

A SERVICE OF WORD & SACRAMENT

March 3, 2024

The Prelude

The Welcome & Announcements

The Silent Preparation

-THE LORD CALLS US TO WORSHIP-

Salutation

Romans 1:7b

^{7b} Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Call to Worship

Psalm 100:1–5

¹ Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth!

² **Serve the LORD with gladness!**

Come into his presence with singing!

³ Know that the LORD, he is God!

It is he who made us, and we are his;

we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

⁴ Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise!

Give thanks to him; bless his name!

⁵ For the LORD is good;

his steadfast love endures forever,

and his faithfulness to all generations.

Psalm #29

Now Unto Jehovah

(Gregory D. Wilbur)

Refrain:

*Now unto Jehovah, ye sons of the mighty,
all glory and strength and dominion accord;
Ascribe to Him glory and render Him honor.
In beauty of holiness, worship the Lord.*

1. The voice of Jehovah comes down on the waters;
In thunder the God of the glory draws nigh;
Lo, over the waves of the wide-flowing waters
Jehovah as King is enthroned on high!
2. The voice of Jehovah is mighty, is mighty;
The voice of Jehovah in majesty speaks;
The voice of Jehovah the cedars is breaking;
Jehovah the cedars of Lebanon breaks.
3. Each one in His temple His glory proclaimeth.
He sat on the flood; He is King on His throne.
Jehovah all strength to His people imparteth;
Jehovah with peace ever blesseth His own.

Invocation & Prayer of Praise

-THE LORD ASSURES US OF HIS FORGIVENESS-

Call to Confession

1 John 4:7-8

⁷ Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.

Confession of Sin

- ❖ Silent Prayers of Confession
- ❖ General Prayer of Confession

Unison:

Almighty and most merciful Father; we have erred and strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against your holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; and we have done those things which we ought not to have done; and there is no health in us. O Lord, have mercy upon us. Spare those, O God, who confess their faults. Restore those who are penitent, according to Your promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord. And grant, O merciful Father, for His sake; that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life; to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Isaiah 6:5-7

⁵ And I said: "Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!" ⁶ Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a burning coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar. ⁷ And he touched my mouth and said: "Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for."

Hymn #488

May the Mind of Christ, My Savior

1. May the mind of Christ, my Savior,
live in me from day to day,
by his love and pow'r controlling
all I do and say.
2. May the Word of God dwell richly
in my heart from hour to hour,
so that all may see I triumph
only through his pow'r.
3. May the peace of God my Father
rule my life in ev'rything,
that I may be calm to comfort
sick and sorrowing.
4. May the love of Jesus fill me
as the waters fill the sea;
him exalting, self abasing:
this is victory.

5. May I run the race before me,
strong and brave to face the foe,
looking only unto Jesus
as I onward go.

6. May his beauty rest upon me
as I seek the lost to win,
and may they forget the channel,
seeing only him.

Prayer of the Church

Psalm 34:15-18

¹⁵The eyes of the Lord are toward the righteous and his ears toward their cry.¹⁶The face of the Lord is against those who do evil, to cut off the memory of them from the earth. ¹⁷When the righteous cry for help, the Lord hears and delivers them out of all their troubles. ¹⁸The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit.

-THE LORD INSTRUCTS US FROM HIS WORD-

Old Testament Reading

Genesis 15:1-21

¹ After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision: "Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." ² But Abram said, "O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" ³ And Abram said, "Behold, you have given me no offspring, and a member of my household will be my heir." ⁴ And behold, the word of the Lord came to him: "This man shall not be your heir; your very own son shall be your heir." ⁵ And he brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be." ⁶ And he believed the Lord, and he counted it to him as righteousness. ⁷ And he said to him, "I am the Lord who brought you out from Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to possess." ⁸ But he said, "O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" ⁹ He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." ¹⁰ And he brought him all these, cut them in half, and laid each half over against the other. But he did not cut the birds in half. ¹¹ And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away. ¹² As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell on Abram. And behold, dreadful and great darkness fell upon him. ¹³ Then the Lord said to Abram, "Know for certain that your offspring will be sojourners in a land that is not theirs and will be servants there, and they will be afflicted for four hundred years. ¹⁴ But I will bring judgment on the nation that they serve, and afterward they shall come out with great possessions. ¹⁵ As for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried in a good old age. ¹⁶ And they shall come back here in the fourth generation, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete." ¹⁷ When the sun had gone down and it was dark, behold, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. ¹⁸ On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your offspring I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates, ¹⁹ the land of the Kenites, the Kenizzites, the Kadmonites, ²⁰ the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Rephaim, ²¹ the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Girgashites and the Jebusites."

New Testament Reading

Galatians 3:15-29

¹⁵To give a human example, brothers: even with a man-made covenant, no one annuls it or adds to it once it has been ratified. ¹⁶Now the promises were made to Abraham and to his offspring. It does not say, "And to offsprings," referring to many, but referring to one, "And to your offspring," who is Christ. ¹⁷This is what I mean: the law, which came 430 years afterward, does not annul a covenant previously ratified by God, so as to make the promise void. ¹⁸For if the inheritance comes by the law, it no longer comes by promise; but God gave it to Abraham by a promise. ¹⁹Why then the law? It was added because of transgressions, until the offspring should come to whom the promise had been made, and it was put in place through angels by an intermediary. ²⁰Now an intermediary implies more than one, but God is one. ²¹Is the law then contrary to the promises of God? Certainly not! For if a law had been given that could give life, then righteousness would indeed be by the law. ²²But the Scripture imprisoned everything under sin, so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe. ²³Now before faith came, we were held captive under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith would be revealed. ²⁴So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith. ²⁵But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, ²⁶for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. ²⁷For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. ²⁸There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

Sermon

Rev. Dr. Michael J. Matossian

The Unchanging Pledge
Gal. 3:15-18

Hymn #275

Arise, My Soul, Arise

1. Arise, my soul, arise,
shake off your guilty fears;
the bleeding Sacrifice
in my behalf appears:
before the throne my Surety stands,
before the throne my Surety stands,
my name is written on his hands.

2. He ever lives above,
for me to intercede,
his all-redeeming love,
his precious blood to plead;
his blood atoned for ev'ry race,
his blood atoned for ev'ry race,
and sprinkles now the throne of grace.

3. Five bleeding wounds he bears,
received on Calvary;
they pour effectual prayers,
they strongly plead for me.
"Forgive him, O forgive," they cry,
"forgive him, O forgive," they cry,
"nor let that ransomed sinner die!"

4. My God is reconciled;
 his pard'ning voice I hear;
 he owns me for his child,
 I can no longer fear;
 with confidence I now draw nigh,
 with confidence I now draw nigh,
 and "Father, Abba, Father!" cry.

-THE LORD FEEDS US FROM HIS TABLE-

Confession of Faith

The Westminster Larger Catechism #36

Q. *Who is the Mediator of the covenant of grace?*

A. The only Mediator of the covenant of grace is the Lord Jesus Christ, who, being the eternal Son of God, of one substance and equal with the Father, in the fullness of time became man, and so was and continues to be God and man, in two entire distinct natures, and one person, forever.

(Trinity Psalter Hymnal p.943)

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

- ❖ Words of Institution
- ❖ Breaking of the Bread
- ❖ Sharing of the Cup

-THE LORD DISMISSES US TO HIS SERVICE-

Benediction

2 Corinthians 13:14

¹⁴The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Doxology #226

O the Deep, Unbounded Riches

O the deep, unbounded riches
 of God deserve our praise!
 How unsearchable His judgments,
 how marvelous His ways!
 For who His thoughts has fathomed,
 or counsel to Him giv'n?
 And who could make a debtor
 of God, the Lord of Heav'n?
 For from and through and to him
 are all things, now and then.
 To Him be all the glory
 forevermore. Amen.