

May 25, 2025
Welcome
Silent Meditation

Call to Worship: Psalm 136:1-3

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good. His love endures forever. Give thanks to the God of gods.
His love endures forever. Give thanks to the Lord of lords: His love endures forever.

Hymn: How Good It Is to Thank the Lord
Invocation

#635

The Law of Christ:

Gal 5:13-15

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

Congregation: You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love. The entire law is summed up in a single command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." If you keep on biting and devouring each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other. So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature.

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

Corporate Confession of sin:

Father we are guilty of duplicity – a cursed duplicity. We try to serve you, but we mix that service up with serving all sorts of other gods. Our hearts are not pure; our love is not complete, and we are not holy as you are. We confess that we are often interested in serving ourselves and our peace and comfort. We do not regard you as the Creator and Sustainer as we ought. We are deficient in acknowledging you as Redeemer! We need your forgiveness! Purge this folly from us, and grant us the knowledge of the forgiveness of sins accomplished for us only in the blood of Christ. May your grace be shed abroad in our hearts so that we will live grateful and obedient lives focused on your glory as our greatest good – through Jesus Christ our Lord, 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 Helper

Pastor: Titus 2:13-14

The Savior Jesus Christ gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

Congregation: Lord Jesus Christ, thank you for coming into this world to redeem us from sin and lawlessness; purify us more and more and increase our zeal to walk in Your law and do good works by the power of your Holy Spirit and faith in You. 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)

Hymn: What a Friend We Have in Jesus

#629

Confession of Faith: Confession of Faith: Shorter Catechism in Modern English

Q. 104. What do we pray for in the fourth request?

In the fourth request (which is, *Give us today our daily bread*) we pray that by God's free gift we may receive a sufficient share of the good things of this life, and enjoy his blessing with them.^[a]

Q. 105. What do we pray for in the fifth request?

In the fifth request (which is, *Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors*) we pray that God, for Christ's sake, would freely pardon all our sins;^[a] and we are encouraged to ask this because, by his grace, we are enabled from the heart to forgive others.^[b]

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

These Scriptures are according to Lectua Continua – an orderly consecutive reading.

Gospel: Acts 25

Psalter: Ps 34 Through All the Changing Scenes of Life

#624

Epistle: Philemon 1:13-25

I would have been glad to keep him with me, in order that he might serve me on your behalf during my imprisonment for the gospel, but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your goodness might not be by compulsion but of your own accord.

For this perhaps is why he was parted from you for a while, that you might have him back forever, no longer as a slave but more than a slave, as a beloved brother--especially to me, but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

So if you consider me your partner, receive him as you would receive me.

If he has wronged you at all, or owes you anything, charge that to my account.

I, Paul, write this with my own hand: I will repay it--to say nothing of your owing me even your own self.

Yes, brother, I want some benefit from you in the Lord.

Refresh my heart in Christ.

Confident of your obedience, I write to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say.

At the same time, prepare a guest room for me, for I am hoping that through your prayers I will be graciously given to you.

Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, sends greetings to you,
and so do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, and Luke, my fellow workers.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

Sermon: Remembering You in my Prayers
Dr. Glenn R. Parkinson

Ephesians 1:15-23

Lord's Supper

Bread: Stricken Smitten and Afflicted

Cup: The Power of the Cross

#257

Oh, to see the dawn
Of the darkest day:
Christ on the road to Calvary.
Tried by sinful men,
Torn and beaten, then
Nailed to a cross of wood.

Chorus:

This, the power of the cross:

Christ became sin for us

Took the blame, bore the wrath—

We stand forgiven at the cross.

Oh, to see the pain
Written on Your face,
Bearing the awesome weight of sin.
Every bitter thought,
Every evil deed
Crowning Your bloodstained brow.

Chorus:

Now the daylight flees
Now the ground beneath
Quakes as its Maker bows His head.
Curtain torn in two,
Dead are raised to life;
"Finished!" the victory cry.

Chorus:

Oh, to see my name
Written in the wounds,
For through Your suffering I am free.
Death is crushed to death
Life is mine to live,
Won through Your selfless love.

This, the power of the cross:
Son of God—slain for us
What a love! What a cost!
We stand forgiven at the cross.

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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