

A SERVICE OF THE WORD & SACRAMENT

June 25, 2023

The Prelude

The Welcome & Announcements

The Silent Preparation

-THE LORD CALLS US TO WORSHIP-

The Salutation

Galatians 1:3

³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Call to Worship

Psalm 135:1-4 (Responsively)

¹ Praise the LORD! Praise the name of the LORD,

give praise, O servants of the LORD,

² who stand in the house of the LORD,

in the courts of the house of our God!

³ Praise the LORD, for the LORD is good;

sing to his name, for it is pleasant!

⁴ For the LORD has chosen Jacob for himself,

Israel as his own possession.

Hymn #218

Mighty God, While Angels Bless You

1. Mighty God, while angels bless you,
may a mortal sing your name?
Lord of men as well as angels,
you are ev'ry creature's theme.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Amen.
2. Lord of ev'ry land and nation,
ancient of eternal days,
sounded through the wide creation
be your just and lawful praise.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Amen.
3. For the grandeur of your nature,
grand beyond a seraph's thought,
for created works of power,
works with skill and kindness wrought.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Amen.
4. But your rich, your free redemption,
dark through brightness all along,
thought is poor, and poor expression,
who dare sing that wondrous song?
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Amen.

5. Brightness of the Father's glory,
shall your praise unuttered lie?
Fly, my tongue, such guilty silence,
sing the Lord who came to die.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Amen.

6. From the highest throne in glory,
to the cross of deepest woe,
all to ransom guilty captives,
flow my praise, forever flow.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Amen.

The Invocation & Prayer of Praise

-THE LORD ASSURES US OF HIS FORGIVENESS-

The Call to Confession

2 Chronicles 6:18-21

¹⁸ "But will God indeed dwell with man on the earth? Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you, how much less this house that I have built! ¹⁹ Yet have regard to the prayer of your servant and to his plea, O Lord my God, listening to the cry and to the prayer that your servant prays before you, ²⁰ that your eyes may be open day and night toward this house, the place where you have promised to set your name, that you may listen to the prayer that your servant offers toward this place. ²¹ And listen to the pleas of your servant and of your people Israel, when they pray toward this place. And listen from heaven your dwelling place, and when you hear, forgive.

The Confession of Sin

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

Unison:

Almighty God, rich in mercy to all who call upon you. Hear us as we come to you humbly confessing our sins and transgressions, imploring your mercy and forgiveness. We have broken your holy laws by our deeds and words, and by the sinful affections of our hearts. We confess before you our disobedience and ingratitude, our pride and willfulness; and all our failures and shortcomings toward you and our fellow humans. Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; and of your great goodness grant that we may hereafter serve and please you in newness of life; through the merit and mediation of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Assurance of Pardon

Romans 8:1

¹ There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

Hymn #51C

God Be Merciful to Me (vs 1-6 only)

1. God, be merciful to me,
on thy grace I rest my plea;
plenteous in compassion thou,
blot out my transgressions now;
wash me, make me pure within,
cleanse, O cleanse me from my sin.

2. My transgressions I confess,
grief and guilt my soul oppress;
I have sinned against thy grace
and provoked thee to thy face;
I confess thy judgment just,
speechless, I thy mercy trust.

3. I am evil, born in sin;
thou desirest truth within.
Thou alone my Savior art,
teach thy wisdom to my heart;
make me pure, thy grace bestow,
wash me whiter than the snow.

4. Broken, humbled to the dust
by thy wrath and judgment just,
let my contrite heart rejoice
and in gladness hear thy voice;
from my sins O hide thy face,
blot them out in boundless grace.

5. Gracious God, my heart renew,
make my spirit right and true;
cast me not away from thee,
let thy Spirit dwell in me;
thy salvation's joy impart,
steadfast make my willing heart.

6. Sinners then shall learn from me
and return, O God, to thee;
Savior, all my guilt remove,
and my tongue shall sing thy love;
touch my silent lips, O Lord,
and my mouth shall praise accord.

The Prayer of the Church

Matthew 7:7-11

⁷“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. ⁸For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. ⁹Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? ¹⁰Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? ¹¹If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!

-THE LORD INSTRUCTS US FROM HIS WORD-

The Old Testament Reading

Proverbs 3:28-35

²⁸ Do not say to your neighbor, “Go, and come again, tomorrow I will give it”—when you have it with you.

²⁹ Do not plan evil against your neighbor, who dwells trustingly beside you.

³⁰ Do not contend with a man for no reason, when he has done you no harm.

³¹ Do not envy a man of violence and do not choose any of his ways, ³² for the devious person is an abomination to the Lord, but the upright are in his confidence.

³³ The Lord's curse is on the house of the wicked, but he blesses the dwelling of the righteous.

³⁴ Toward the scorners he is scornful, but to the humble he gives favor.

³⁵ The wise will inherit honor, but fools get disgrace.

Proverbs 16:1-9; 33

¹The plans of the heart belong to man, but the answer of the tongue is from the Lord.

²All the ways of a man are pure in his own eyes, but the Lord weighs the spirit.

³Commit your work to the Lord, and your plans will be established.

⁴The Lord has made everything for its purpose, even the wicked for the day of trouble.

⁵Everyone who is arrogant in heart is an abomination to the Lord; be assured, he will not go unpunished.

⁶By steadfast love and faithfulness iniquity is atoned for, and by the fear of the Lord one turns away from evil.

⁷When a man's ways please the Lord, he makes even his enemies to be at peace with him.

⁸Better is a little with righteousness than great revenues with injustice.

⁹The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps.

³³The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the Lord.

The New Testament Reading

James 4:1-17

¹What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? ²You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. ³You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions. ⁴You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. ⁵Or do you suppose it is to no purpose that the Scripture says, "He yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us"? ⁶But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." ⁷Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. ⁹Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. ¹⁰Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you. ¹¹Do not speak evil against one another, brothers. The one who speaks against a brother or judges his brother, speaks evil against the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge. ¹²There is only one lawgiver and judge, he who is able to save and to destroy. But who are you to judge your neighbor? ¹³Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit"— ¹⁴yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. ¹⁵Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that." ¹⁶As it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil. ¹⁷So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.

The Sermon

Rev. Dr. Michael J. Matossian

Invictus?

James 4:13-17

Hymn #431

And Can It Be That I Should Gain

1. And can it be that I should gain
an int'rest in the Savior's blood?
Died he for me, who caused his pain?
For me, who him to death pursued?
Amazing love! How can it be
that thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

Refrain:

*Amazing love! How can it be
that thou, my God, shouldst die for me?*

2. 'Tis myst'ry all! Th'Immortal dies:
who can explore his strange design?
In vain the first-born seraph tries
to sound the depths of love divine.
'Tis mercy all! Let earth adore,
let angel minds inquire no more. *[Refrain]*

3. He left his Father's throne above
(so free, so infinite his grace!),
humbled himself (so great his love!)
and bled for all his chosen race.
'Tis mercy all, immense and free;
for, O my God, it found out me. *[Refrain]*

4. Long my imprisoned spirit lay
fast bound in sin and nature's night;
thine eye diffused a quick'ning ray;
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;
my chains fell off, my heart was free;
I rose, went forth, and followed thee. *[Refrain]*

5. No condemnation now I dread;
Jesus, and all in him, is mine!
Alive in him, my living Head,
and clothed in righteousness divine,
bold I approach th'eternal throne,
and claim the crown, through Christ, my own. *[Refrain]*

-THE LORD FEEDS US FROM HIS TABLE-

The Confession of Faith

The Apostles' Creed

Unison:

I believe in God the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Celebration of the Lord's Supper

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

-THE LORD DISMISSES US TO HIS SERVICE-

The Benediction

2 Corinthians 13:14

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

The Doxology

#150C (v1 only) *Sing Hallelujah! Praise the Lord!*

Sing hallelujah! Praise the Lord!
Praise God within his sacred courts!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
Praise, praise him in his heav'nly height!
Praise, praise him for his deeds of might!
O praise him! O praise him!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
Hallelujah!