

August 17, 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: O Word of God Incarnate
Invocation

#140

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: *From the 1585 Reformed Liturgy of the Palatinate.*

I, a poor sinner, acknowledge before you, my God and Creator, that I have terribly and in many ways sinned against you, not only outwardly, but much more with inward blindness, unbelief, doubts, despondency, impatience, pride, covetousness, envy, hatred, malice, and other sinful affections, as you, my Lord and God, know well, and I cannot deeply enough deplore. But I repent of these things, and am sorry for them, and heartily ask you for mercy, for the sake of your beloved Son Jesus Christ. 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.

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: Redeemed How I Love to Proclaim It

#701

Confession of Faith: Belgic Confession:

Article 20: The Justice and Mercy of God in Christ

We believe that God-- who is perfectly merciful and also very just-- sent his Son to assume the nature in which the disobedience had been committed, in order to bear in it the punishment of sin by his most bitter passion and death.

So God made known his justice toward his Son, who was charged with our sin, and he poured out his goodness and mercy on us, who are guilty and worthy of damnation, giving to us his Son to die, by a most perfect love, and raising him to life for our justification, in order that by him we might have immortality and eternal life.

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: Matt 6:1-15

Psalter: Ps 46 God Is Our Refuge and Our Strength

#40

Epistle: Heb 6:11-20

And we desire each one of you to show the same earnestness to have the full assurance of hope until the end, so that you may not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

For when God made a promise to Abraham, since he had no one greater by whom to swear, he swore by himself, saying, "Surely I will bless you and multiply you."

And thus Abraham, having patiently waited, obtained the promise.

For people swear by something greater than themselves, and in all their disputes an oath is final for confirmation.

So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he guaranteed it with an oath,

so that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us.

We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain,

where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.

Sermon: God's Purpose in Christ
[Licentiate, RE Matt Seufert]

Eph 1:7-10

Lord's Supper

Bread: Arise My Soul Arise

#305

Cup: How Deep the Father's Love for Us

How deep the Father's love for us
How vast beyond all measure,
That He should give His only Son
To make a wretch His treasure.
How great the pain of searing loss,
The Father turns His face away,
As wounds which mar the Chosen One
Bring many sons to Glory.

Behold the man upon the cross,
My sin upon His shoulders;
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice
Call out among the scoffers.
It was my sin that held Him there
Until it was accomplished,
His dying breath has brought me life
I know that it is finished.

I will not boast in anything,
No gifts, no power, no wisdom;
But I will boast in Jesus Christ,
His death and resurrection.
Why should I gain from His reward?
I cannot give an answer.
But this I know with all my heart,
His wounds have paid my ransom. (repeat)

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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