

Celebration of Worship

August 11, 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 Father, who has given your only Son to die for our sins, and to rise again for our justification; Grant us so to put away the leaven of malice and wickedness, that we may always serve you in purity of living and truth; and increase and strengthen our faith in you, and in your Son whom you have sent; that so believing in Him, we may overcome the world, and attain to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

Call to Worship

from Psalm 86

Pastor: Among the gods there is none like you, O Lord; no deeds can compare with yours. All the nations you have made will come and worship before you, O Lord; they will bring glory to your name.

All: For you are great and do marvelous deeds; You alone are God.

Pastor: Teach me your way, O Lord, and I will walk in your truth; give me an undivided heart, that I may fear your name.

All: I will praise you, O Lord my God, with all my heart; I will glorify your name forever. For great is your love

toward me; You have delivered me from the depths of the grave.

***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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Wondrous King, All Glorious

Public Confession of Sin

Almighty God, rich in mercy to all who call upon you; hear us as we come to You humbly confessing our sins; and imploring Your mercy and forgiveness. We have broken Your holy laws by our deeds and by our works; and by the sinful affections of our hearts. We confess before You our disobedience and ingratitude, our pride and our willfulness; and all our failures and shortcomings toward You and our neighbor. Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father, and out of Your great goodness grant that we may hereafter serve and praise You in newness of life through the finished work of our Lord and Savior, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Silent Prayer of Confession

Comfort and Assurance of the Gospel

For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, ~ 1 Peter 3:18

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.

* Indicates please stand if able.

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

Testimony of God's Work

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

John 20:1-10

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

Scripture Context:

This is now the third day after Jesus was laid in the tomb after His death.

Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. ² So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." ³ So Peter went out with the other disciple, and they were going toward the tomb. ⁴ Both of them were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵ And stooping to look in, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he did not go in. ⁶ Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying there, ⁷ and the face cloth, which had been on Jesus' ¹ head, not lying with

* Indicates please stand if able.

the linen cloths but folded up in a place by itself.⁸ Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed;⁹ for as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that he must rise from the dead.¹⁰ Then the disciples went back to their homes.

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**

He Will Hold Me Fast

Verse 1

When I fear my faith will fail
Christ will hold me fast
When the tempter would prevail
He will hold me fast
I could never keep my hold
Through life's fearful path
For my love is often cold
He must hold me fast

Chorus

**He will hold me fast
He will hold me fast**

* Indicates please stand if able.

**For my Savior loves me so
He will hold me fast**

Verse 2

Those He saves are His delight
Christ will hold me fast
Precious in His holy sight
He will hold me fast
He'll not let my soul be lost
His Promises shall last
Bought by Him at such a cost
He will hold me fast

Chorus

**He will hold me fast
He will hold me fast
For my Savior loves me so
He will hold me fast**

Verse 3

For my life He bled and died
Christ will hold me fast
Justice has been satisfied
He will hold me fast
Raised with Him to endless life
He will hold me fast
Till our faith is turned to sight
When He comes at last

Chorus

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We Will Feast In The House Of Zion

Chorus

***We will feast in the house of Zion
We will sing with our hearts restored
He has done great things we will say together
We will feast and weep no more***

Verse 1

We will not be burned by the fire
He is the Lord our God
We are not consumed by the flood
Upheld protected gathered up

Chorus

Verse 2

In the dark of night before the dawn
My soul be not afraid
For the promised morning oh how long
Oh God of Jacob be my strength

Chorus

Verse 3

Every vow we've broken and betrayed
You are the faithful one
And from the garden to the grave
Bind us together bring shalom

Chorus

Joshua Moore, Sandra McCracken

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PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

Scripture Reading & Prayer of Illumination

Sermon Text:

James 1:2-4

Preaching of the Word

The Testing of Your Faith

***Closing Hymn**

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My Faith Has Found a Resting Place

***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

* Indicates please stand if able.

Memory Verse of the Week:

Jude 3 Beloved, although I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints.