

December 29, 2024
Welcome
Silent Meditation

Call to Worship: Psalm 29:1-2

Ascribe to the LORD, O mighty ones, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength. Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; worship the LORD in the splendor of his holiness.

Hymn: Our God Our Help in Ages Past
Invocation

#30

The Law of Christ:

Eph 4:25-32

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

Congregation: Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to his neighbor, for we are all members of one body. "In your anger do not sin": Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold. He who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with his own hands, that he may have something to share with those in need. Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

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

Corporate Confession of sin: Adapted from The Litany, Book of Common Prayer

O God the Father, creator and ruler of heaven and earth; have mercy upon us miserable sinners. O God the Son, redeemer of the world; have mercy upon us miserable sinners. O God the Holy Ghost, sanctifier of the faithful; have mercy upon us miserable sinners. O Holy, Blessed, and Glorious Trinity, three persons, one God; have mercy upon us miserable sinners. Remember not against us, LORD, our offences, nor the offences of our forefathers; neither take thou vengeance of our sins: spare us, good LORD, spare thy people, whom thou hast redeemed with thy most precious blood, and be not angry with us for ever – through Christ our sufficient 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 us of our sins and cleansed us from unrighteousness.

Pastor: How pure has the blood of Christ made you?

Congregation: Although our sins were like scarlet, they are as white as snow (Isa 1:18).

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

Pastor: Colossians 3:1

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.

³ For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

Congregation: We praise you for the position we have in Christ. We pray that our lives will reflect him in all we do. Thank you that in Christ we too have died to sin. Help us to set our minds on the heavenly things so that we would love you above all and our neighbors as ourselves.

Hymn:

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: Creation Sings the Father's Song

Creation sings the Father's song;
He calls the sun to wake the dawn
And run the course of day
Till evening falls in crimson rays.
His fingerprints in flakes of snow,
His breath upon this spinning globe,
He charts the eagle's flight;
Commands the newborn baby's cry.

CHORUS

Hallelujah! Let all creation stand and sing,
"Hallelujah!" Fill the earth with songs of worship;
Tell the wonders of creation's King.

Creation gazed upon His face;
The ageless One in time's embrace
Unveiled the Father's plan
Of reconciling God and man.
A second Adam walked the earth,
Whose blameless life would break the curse,
Whose death would set us free
To live with Him eternally.

Chorus:

Creation longs for His return,
When Christ shall reign upon the earth;
The bitter wars that rage
Are birth pains of a coming age.
When He renews the land and sky,
All heav'n will sing and earth reply
With one resplendent theme:
The glories of our God and King!
Chorus:

Pastoral Prayer

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

Gospel: Acts 13:1-23

Psalter: Ps 16 To You Lord I Fly

#692

Epistle: 1 Tim 5:20-25

As for those who persist in sin, rebuke them in the presence of all, so that the rest may stand in fear.

In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus and of the elect angels I charge you to keep these rules without prejudging, doing nothing from partiality.

Do not be hasty in the laying on of hands, nor take part in the sins of others; keep yourself pure.

(No longer drink only water, but use a little wine for the sake of your stomach and your frequent ailments.)

The sins of some men are conspicuous, going before them to judgment, but the sins of others appear later.

So also good works are conspicuous, and even those that are not cannot remain hidden.

Sermon: That You May Know

1 John 5:13-15

Lord's Supper

Bread: No Not Despairingly Come I to Thee

#495

Cup: His Robes For Mine

His robes for mine: O wonderful exchange!
Clothed in my sin, Christ suffered 'neath God's rage.
Draped in His righteousness, I'm justified.
In Christ I live, for in my place He died.

Refrain:

*I cling to Christ, and marvel at the cost:
Jesus forsaken, God estranged from God.
Bought by such love, my life is not my own.
My praise-my all-shall be for Christ alone.*

His robes for mine: what cause have I for dread?
God's daunting Law Christ mastered in my stead.

Faultless I stand with righteous works not mine,
Saved by my Lord's vicarious death and life.
(Refrain)

His robes for mine: God's justice is appeased.
Jesus is crushed, and thus the Father's pleased.
Christ drank God's wrath on sin, then cried "'Tis done!"
Sin's wage is paid; propitiation won.
(Refrain)

His robes for mine: such anguish none can know.
Christ, God's beloved, condemned as though His foe.
He, as though I, accursed and left alone;
I, as though He, embraced and welcomed home!
(Refrain)

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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