

January 5, 2025
Welcome
Silent Meditation

Call to Worship: Psalm 34:1-3

I will extol the LORD at all times; his praise will always be on my lips. My soul will boast in the LORD; let the afflicted hear and rejoice. Glorify the LORD with me; let us exalt his name together.

Hymn: Be Still My Soul
Invocation

#689

The Law of Christ:

Matt. 5:46-48

Pastor: Our blessed Lord Jesus summarized the moral law of God by saying:

Congregation: If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? And if you greet only your brothers, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

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

Corporate Confession of sin:

Heavenly Father, as we begin a new year, we call to mind the past that is full of sin and selfishness. We have heard your Word, but we have not done it. We have not done the things you have commanded us to do, but instead we have done things you have forbidden. We have not loved you or our neighbor as we should have.

We humbly seek your forgiveness. Thank you for the redemption purchased for us by the Lord Jesus Christ. Set our feet on a good and righteous path for this new year. May we serve you and others with the blessings you have granted us.

Through Christ our Savior and Redeemer, 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.

Pastor: John 3:17-21

¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸ Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹ And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. ²⁰ For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. ²¹ But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God."

Congregation: **We give thanks to you, Heavenly Father, for sending your Son into this world to be the Light to us. We pray that we will live according to that light and do things that are true, thereby and demonstrating that you are at work in us by your Holy Spirit.** 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: #165 At the Name of Jesus

Confession of Faith: Shorter Catechism in modern English

Q. 85. What does God require of us, that we may escape his wrath and curse, due to us for sin?

To escape the wrath and curse due to us for sin, God requires of us faith in our Lord Jesus Christ and repentance leading to life together with the diligent use of all the outward means by which Christ gives to us the benefits of redemption.

Q. 86. What is faith in Jesus Christ?

Faith in Jesus Christ is a saving grace by which we receive and rest upon him alone for salvation as he is freely offered to us in the gospel.

Q. 87. What is repentance unto life?

Repentance leading to life is a saving grace, by which a sinner having truly realised his sin and grasped the mercy of God in Christ, turns from his sin with grief and hatred and turns to God with full resolve and effort after new obedience.

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

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

Gospel: Acts 13:24-52

Psalter: Ps 17:1-7 (Tune Crimond, #87)

Give ear to what is right, O LORD!
O listen to my cry!
Give heed to this my earnest prayer
From lips which do not lie.
May judgment from Your presence come
Which will me vindicate,

And always may Your searching eyes
See what is just and straight.
For You have scrutinized my heart;
You came to me by night.
You've probed and found
no ill intent;
My mouth speaks only right.

From acts of men, from violence,
I'm guarded by Your word;
My steps held closely to Your paths;
My footsteps have not erred.
On You, O God, my soul has called,
For You will answer me.

O listen to my earnest words!
Incline Your ear to me!
In wondrous ways You mercy show,
O You preserving those
Who seek to find at Your right hand
A refuge from their foes.

Epistle: 1 Tim 6:1-10

Let all who are under a yoke as slaves regard their own masters as worthy of all honor, so that the name of God and the teaching may not be reviled.

Those who have believing masters must not be disrespectful on the ground that they are brothers;

rather they must serve all the better since those who benefit by their good service are believers and beloved. Teach and urge these things.

If anyone teaches a different doctrine and does not agree with the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ and the teaching that accords with godliness, he is puffed up with conceit and understands nothing.

He has an unhealthy craving for controversy and for quarrels about words, which produce envy, dissension, slander, evil suspicions,

⁵ and constant friction among people who are depraved in mind and deprived of the truth, imagining that godliness is a means of gain.

Now there is great gain in godliness with contentment, for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world.

But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction.

For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils.

It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.

Sermon: Sin unto Death

1 John 5:16-21

Lord's Supper

Bread: #252 When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

Cup: Depth of Mercy

Depth of Mercy! Can there be
Mercy reaching even me?
God, the just, his wrath forbears,
Me, the chief of sinners spares.
So many times my heart has strayed
From his kind and perfect ways,
Making clear my desp'rate need
For his blood poured out for me.

Give me grace, Lord, let me own
All the wrongs that I have done.
Let me just my sins deplore,
Look to you and sin no more.
There, for me, the Savior stands
Holding forth his wounded hands,
Scars which ever cry for me
Once condemned but now set free

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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