
Order of Worship

April 14, 2024

Reflection

Listening to Scripture is not merely a transaction between ourselves and a book, even a very extraordinary book; rather, in Scripture we meet God Himself.

- John Frame

Prelude

As worship begins, please silence your electronic devices.

Call to Worship

Psalm 145

Leader: Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised;

People: There is no end to his greatness.

Leader: One generation shall praise your works to another and shall declare your power.

People: All your works praise you, Lord, and your faithful servants bless you.

Song

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

All hail the power of Jesus' name!

Let angels prostrate fall;

Bring forth the royal diadem,

And crown Him Lord of all.

Bring forth the royal diadem,

And crown Him Lord of all.

Ye chosen seed of Israel's race,

Ye ransomed from the fall,
Hail Him Who saves you by His grace,
And crown Him Lord of all.
Hail Him Who saves you by His grace,
And crown Him Lord of all.

Let every kindred, every tribe
On this terrestrial ball
To Him all majesty ascribe,
And crown Him Lord of all.
To Him all majesty ascribe,
And crown Him Lord of all.

O that with yonder sacred throng
We at His feet may fall
We'll join the everlasting song,
And crown Him Lord of all.
We'll join the everlasting song,
And crown Him Lord of all.

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, Question One

Minister: What is your only comfort in life and in death?

All: 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 set me free 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, assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.

Gloria Patri

Greatorrex

Glory be to the Father,
And to the Son,
And to the Holy Ghost!
As it was in the beginning,
Is now and ever shall be:
World without end,
Amen, Amen!

Prayer of Confession

Almighty God, your mercy is higher than the heavens, wider than our wanderings, deeper than our sin. Forgive our shallow attitude toward life, our callousness toward suffering, our envy of others, our neglect of your wise law. Change us by the power of the Holy Spirit, that we may desire what is good, love what

you love, and do what you command, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Private Confession

Song

Never Once

Standing on this mountaintop
Looking just how far we've come
Knowing that for every step You were with us

Kneeling on this battleground
Seeing just how much You've done
Knowing every victory was Your power in us

Scars and struggles on the way
But with joy our hearts can say
Yes, our hearts can say

Chorus:

Never once did we ever walk alone
Never once did You leave us on our own
You are faithful, God, You are faithful
You are faithful, God, You are faithful

Scars and struggles on the way
But with joy our hearts can say
Never once, did we ever walk alone
Carried by Your constant grace

Held within Your perfect peace
Never once, no, we never walk alone

Never once did we ever walk alone
Never once did You leave us on our own
You are faithful, God, You are faithful
Every step we are breathing in Your grace
Evermore we'll be breathing out Your praise
You are faithful, God, You are faithful
You are faithful, God, You are faithful
You are faithful, God, You are faithful

Words of Pardon and Comfort

Romans 5:8

God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Song

Speak O Lord

Speak, O Lord, as we come to You
To receive the food of Your holy Word
Take Your truth, plant it deep in us
Shape and fashion us in Your likeness,
That the light of Christ might be seen today
In our acts of love and our deeds of faith
Speak, O Lord, and fulfill in us
All Your purposes for Your glory

Teach us, Lord, full obedience,
Holy reverence, true humility

Test our thoughts and our attitudes
In the radiance of Your purity
Cause our faith to rise,
Cause our eyes to see
Your majestic love and authority
Words of power that can never fail
Let their truth prevail over unbelief

Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds
Help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time
That will echo down through eternity
And by grace we'll stand on Your promises
And by faith we'll walk as You walk with us
Speak, O Lord, till Your church is built
And the earth is filled with Your glory

*(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 pages 17-18

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 1:12-26

Sermon

Rev. Dan Rose

“Discerning the Will of God”

“You Will Be My Witnesses: The Book of Acts”

Song

Crown Him with Many Crowns

Crown Him with many crowns,
The Lamb upon His throne.
Hark! How the heavenly anthem drowns
All music but its own.
Awake, my soul and sing Of Him
Who died for thee,
And hail Him as thy matchless King
Through all eternity.

Crown Him the Lord of love,
Behold His hands and side,
Rich wounds, yet visible above,

In beauty glorified.
No angel in the sky
Can fully bear that sight,
But downward bends His wond'ring eye
At mysteries so bright.

Crown Him the Lord of life,
Who triumphed o'er the grave,
Who rose victorious to the strife
For those He came to save.
His glories now we sing,
Who died, and rose on high,
Who died eternal life to bring,
And lives that death may die.

Crown Him the Lord of heav'n,
One with the Father known,
One with the Spirit through Him giv'n
From yonder glorious throne,
To Thee be endless praise
For Thou for us hast died;
Be Thou, O Lord, through endless days
Adored and magnified.

Crown Him the Lord of years,
The Potentate of time,
Creator of the rolling spheres,
Ineffably sublime.
All hail, Redeemer, hail!

For Thou has died for me;
Thy praise shall never never fail
Throughout eternity.

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 16) 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

Stir Your Church

Stir Your church O God our Father
Move thro'out its life today
Cultivate a sense of mission
In our hearts and minds we pray
Help us to renew commitment
To a way of ministry
Which interprets for our culture
How Your truth can make us free

Make Your church a living witness
To the power of its Lord
Send us to the world around us
With Your Spirit and Your Word
To the inner city turmoil
To affluent suburbs too
To all those who need Your message
Send us forth to tell of You

Give to us a social conscience
Which enables us to see
That all folk are Your creation
And that they have dignity
Let us feel with real compassion
Needs of body mind and soul
For these needs may we provide them

Ministry which makes them whole

Challenge us O God our Father
To the task which must be done
For Your church to find fulfillment
In the way taught by Your Son
With awareness of our purpose
With commitment to Your call
May we help prepare the time when
Christ will reign as Lord of all

Song

Be Thou My Vision

Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Be Thou my wisdom, and Thou my true Word;
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;
Thou my great Father, and I Thy true son;
Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,
Thou mine inheritance, now and always:
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart,
High king of heaven, my treasure Thou art.

High king of heaven, my victory won,
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's sun!

Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O ruler of all.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Lord, you have put gladness in our hearts; you have satisfied our hunger with good things. In giving all, you have not withheld from us your own dear Son. How can we withhold anything from you, our Lord and our God? Renew us day by day with the gift of your Spirit, that we may give ourselves completely to your service and walk with joy in the footsteps of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Song

O Lord, My Rock and My Redeemer

O Lord my Rock and my Redeemer
Greatest treasure of my longing soul
My God like You there is no other
True delight is found in You alone

Your grace a well too deep to fathom
Your love exceeds the heavens' reach
Your truth a fount of perfect wisdom
My highest good and my unending need

O Lord my Rock and my Redeemer
Strong defender of my weary heart
My sword to fight the cruel deceiver
And my shield against his hateful darts

My song when enemies surround me
My hope when tides of sorrow rise
My joy when trials are abounding
Your faithfulness my refuge in the night

O Lord my Rock and my Redeemer
Gracious Savior of my ruined life
My guilt and cross laid on Your shoulders
In my place You suffered bled and died

You rose! The grave and death are conquered
You broke my bonds of sin and shame
O Lord my Rock and my Redeemer
May all my days bring glory to Your Name

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.