
Order of Worship

March 9, 2025

Reflection

According to Scripture the whole universe is a creation and hence also a revelation of God.

In an absolute sense, therefore, nothing is atheistic. And this witness of Scripture is confirmed on every side. There is no atheistic world. There are no atheistic peoples. Nor are there atheistic persons.

- Herman Bavinck

Prelude

As worship begins, please silence your electronic devices.

Call to Worship

Revelation 5

Minister: Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice,

All: “Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!”

Minister: And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying,

All: “To Him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!”

Song

Behold Our God

Who has held the oceans in His hands?
Who has numbered every grain of sand?
Kings and nations tremble at His voice
All creation rises to rejoice

Chorus:

Behold our God, seated on His throne
Come let us adore Him
Behold our King, nothing can compare
Come let us adore Him

Who has given counsel to the Lord?
Who can question any of His words?
Who can teach the One who knows all things?
Who can fathom all His wondrous deeds? (Chorus)

Who has felt the nails upon His hand,
Bearing all the guilt of sinful man?
God eternal, humbled to the grave
Jesus, Savior, risen now to reign (Chorus)

Prayer of Adoration

All glory and honor be unto you, Lord God Almighty, for in your sovereign and gracious design you have not left us to ourselves but have adopted us as your own and called us to be a new people for your service that we, the church, for whom Christ died, might be a holy nation.

So work within us this day that we might genuinely declare in our words and deeds the praise of your glorious grace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

Affirmation of Faith

The Heidelberg Catechism, Q. 26

Minister: Who is God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth?

All: God is the eternal Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who out of nothing created heaven and earth and everything in them, who still upholds and rules them by his eternal counsel and providence, is my God and Father because of Christ his Son.

I trust him so much that I do not doubt he will provide whatever I need for body and soul, and he will turn to my good whatever adversity he sends me in this sad world. He is able to do this because he is almighty God; he desires to do this because he is a faithful Father.

Doxology

Old Hundredth

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow,
Praise Him all creatures here below!
Praise Him above ye heavenly host,
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost! Amen.

Prayer of Confession

Almighty God, we come to you in sorrow for our sins, and to humbly confess to you our unbelief. While we know and believe that Jesus died for us on the cross and that he was raised for us from the dead, we admit it often makes little difference in our lives. Forgive us, we pray. Enable us to fully embrace the truth of the gospel: that our love for you may flourish, that our obedience may be wholehearted and joyful, and that our witness may be more courageous. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior and triumphant Lord. Amen.

Private Confession

Song

Satisfied

All my life long I had panted
For a drink from some cool spring
That I hoped would quench the burning
Of the thirst I felt within.

Chorus:

Hallelujah! He has found me,
The One my soul so long has craved!
Jesus satisfies all my longings
Through His blood I now am saved.

Feeding on the filth around me
Til my strength was almost gone.
Longed my soul for something better
Only still to hunger on. (Chorus)

Poor I was and sought for riches
Something that would satisfy.
But the dust I gathered 'round me
Only mocked my soul's sad cry. (Chorus)

Well of water ever springing
Bread of life so rich and free.
Untold wealth that never faileth,
My Redeemer is to me. (Chorus)

Words of Pardon and Comfort *Micah 7:18-19*

Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity and passing over transgression for the remnant of his inheritance? He does not retain his anger forever, because he delights in steadfast love. He will again have compassion on us; he will tread our iniquities underfoot. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea.

Song *Christ is Risen*

Let no one caught in sin
Remain inside the lie of inward shame,
But fix our eyes upon the cross,
And run to Him who showed great love

And bled for us,
Freely You've bled for us.

Chorus:

Christ is risen from the dead,
Trampling over death by death
Come awake, come awake,
Come and rise up from the grave.
Christ is risen from the dead,
We are one with Him again
Come awake, come awake,
Come and rise up from the grave.

Beneath the weight of all our sin,
You bowed to none but heaven's will;
No scheme of hell, no scoffer's crown,
No burden great can hold You down.

In strength You reign;
Forever let Your church proclaim. (Chorus)

O death, where is your sting?
O hell, where is your victory?
O church, come stand in the light;
The glory of God has defeated the night.

O death, where is your sting?
O hell, where is your victory?
O church, come stand in the light;
Our God is not dead
He's alive, He's alive! (Chorus)

(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 15*

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

Acts 17:16-34

Sermon

Rev. Dan Rose

"Paul in Athens"

You Will Be My Witnesses: The Book of Acts

Song

Resurrection Hymn

See, what a morning, gloriously bright
With the dawning of hope in Jerusalem;
Folded the grave clothes, tomb filled with light,
As the angels announce Christ is risen!
See God's salvation plan, wrought in love,
Borne in pain, paid in sacrifice,
Fulfilled in Christ, the Man, for He lives:
Christ is risen from the dead!

See Mary weeping, "Where is He laid?"
As in sorrow she turns from the empty tomb;
Hears a voice speaking, calling her name;
It's the Master, the Lord raised to life again!
The voice that spans the years,
Speaking life, stirring hope, bringing peace to us,
Will sound till He appears,
For He lives: Christ is risen from the dead!

One with the Father, Ancient of Days,
Through the Spirit who clothes faith with certainty,
Honor and blessing, glory and praise
To the King crowned with pow'r and authority!
And we are raised with Him,
Death is dead, love has won, Christ has conquered;
And we shall reign with Him,
For He lives: Christ is risen from the dead!

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 14) 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

I Will Boast

I will boast only in the cross
Where my Savior died for me
Nothing else no other love
Goes so far and runs so deep

I will boast only in the cross
See His head His hands and feet
Scars of grace the scars that heal
He broke the curse and set me free

Chorus:

Only One took the nails
Only One tore the veil
Only One spotless Lamb
I will boast only in the cross

I will boast only in the cross
The Father's love at Calvary
My sin erased my debt He paid
This is my hope the song I sing
This is my hope the song I sing (Chorus)

I will boast only in the cross

Song

Glorious Christ

The radiance of the Father
Before the dawn of time
You spoke and all creation came to be
The molecules and planets
Reveal Your great design
And every one was made so we could see
So we could see

Chorus:

You are the glorious Christ
The greatest of all delights
Your power is unequalled
Your love beyond all heights
No greater sacrifice
Than when You laid down Your life
We join the song of angels
Who praise You day and night
Glorious Christ

You left the air of heaven
To breathe the dust of earth
And dwell among the outcast and the poor
You came to be forsaken
And died to take our curse
So You could be our joy forevermore
Forevermore (Chorus 2x)

Prayer of Thanksgiving

O amazing God, You come into our ordinary lives and set a holy table among us, filling our plates with the bread of life and our cups with salvation. Send us out, Lord Jesus, with tenderheartedness to touch a beautiful yet broken world with the promise of your Kingdom. Amen.

Song

Living Hope

How great the chasm that lay between us
How high the mountain I could not climb
In desperation I turned to heaven
And spoke Your name into the night
Then through the darkness Your loving-kindness
Tore through the shadows of my soul
The work is finished, the end is written
Jesus Christ, my living hope

Who could imagine so great a mercy?
What heart could fathom such boundless grace?
The God of ages stepped down from glory
To wear my sin and bear my shame
The cross has spoken; I am forgiven
The King of kings calls me His own
Beautiful Savior, I'm Yours forever
Jesus Christ, my living hope

Chorus:
Hallelujah, praise the One who set me free!
Hallelujah, death has lost its grip on me!
You have broken every chain
There's salvation in Your name
Jesus Christ, my living hope

Then came the morning that sealed the promise
Your buried body began to breathe
Out of the silence, the Roaring Lion
Declared the grave has no claim on me (Repeat)

Jesus, Yours is the victory! (Chorus)

Jesus Christ, my living hope
Oh God, You are my living hope

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.