
Order of Worship

April 7, 2024

Reflection

Because of Christ's ascension, we know that the incarnation continues, Christ's humanity lives on in heaven, the Spirit lives in our hearts, and a flesh-and-blood, divine human being rules the universe.

- Kevin DeYoung

Prelude

As worship begins, please silence your electronic devices.

Call To Worship

Psalm 34

Leader: I will praise the Lord at all times. I will constantly speak his praises.

People: I will boast only in the Lord; let all who are helpless take heart.

Leader: Come, let us tell of the Lord's greatness;

People: Let us exalt his name together.

Song

Rejoice, the Lord is King

Rejoice the Lord is King
Your Lord and King adore!
Rejoice, give thanks and sing,
And triumph evermore

Refrain:

Lift up your heart, lift up your voice!
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

Jesus the Savior reigns,
The God of truth and love;
When He had purged our stains
He took His seat above (Refrain)

His kingdom cannot fail,
He rules o'er earth and heaven;
The keys of death and hell
Are to our Jesus giv'n: (Refrain)

Rejoice in glorious hope!
Our Lord and Judge shall come
And take His servants up
To their eternal home: (Refrain)

Prayer of Adoration

God of light and truth, you are beyond our grasp or conceiving.
Before the brightness of your presence the angels veil their faces.
With lowly reverence and adoring love we acclaim your glory and
sing your praise, for you have shown us your truth and love in Jesus
Christ, our Savior. Amen.

Affirmation of Faith

The Nicene Creed

Minister: Christians, what do we believe?

All: We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by whom all things were made; who for us and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried; and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father; and he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets; and we believe in one holy, catholic and apostolic church; we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and we look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Gloria Patri:

Greatorex

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

Heavenly Father, this morning we come to you rejoicing in Jesus your Son, because we have found forgiveness & fullness of life in Him. Father, we also come asking for your grace, because we are fully aware that we have failed you in more ways than we know. We have disobeyed your good commands; we have been deaf to your call; we have failed to love others with your love; and our hearts have been cold to your love. Forgive us, Father – and in your sanctifying grace, keep fashioning us to be more and more like our Savior. Make our lives beautiful in Him, and for Him, we pray. Amen.

Private Confession

Song

Poor Sinner, Dejected with Fear

Poor sinner, dejected with fear,
Unbosom thy mind to the Lamb;
No wrath on His brow He does wear,
Nor will He poor mourners condemn;
His arm of omnipotent grace
Is able and willing to save;
A sweet and a permanent peace
He'll freely and faithfully give.

Come just as thou art, with thy woe,
Fall down at the feet of the Lamb;

He will not, He cannot say, "Go,"
But surely will take out thy stain
A fountain is opened for sin,
And thousands its virtues have proved
He'll take thee, and plunge thee therein,
And wash thee from filth in His blood.

The soul that on Jesus relies,
He'll never, no never deceive;
He freely and faithfully gives
More blessings than we can conceive;
Yea, down to old age He will keep,
Nor will He forsake us at last;
He knows and is known by His sheep;
They're His, and He will hold them fast.

Words of Pardon and Comfort

Isaiah 55:6-7

Seek the Lord while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the Lord, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

Song

The Power of the Cross

Oh to see the dawn of the darkest day,
Christ on the road to Calvary.
Tried by sinful men, torn and beaten then
Nailed to a cross of wood.

Chorus:

This the pow'r of the cross:
Christ became sin for us.
Took the blame, bore the wrath.
We stand forgiven at the cross.

Oh to see the pain written on Your face,
Bearing the awesome weight of sin.
Ev'ry bitter thought, ev'ry evil deed
Crowning Your bloodstained brow. (Chorus)

Now the daylight flees now the ground beneath
Quakes as its Maker bows His head.
Curtain torn in two, dead are raised to life.
Finished the vict'ry cry. (Chorus)

Oh to see my name written in the wounds.
For through Your suff'ring I am free.
Death is crushed to death, life is mine to live
Won through Your selfless love!

This the pow'r of the cross:
Son of God slain for us.
What a love, what a cost.
We stand forgiven at the cross.

*(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 17*

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 highdeserttpca.com for more information.

Scripture

Acts 1:1-11

Sermon

Rev. Dan Rose

"The Ascension"

"You Will Be My Witnesses: The Book of Acts"

Song

Before the Throne

Before the throne of God above
I have a strong and perfect plea;
A great High Priest whose name is love,
Whoever 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.

When Satan tempts me to despair
And tells me of the guilt within,
Upward I look and see Him there
Who made an end of 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.

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.

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

What Wondrous Love is This

What wondrous love is this,

O my soul, O my soul!

What wondrous love is this, O my soul!

What wondrous love is this
that caused the Lord of bliss
To bear the dreadful curse
for my soul, for my soul,
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul.

When I was sinking down,
sinking down, sinking down,
When I was sinking down, sinking down,
When I was sinking down
beneath God's righteous frown,
Christ laid aside His crown
for my soul, for my soul,
Christ laid aside His crown for my soul.

To God and to the Lamb,
I will sing, I will sing;
To God and to the Lamb I will sing.
To God and to the Lamb
Who is the great I Am;
While millions join the theme,
I will sing, I will sing;
While millions join the theme, I will sing.

And when from death I'm free,
I'll sing on, I'll sing on;
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on.
And when from death I'm free,
I'll sing and joyful be,

And through eternity
I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
And through eternity I'll sing on.

Song

Knowing You

All I once held dear, built my life upon,
All this world reveres, and wars to own,
All I once thought gain I have counted loss;
Spent and worthless now, compared to this.

Chorus:

Knowing You, Jesus, knowing You,
There is no greater thing.
You're my all, You're my rest,
You're my joy, my righteousness,
And I love You, Lord.

Now my heart's desire is to know You more,
To be found in You, and known as Yours,
To possess by faith what I could not earn;
All surpassing gift of righteousness. (Chorus)

Oh to know the pow'r of Your risen life,
And to know You in Your sufferings,
To become like You, in Your death my Lord;
So with You to live, and never die. (Chorus)

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

Man of Sorrows

“Man of sorrows!” what a name
For the Son of God who came
Ruined sinners to reclaim
Hallelujah, what a Savior!

Bearing shame and scoffing rude
In my place condemned He stood
Sealed my pardon with His blood
Hallelujah! What a Savior!

Guilty, vile, and helpless we
Spotless Lamb of God was He
Full atonement! Can it be?
Hallelujah! What a Savior!

Lifted up was He to die
“It is finished!” was His cry
Now in Heav’n exalted high

Hallelujah! What a Savior!

When He comes, our glorious King
All His ransomed home to bring
Then anew His song we'll sing
Hallelujah! What a Savior!

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.