

December 15, 2024
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. ⁷ For one who has died has been set free from sin. ⁸ 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)

Confession of Faith: Shorter Catechism in Modern English

Q. 83. Are all transgressions of the law equally sinful?

Some sins, because of their nature and the circumstances, are more sinful in the sight of God than others.^[a]

Q. 84. What does every sin deserve?

Although some sins will be more severely punished than others,^[a] yet every sin deserves God's wrath and curse, both in this life and the life that is to come.^[b]

Song: The Son of God Came Down

The Son of God came down and laid aside His crown
Born without great renown, this Sovereign One
All holiness and might, all glory shining bright
Have come to earth this night in Mary's son
O come, let us adore

Chorus:

O Christ the Lord, our hope and Savior
Son of God yet made like us
O Christ the Lord, our King adored
Born a child, our Lord Jesus

Messiah born so small, asleep in cattle stall
Come to redeem our fall, nailed to a tree
This tiny, helpless child through death would reconcile
The holy God and vile, His grace so free
O come, let us adore

Chorus:

Pastoral Prayer

Scripture readings are according to *lectua continua*,
a consecutive reading in order.

Gospel: Acts 11

Psalter: Ps 14 (Tune Munich #140)

The fool in heart is saying,
"There surely is no God."
Corrupt and vile their deeds are;
Not one of them does good.
The LORD looks down from heaven
On Sons of men abroad
To see which one has wisdom,
If any seeks for God.

All far astray have wandered;
They all to vileness run.
Not one of them is righteous,
No, not a single one.
Have they of truth no knowledge,
These evilworkers all,
Who eat like bread my people
And on GOD do not call?

There shall they be in terror
For God is with the just;
You would confound one struggling;
Jehovah is his trust.
Salvation out of Zion
Who will to Isr'el bring?
The LORD brings back His captives.
Joy, Jacob! Isr'el, sing!

Epistle: 1 Tim 5:1-10

Do not rebuke an older man but encourage him as you would a father, younger men as brothers, older women as mothers, younger women as sisters, in all purity.

Honor widows who are truly widows.

But if a widow has children or grandchildren, let them first learn to show godliness to their own household and to make some return to their parents, for this is pleasing in the sight of God.

She who is truly a widow, left all alone, has set her hope on God and continues in supplications and prayers night and day,

but she who is self-indulgent is dead even while she lives.

Command these things as well, so that they may be without reproach.

But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

Let a widow be enrolled if she is not less than sixty years of age, having been the wife of one husband,

and having a reputation for good works:

if she has brought up children, has shown hospitality, has washed the feet of the saints, has cared for the afflicted, and has devoted herself to every good work.

Sermon: The Predicted King

Ps 2

Lord's Supper

Bread: Hail to the Lord's Anointed

Cup: Under the Blood of Jesus

#311

Under the blood of Jesus
Safe in the Shepherd's fold
Under the blood of Jesus
Safe while the ages roll
Safe though worlds may crumble
Safe though the stars grow dim
Under the blood of Je – sus

I am secure in Him.

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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