

New Hope Reformed Church: The Service of the Lord's Supper
The Lord's Day, April 23, 2023

*leader: plain text; *congregation/all: bold, italic text*

standing

Call To Worship

Serve the Lord with gladness;

come before His presence with singing.

Song 1: Psalm 9:1-11, tune: "Immortal, Invisible"

I will now give wholehearted thanks to the Lord,
And all of Your marvelous works will record.
In You will be glad and exultingly cry,
And praise to Your name will I sing, O Most High.

When backward my foes were all turned in despair,
They stumbled and perished because You were there.
For You have defended my judgment and cause;
You sat in just judgment upholding Your laws.

You chided the nations, the wicked destroyed;
Their names You erased and forever made void.
The foe is consumed, is completely erased,
Their cities destroyed and their mem'ry effaced.

The Lord will eternally sit on the throne,
Establishing it for His judgment alone.
In righteousness He'll judge the world from His seat
And unto all peoples shall equity mete.

The Lord is a stronghold, a lofty strong tower,
For all the oppressed in their troubles' dark hour.
Those knowing Your name, Lord, trust You for Your grace;
You have not forsaken those seeking Your face.

standing

Prayer of Adoration

Great are You, O Lord, and exceedingly worthy of praise; Your power is immense, and Your wisdom beyond reckoning. And so we men, who are a due part of Your creation, long to praise You-we who carry our mortality about with us: the evidence of our sin, and the proof that You thwart the proud. Yet we men, due part of Your creation as we are, still long to praise You. You stir us so that praising You may bring us joy, because You have made us and drawn us to Yourself, and our hearts are unquiet until they rest in You. ***Amen.***

Reading responsively, let us confess the Law of our God.

Reading of the Law: Matthew 25:35-40

A lawyer [of the Pharisees] asked [Jesus] a question, testing Him, and saying, "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" Jesus said to him,

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind". This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself". On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

kneeling

Confession of Sin

Merciful God, we humble ourselves in Your presence, confessing our unworthiness and our sinfulness in Your sight. We have broken Your holy law. We have not sought first Your kingdom and righteousness. We have been anxious and troubled about many things, and have neglected things that belong to our peace. We have not loved our neighbor as ourselves, or done to others what we would want them to do to us.

Most Gracious God, our heavenly Father, who has given Your Son, Jesus Christ, to save Your people from their sins; forgive us, we beseech You. Cleanse us from all unrighteousness and renew a right spirit within us; through the grace of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen

Assurance of Pardon

Let us love You Lord, and give thanks to You and confess Your Name, because You have forgiven our grave sins and wicked deeds through Jesus Christ, Your Son. By Your sheer grace and mercy in Him You melted our sins away like ice. To Your grace we also ascribe whatever sins we have not committed, for what would we not have been capable of, we who could be enamored with any wanton crime? We acknowledge that You have delivered us in everything: from both the sins we willingly committed following our own wills, and those we avoided through Your guidance. ***Amen.***

Psalter: Psalm 9:11-20, "Immortal, Invisible"

Sing praise to the Lord, Who in Zion does dwell;
Among all the peoples His great doings tell.
When blood He avenges, His mem'ry is clear;
The cry of the poor never fades from His ear.

Lord, see what I suffer from malice and hate;
Have mercy! O lift me away from death's gate,
That I with the daughter of Zion may voice
Your praises, and in Your salvation rejoice.

The nations are sunk in the pit they prepared;
Their foot in the net which they hid is ensnared.
The Lord by His judgment has made Himself known.
He by their own works has the wicked o'erthrown.

The wicked to death's dark abode shall be brought,
And all of the nations who God have forgot.
Forgotten no longer the cause of the weak,
Nor perished forever the hope of the meek.

Rise, Lord, that mere man may not make himself strong;
Let nations be judged in Your presence for wrong.
Strike terror within them, O Lord; always then
Let nations know truly that they are mere men.

seated

Scripture Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5

Sermon

Catechism Recitation

Confession of Faith, Heidelberg Catechism Lord's Day 21

Q. What comfort do you receive from the "resurrection of the body"?

A. That not only my soul after this life shall be immediately taken up to Christ its Head, but also that this my body, raised by the power of Christ, shall be reunited with my soul, and made like the glorious body of Christ.

Q. What comfort do you receive from the article "life everlasting"?

A. That, inasmuch as I now feel in my heart the beginning of eternal joy, I shall after this life possess complete blessedness, such as eye has not seen, nor ear heard, neither has entered into the heart of man, therein to praise God forever.

Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Gathering of Tithes and Offerings

Our most merciful and gracious God, of whose bounty we have all received, we implore You to accept this offering of Your people. Remember in Your love those who have brought it, and those for whom it is given. Please follow it with Your blessing that it may promote peace and good-will among men and advance the kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. ***Amen.***

The Lord's Supper

Hear the words of the Holy Gospel, taken from Saint Matthew: "As they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, "Take, eat; this is My body". Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins". Now, in Christ's Name, I take

these elements, the bread and the wine, to be set apart by prayer and thanksgiving to the holy use for which He has appointed them. Let us pray:

O God, You have, by the blood of Your dear Son, set apart for us a new and a living way into the Holiest of All. Cleanse our minds, we implore You by the inspiration of Your Holy Spirit that, drawing near unto You with a pure heart and undefiled conscience, we may receive these, Your gifts, without sin, and worthily magnify Your holy name through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The bread, which we break is, by faith, a participation in the Body of Christ. In just like manner, the cup that we bless is, by faith, a participation in the Blood of Christ.

Closing Prayer

Most merciful God, we bless Your holy Name for all Your servants who have kept the faith, and, having accomplished their warfare, are at rest with You. We pray that You will enable us to follow their good example. May we, with them, finally be partakers of Your heavenly kingdom. May we at the glorious appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, behold Him with unveiled face, being changed into His likeness when He will present us, with all His Church, faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy. Hear us, O heavenly Father, for His sake to whom, with You and the Holy Spirit, glory is given forever and ever. ***Amen.***

standing

Song 2: Psalm 45:1-7,6, tune: "Crown Him With Many Crowns"

My heart doth overflow;
A noble theme I sing.
My tongue's a skillful writer's pen
To speak about the King.
More fair than sons of men
Thy lips with grace o'erflow,
Because His blessing evermore
Did God on Thee bestow.

Thy sword gird on Thy thigh,
O Thou supreme in might,
And gird Thyself with majesty
And with Thy splendor bright.
To victory ride forth
For meekness, truth, and right;
And may Thy right hand teach to Thee
The deeds of dreadful might.

Thine arrows sharpened are,
Men under Thee to bring,
To pierce the heart of enemies
Who fight against the King.
Thy royal throne, O God,

From everlasting is;
A righteous scepter evermore
Thy kingdom's scepter is.

Thou righteousness hast loved
And wickedness abhorred
On Thee, 'bove all, has God, Thy God
The oil of gladness poured.
Thy royal throne, O God,
From everlasting is;
A righteous scepter evermore
Thy kingdom's scepter is.

Benediction

Now unto Him that is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us; unto Him be glory in the Church by Jesus Christ, throughout all ages, world without end. **Amen.**

Doxology: Psalm 45:8-17, tune: "Crown Him With Many Crowns"

With ca-sia, aloes, myrhh,
Thy robes sweet fragrance had;
From palaces of i-vo-ry
The sweet harps made Thee glad.
King's daughters are among
Those who in honor stand.
Thy bride arrayed in Ophir gold
There stands at Thy right hand.

O daughter, hear and heed;
Incline to me thine ear:
"Forget thou now thy people all,
Thy father's household dear.
Thy beauty to the King
Shall then delightful be;
Because He is Thy Lord, do thou
To Him bow rev'rently."

The daughter then of Tyre
There with a gift shall be,
And all the wealthy of the land
Will make requests of Thee.
The daughter of the King
All glorious waits within;
Her lovely gown with threads of gold
Has interwoven been.

She to the King is led
In fine embroidery;
The bridesmaids in her train, her friends,
Are brought to honor Thee.
Attendants following
Their joy and gladness bring,
Until they all have entered there
The palace of the King.

Then in Thy fathers' stead
Thy children Thou shalt take
And everywhere in all the earth
Them noble princes make.
Through every coming age
I'll make Thy name to live;
The people's therefore evermore
Their praise to Thee shall give.