

A SERVICE OF THE WORD & SACRAMENT

August 13, 2023

The Welcome & Announcements
The Prelude & Silent Preparation

-THE LORD CALLS US TO WORSHIP-

The Salutation

2 Thessalonians 1:2

² Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Call to Worship

Psalms 100:1–5 ESV

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.

Hymn #244

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

1. A mighty fortress is our God,
a bulwark never failing;
our helper he, amid the flood
of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe
doth seek to work us woe;
his craft and power are great,
and armed with cruel hate,
on earth is not his equal.
2. Did we in our own strength confide,
our striving would be losing;
were not the right man on our side,
the man of God's own choosing.
Dost ask who that may be?
Christ Jesus, it is he,
Lord Sabaoth his name,
from age to age the same,
and he must win the battle.
3. And though this world, with devils filled,
should threaten to undo us,
we will not fear, for God hath willed
his truth to triumph through us.
The prince of darkness grim,
we tremble not for him;
his rage we can endure,
for lo, his doom is sure;
one little word shall fell him.
4. That Word above all earthly pow'rs,
no thanks to them, abideth;
the Spirit and the gifts are ours
through him who with us sideth.
Let goods and kindred go,
this mortal life also;
the body they may kill:
God's truth abideth still;
his kingdom is forever.

The Invocation & Prayer of Praise

-THE LORD ASSURES US OF HIS FORGIVENESS-

The Call to Confession

Romans 3:23

²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

The Confession of Sin

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

Unison:

Most merciful Father in heaven above, we are your people because of Jesus Christ your eternal Son who died for the forgiveness of our sins and rose again for our justification.

O God, we are your children because you have sent to us your Holy Spirit who is the Spirit of Adoption, who has transformed our stony hearts into hearts of flesh.

Yet, O Lord, even as your people and your children, being still in our fallen flesh, we confess that we so often break your holy laws and disobey your righteous commands. We confess that we do what we ought not to do and leave undone what we ought to do.

Please, gracious Father, forgive us and cleanse us again by the blood of our Savior, Jesus Christ, and fill us afresh with your Holy Spirit that we may go forth to live holy lives as you are holy until Christ comes again. We ask these things in his name. Amen.

The Assurance of Pardon

Romans 8:1

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

Hymn #277

Before the Throne of God Above

1. Before the throne of God above,
I have a strong and perfect plea,
a great High Priest whose name is Love,
who ever lives and pleads for me.
My name is graven on his hands,
my name is written on his heart.
I know that while in heav'n he stands,
no tongue can bid me thence depart,
no tongue can bid me thence depart.
2. When Satan tempts me to despair
and tells me of the guilt within,
upward I look and see him there,
who made an end to all my sin.
Because the sinless Savior died,
my sinful soul is counted free;
for God, the just, is satisfied
to look on him and pardon me,
to look on him and pardon me.
3. Behold him there, the risen Lamb,
my perfect, spotless righteousness,
the great unchangeable I AM,
the King of glory and of grace!
One with himself I cannot die.
My soul is purchased by his blood!
My life is hid with Christ on high,
with Christ, my Savior and my God,
with Christ, my Savior and my God.

The Prayer of the Church

Psalm 37:7

⁷ Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him; fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way, over the man who carries out evil devices!

-THE LORD INSTRUCTS US FROM HIS WORD-

The Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 40:9-23

⁹ Go on up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!" ¹⁰ Behold, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. ¹¹ He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young. ¹² Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand and marked off the heavens with a span, enclosed the dust of the earth in a measure and weighed the mountains in scales and the hills in a balance? ¹³ Who has measured the Spirit of the Lord, or what man shows him his counsel? ¹⁴ Whom did he consult, and who made him understand? Who taught him the path of justice, and taught him knowledge, and showed him the way of understanding? ¹⁵ Behold, the nations are like a drop from a bucket, and are accounted as the dust on the scales; behold, he takes up the coastlands like fine dust. ¹⁶ Lebanon would not suffice for fuel, nor are its beasts enough for a burnt offering. ¹⁷ All the nations are as nothing before him, they are accounted by him as less than nothing and emptiness. ¹⁸ To whom then will you liken God, or what likeness compare with him? ¹⁹ An idol! A craftsman casts it, and a goldsmith overlays it with gold and casts for it silver chains. ²⁰ He who is too impoverished for an offering chooses wood that will not rot; he seeks out a skillful craftsman to set up an idol that will not move. ²¹ Do you not know? Do you not hear? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? ²² It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to dwell in; ²³ who brings princes to nothing, and makes the rulers of the earth as emptiness.

The New Testament Reading

1 Corinthians 2:1-16

¹ And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. ² For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. ³ And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, ⁴ and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵ so that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God. ⁶ Yet among the mature we do impart wisdom, although it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away. ⁷ But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. ⁸ None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹ But, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him"— ¹⁰ these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. ¹¹ For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. ¹² Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. ¹³ And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual. ¹⁴ The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. ¹⁵ The spiritual person judges all things, but is himself to be judged by no one. ¹⁶ "For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ.

The Sermon

Rev. Dr. Michael J. Matossian

The Mind of Christ

1 Corinthians 2:16

Psalm 84B

O Lord of Hosts How Lovely

1. O LORD of hosts, how lovely
the place wherein you dwell!
Your tabernacles holy
in pleasantness excel.
My soul is longing, fainting,
to see your courts, O LORD;
my heart and flesh are singing
to you, O living God.
2. The sparrow finds a home here,
the swallow builds her nest,
where she may lay her young near
your altar, LORD of hosts.
How blest are those who dwell in
your house, my King, my God,
how blest, those singing praises
to you, the living LORD.
3. How blest are those you strengthen,
who have a pilgrim's mind.
Amidst the vale of weeping,
fresh springs and pools they find.
From strength to strength advancing,
they on their journey go
'til each appears in Zion,
where they their God behold.
4. O hear, LORD God of Jacob,
to me an answer yield;
the face of your anointed,
behold, O God, our shield.
One day within your temple
excels a thousand hence;
I'd rather keep God's doorway
than live in sinners' tents.
5. The LORD our God protects us,
our shield and shining sun;
the LORD bestows his favor
and honor to his own.
No good will he deny those
who walk in ways of truth.
O LORD of hosts, how blest is
the one who trusts in you!

-THE LORD CALLS US TO HIS TABLE-

The Confession of Faith

The Heidelberg Catechism Q & A #1

Q. *What is your only comfort in life and in death?*

A. Unison:

That I am not my own, but belong —body and soul, in life and in death—to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ.

He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood, and has delivered me from the tyranny of the devil. He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven; in fact, all things must work together for my salvation.

Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, also assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him. (*Trinity Psalter Hymnal, p. 872*)

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 - #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.