavens;
Let Your glory be over all the earth.
Be exalted, O God, above the heavens;
Let Your glory be over all the earth.

Pastoral Prayer

Gospel: John 2

Psalter: Ps 98 Come Let Us Sing unto the Lord

#16

Epistle: Eph 5:1-10

Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children.

And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints.

Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving.

For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.

Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.

Therefore do not become partners with them; for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord.

Walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord

Sermon: Genuine Love

Romans 12:9-11

[Licentiate, RE Matt Seufert]

Lord's Supper

Bread: Arise My Soul Arise

#305

Cup: 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.

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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