

Celebration of Worship

December 29, 2024

Prelude

The Prelude is a time to begin transitioning from fellowshiping with our neighbors to preparing our hearts to worship God.

Please adjust all electronic devices so as not to interrupt the service.

Welcome and Announcements

Welcome to all our visitors. Please fill out the guest registration to let us know of your visit.

Silent Prayer of Preparation for Worship

Almighty God, who shows to them that be in error the light of your truth, to the intent that they may return to the way of righteousness; grant to all those that are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's religion, that as strangers and pilgrims they may abstain from fleshly lusts, and follow all such things as are agreeable to their holy profession; through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

Call to Worship

from Psalm 145:1-9

Leader: I will exalt you, my God the King; I will praise your name forever and ever.

ALL: *Every day I will praise you and extol your name forever and ever.*

Leader: Great is the LORD and most worthy of praise; his greatness no one can fathom.

ALL: *One generation will commend your works to another; they will tell of your mighty acts.*

Leader: They will speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty, and I will meditate on your wonderful works.

ALL: *They will tell of the power of your awesome works,
and I will proclaim your great deeds.*

Leader: They will celebrate your abundant goodness and
joyfully sing of your righteousness.

ALL: *The LORD is gracious and compassionate; slow to
anger and rich in love. The LORD is good to all; he
has compassion on all he has made.*

***Invocation and Adoration**

The invocation should acknowledge that our worship is in vain if it is not Spirit-inspired. Often, the invocation will also employ the language of adoration and praise, which is very fitting in light of the vertical, God-focused dimension of this prayer.

***Worship in Song**

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Angels From the Realms of Glory

Public Confession of Sin

All: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love. My sin has been against You, although others have been hurt as well. It is against You that I have rebelled. It is against You that I have been angry – And yet it is to You that I cry for mercy! Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your steadfast love. Even with my best intentions, sin creeps in. Against my firmest resolve, I still sin. Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love. Wash me, that I may be clean, fresh, and new. Cleanse me, that I may have integrity and do right from inside out. Purge me, that I be pure with a strong purity. O spotless Lamb of God, take away my sin by Your atoning sacrifice. In the name of Christ deliver me, O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of Your deliverance. Amen.

Silent Prayer of Confession

Comfort and Assurance of the Gospel

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. ~ Romans 8.1-2

Corporate Confession of Faith – Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended into hell.* The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic** church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

*Some versions of the Creed omit this phrase; it was inserted to affirm the reality of Christ’s physical death;

**or universal; this phrase simply refers to the fact that the Church is made up of believers of all times in all nations.

PETITIONING GOD’S PROVIDENCE

Prayers of God’s People

(The pastor will lead us in prayer, reading submitted praises and requests)

ADORING GOD’S GLORY

Public Reading of Scripture

Judges 3:12-30

(Lectio Continua – the practice of reading Scripture in sequence)

And the people of Israel again did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, and the LORD strengthened Eglon the king of Moab against

* Indicates please stand if able.

Israel, because they had done what was evil in the sight of the LORD. ¹³ He gathered to himself the Ammonites and the Amalekites, and went and defeated Israel. And they took possession of the city of palms. ¹⁴ And the people of Israel served Eglon the king of Moab eighteen years. ¹⁵ Then the people of Israel cried out to the LORD, and the LORD raised up for them a deliverer, Ehud, the son of Gera, the Benjaminite, a left-handed man. The people of Israel sent tribute by him to Eglon the king of Moab. ¹⁶ And Ehud made for himself a sword with two edges, a cubit in length, and he bound it on his right thigh under his clothes. ¹⁷ And he presented the tribute to Eglon king of Moab. Now Eglon was a very fat man. ¹⁸ And when Ehud had finished presenting the tribute, he sent away the people who carried the tribute. ¹⁹ But he himself turned back at the idols near Gilgal and said, "I have a secret message for you, O king." And he commanded, "Silence." And all his attendants went out from his presence. ²⁰ And Ehud came to him as he was sitting alone in his cool roof chamber. And Ehud said, "I have a message from God for you." And he arose from his seat. ²¹ And Ehud reached with his left hand, took the sword from his right thigh, and thrust it into his belly. ²² And the hilt also went in after the blade, and the fat closed over the blade, for he did not pull the sword out of his belly; and the dung came out. ²³ Then Ehud went out into the porch and closed the doors of the roof chamber behind him and locked them. ²⁴ When he had gone, the servants came, and when they saw that the doors of the roof chamber were locked, they thought, "Surely he is relieving himself in the closet of the cool chamber." ²⁵ And they waited till they were embarrassed. But when he still did not open the doors of the roof chamber, they took the key and opened them, and there lay their lord dead on the floor. ²⁶ Ehud escaped while they delayed, and he passed beyond the idols and escaped to Seirah. ²⁷ When he arrived, he sounded the trumpet in the hill country of Ephraim. Then the people of Israel went down with him from the hill country, and he was their leader. ²⁸ And he said to them, "Follow after me, for the LORD has given your enemies the Moabites into your hand." So they went down

after him and seized the fords of the Jordan against the Moabites and did not allow anyone to pass over.²⁹ And they killed at that time about 10,000 of the Moabites, all strong, able-bodied men; not a man escaped.³⁰ So Moab was subdued that day under the hand of Israel. And the land had rest for eighty years.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord!

All: *Thanks be to God.*

The Giving of First Fruits

Honor the LORD with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce;¹⁰ then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine. ~Proverbs 3:9-10

***The Doxology (**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise Him all creatures here below;
praise Him above ye heavenly hosts;
praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.
Amen!

***Prayer of Thanks and Dedication**

***Worship in Song**

May the Peoples Praise You

Verse 1

You have called us out of darkest night
Into Your glorious light
That we may sing the wonders of
The risen Christ

Verse 2

May our every breath retell the grace
That broke into our strife
With boundless love and deepest joy
With endless life

* Indicates please stand if able.

Chorus 1

May the peoples praise You
Let the nations be glad
All Your blessing comes
That we may praise
May praise the Name of Jesus

Verse 3

All the earth is Yours and all within
Each harvest is Your own
And from Your hand we give to You
To make Christ known

Verse 4

May the seeds of mercy grow in us
For those who have not heard
May songs of praise build lives of grace
To spread Your Word

Chorus 2

May the peoples praise You
Let the nations be glad
All Your blessing comes
That we may praise
May praise the Name of Jesus

Verse 5

This our holy priv'lege to declare
Your praises and Your name
To every nation tribe and tongue
Your church proclaims

Chorus 3

May the peoples praise You

Let the nations be glad
All Your blessing comes
That we may praise
May praise the Name of Jesus

Bridge
Holy Holy is the Lord Almighty
Worthy worthy is the Lamb who was slain
Holy Holy is the Lord Almighty
All creation praise Your glorious Name

Chorus 4
May the peoples praise You
Let the nations be glad
All Your blessing comes
That we may praise
May praise the Name of Jesus
(repeat)

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Come Behold The Wondrous Mystery

Verse 1
Come behold the wondrous myst'ry
In the dawning of the King
He the theme of heaven's praises
Robed in frail humanity
In our longing in our darkness
Now the light of life has come
Look to Christ who condescended
Took on flesh to ransom us

Verse 2

Come behold the wondrous myst'ry
He the perfect Son of Man
In His living in His suff'ring
Never trace nor stain of sin
See the true and better Adam
Come to save the hell-bound man
Christ the great and sure fulfillment
Of the law in Him we stand

Verse 3

Come behold the wondrous myst'ry
Christ the Lord upon the tree
In the stead of ruined sinners
Hangs the Lamb in victory
See the price of our redemption
See the Father's plan unfold
Bringing many sons to glory
Grace unmeasured love untold

Verse 4

Come behold the wondrous myst'ry
Slain by death the God of life
But no grave could e'er restrain Him
Praise the Lord He is alive
What a foretaste of deliv'rance
How unwavering our hope
Christ in power resurrected
As we will be when He comes

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PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

Scripture Reading & Prayer of Illumination

Sermon Text: John 18:28-38

Preaching of the Word

Thy Kingdom Come

*Closing Hymn

Jesus Shall Reign

VERSE 1

Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
Does his successive journeys run;
His kingdom stretch from shore to shore,
Till suns shall rise and set no more.

VERSE 2

Blessings abound where'er He reigns;
The prisoner leaps to lose his chains;
The weary find eternal rest,
And all the sons of want are blessed.

CHORUS

**To our King be highest praise
Rising through eternal days
Just and faithful -He shall reign.
Jesus shall reign**

VERSE 3

Where He displays His healing power,
Death and the curse are found no more:
In Him the tribes of Adam boast
More blessings than their father lost

VERSE 4

* Indicates please stand if able.

People and realms of every tongue
Dwell on His love with sweetest song;
And infant voices shall proclaim
Their early praises to His Name.

CHORUS

**To our King be highest praise
Rising through eternal days
Just and faithful - He shall reign.
Jesus shall reign**

VERSE 5

Let every creature rise and bring
Blessing and honour to our King;
Angels descend with songs again,
And earth repeat the loud amen!

CHORUS

**To our King be highest praise
Rising through eternal days
Just and faithful - He shall reign.
Jesus shall reign**

Verse Words by Isaac Watts, Verse Music by John Hatton
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***Benediction**

Just as God has the first word in worship, he also has the last word. For those who are in Christ Jesus, these are always words of blessing. We look up and extend our hands out in a posture of receiving the blessing of God.

Postlude

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Memory Verse of the Week:

John 1:11-13 He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. ¹² But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God. ¹³ who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.