
Order of Worship

January 28, 2024

Reflection

If you believe what you like in the gospels, and reject what you don't like, it is not the gospel you believe, but yourself.

- St. Augustine

Prelude

As worship begins, please silence your electronic devices.

Call to Worship

Psalm 65

Leader: Praise awaits you, O God, in Zion; to you our vows will be fulfilled.

All: O you who hear prayer, to you all people will come.

Leader: When we were overwhelmed by our sins, you forgave our transgressions.

All: Blessed are those you choose and bring near to live in your courts! We are filled with the good things of your house, of your holy temple.

Song

Brethren We Have Come to Worship

Brethren we have come to worship
And adore the Lord our God
Will you pray with all your power
While we try to preach the Word
All is vain unless the Spirit
Of the Holy One comes down

Brethren pray and holy manna
Will be showered all around

Brethren see poor sinners 'round you
Slumb'ring on the brink of woe
Death is coming hell is moving
Can you bear to let them go
See our fathers and our mothers
And our children sinking down
Brethren pray and holy manna
Will be showered all around

Sisters will you join and help us
Moses' sister aided him
Will you help the trembling mourners
Who are struggling hard with sin
Tell them all about the Savior
Tell them that He will be found
Sisters pray and holy manna
Will be showered all around

Let us love our God supremely
Let us love each other too
Let us love and pray for sinners
Till our God makes all things new
Then He'll call us home to heaven
At His table we'll sit down
Christ will gird Himself and serve us
With sweet manna all around

Prayer of Adoration

Our Father in heaven, we gather today to declare your praises, to proclaim the salvation that you have wrought. Work in our hearts today by the power of the Holy Spirit; may we worship you, love you, glorify you, and honor you. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Affirmation of Faith

The Heidelberg Catechism, Q. 34

Minister: Why do we call Jesus “our Lord”?

All: Because— not with gold or silver, but with His precious blood— He has set us free from sin and from the tyranny of the devil, and has bought us, body and soul, to be His very own.

Doxology:

Lasst Uns Erfreuen

Let all things their creator bless,
And worship him with humbleness!
O praise him, Alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
And praise the Spirit, Three in One,
O praise him! O praise him!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Prayer of Confession

God of all Grace, You love us perfectly, but we respond imperfectly. We confess that we continue to turn away from you. We continue to fall short of the calling that you have given us. Forgive us for the many ways that we have failed to follow you, to trust you, to rejoice in you, and to joyfully love others in you.

Heavenly Father, please grow us in grace, Enliven us in your love, And make us more and more like Jesus, we pray. Amen.

Private Confession

Song

A Debtor to Mercy Alone

A debtor to mercy alone
Of covenant mercy I sing
I come with Your righteousness on
My humble offering to bring
The judgments of Your holy law
With me can have nothing to do
My Savior's obedience and blood
Hide all my transgressions from view

The work which Your goodness began
The arm of Your strength will complete
Your promise is yes and amen
And never was forfeited yet
The future or things that are now
No power below or above
Can make You Your purpose forego
Or sever my soul from Your love

My name from the palms of Your hands
Eternity will not erase
Impressed on Your heart it remains
In marks of indelible grace

Yes I, to the end will endure
Until I bow down at Your throne
Forever and always secure
Forever and always secure
Forever and always secure
A debtor to mercy alone

Words of Pardon and Comfort

2 Corinthians 5:21

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Song

God Whose Giving Knows No Ending

God whose giving knows no ending
From Your rich and endless store
Nature's wonder Jesus' wisdom
Costly cross grave's shattered door
Gifted by You we turn to You
Offering up ourselves in praise
Thankful song shall rise forever
Gracious donor of our days

Skills and time are ours for pressing
Toward the goals of Christ Your Son
All at peace in health and freedom
Races joined the church made one
Now direct our daily labor
Lest we strive for self alone
Born with talents make us servants

Fit to answer at Your throne

Treasure too You have entrusted
Gain through powers Your grace conferred
Ours to use for home and kindred
And to spread the gospel word
Open wide our hands in sharing
As we heed Christ's ageless call
Healing teaching and reclaiming
Serving You by loving all

*(Children through Kindergarten are dismissed for Children's
Church; they will return for Communion.)*

Prayer of Intercession *Concluded by the Lord's Prayer*

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy 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 lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

High Desert Highlights

See 'Church Life' on page 16

Prayer of Dedication

Offertory

If you have a financial gift, you may place it in the offering plate, located on the information table. Donations can also be given electronically; see highdesertpca.com for more information.

Scripture

James 2:1-13

Sermon

Rev. Dan Rose

“Spiritual Snobbery”

A Faith That Works: The Book of James

Song

Thy Mercy, My God

Thy mercy, my God, is the theme of my song,
The joy of my heart, and the boast of my tongue;
Thy free grace alone, from the first to the last,
Hath won my affections, and bound my soul fast.

Without Thy sweet mercy I could not live here;
Sin would reduce me to utter despair;
But, through Thy free goodness, my spirits revive,
And He that first made me still keeps me alive.

Thy mercy is more than a match for my heart,
Which wonders to feel its own hardness depart;
Dissolved by Thy goodness, I fall to the ground,
And weep to the praise of the mercy I’ve found.

Great Father of mercies, Thy goodness I own,
And the covenant love of Thy crucified Son;

All praise to the Spirit, Whose whisper divine
Seals mercy, and pardon, and righteousness mine.

All praise to the Spirit, Whose whisper divine
Seals mercy, and pardon, and righteousness mine.

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

This is a time for all people to seek the Lord. For Christians, the Lord's Supper (also called Communion or The Eucharist, which means 'thanksgiving') is a time to meet with their Savior by faith, to be strengthened and renewed by Him as they eat the bread and drink the elements. All baptized Christians who trust in Christ alone as their Savior and Lord, belong to a church that embraces the gospel, are at peace with their fellow neighbor, and seek strength and grace to live more faithfully to Christ, are invited to participate.

If you are not a Christian, or if you are not prepared to share in this meal, we encourage you to spend this time in prayer (see Prayers on page 15) and to consider more deeply your relationship to Jesus Christ.

We also ask that children who have not yet publicly professed their faith in Christ refrain from partaking until doing so. Both wine (red) and grape juice (white) are offered. Gluten-free bread is also available.

Words of Institution

Memorial Acclamation

Minister: Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of the faith:

All: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again!

Minister: Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

All: Therefore let us keep the feast.

Minister: The gifts of God for the people of God.

Song

Not What My Hands Have Done

Not what my hands have done
Can save my guilty soul;
Not what my toiling flesh has borne
Can make my spirit whole.
Not what I feel or do
Can give me peace with God;
Not all my prayers,
And sighs and tears
Can bear my awful load.

Thy work alone, O Christ,
Can ease this weight of sin
Thy blood alone O Lamb of God,
Can give me peace within.
Thy love to me O God,
Not mine, O Lord, to Thee
Can rid me of
This dark unrest,
And set my spirit free!

Thy grace alone, O God,
To me can pardon speak;
Thy power alone O Son of God,
Can this sore bondage break.

No other work, save Thine,
No other blood will do,
No strength save that,
Which is divine,
Can bear me safely through.

I bless the Christ of God;
I rest on love divine;
And with unfaltering lip and heart,
I call this Savior mine.
His cross dispels each doubt,
I bury in His tomb
My unbelief,
And all my fear,
Each lingering shade of gloom.

I praise the God of grace,
I trust His truth and might
He calls me His, I call Him mine,
My God, my joy, my light
Tis He Who saveth me,
And freely pardon gives
I love because
He loveth me,
I live because He lives!

Song

O Sacred Head Now Wounded

O sacred Head, now wounded,
With grief and shame weighed down;

Now scornfully surrounded
With thorns, thine only crown;
O sacred Head, what glory,
What bliss till now was thine!
Yet, though despised and gory,
I joy to call thee mine.

What thou, my Lord, hast suffered
Was all for sinners' gain:
Mine, mine was the transgression,
But thine the deadly pain.
Lo, here I fall, my Saviour!
'Tis I deserve thy place;
Look on me with thy favor,
Vouchsafe to me thy grace.

What language shall I borrow
To thank thee, dearest Friend,
For this thy dying sorrow,
Thy pity without end?
O make me thine for ever;
And should I fainting be,
Lord, let me never, never
Outlive my love to thee.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Heavenly Father, you have given us a share in the one bread and the one cup and made us one with Christ. Help us to bring your

salvation and joy to all the world. We ask this in Christ, our Lord, by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Song

His Mercy is More

What love could remember no wrongs we have done?
Omniscient, all knowing, He counts not their sum
Thrown into a sea without bottom or shore,
Our sins, they are many; His mercy is more

What patience would wait as we constantly roam?
What Father, so tender, is calling us home?
He welcomes the weakest, the vilest, the poor
Our sins, they are many; His mercy is more

Chorus:

Praise the Lord, His mercy is more
Stronger than darkness, new every morn
Our sins, they are many, His mercy is more

What riches of kindness He lavished on us
His blood was the payment; His life was the cost
We stood 'neath a debt we could never afford
Our sins, they are many; His mercy is more (Chorus)

Benediction

Postlude

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Prayers

Prayer for Those Searching for Truth: Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open me to the reality of who you are. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent, convincing, and that leads to the life you promise. Amen.

Prayer of Belief: Lord Jesus Christ, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever dared admit, but through you I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt on the cross, taking what I deserved in order to offer me complete forgiveness. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as my Savior and Lord. Amen.

Prayer for Those Struggling with Sin: Lord Jesus, grant that I may see in you the fulfillment of all my need, and may turn from every false satisfaction to feed on you, the true and living bread. Enable me to lay aside the sin that clings so closely, and run with perseverance the race set before me, looking to you, the Pioneer and Perfecter of my faith. Amen.

Prayer of Commitment: Lord Jesus, you have called us to follow you in baptism and in a life of committed discipleship in your church. Grant that I may take the necessary steps to be one with your people and live in the fullness of your Spirit. Amen.