

Celebration of Worship

September 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

O God, whose blessed Son made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of bread: Open the eyes of our faith, that we may behold him in all his redeeming work; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Come Let Us Worship and Bow Down

Come let us worship and bow down

Let us kneel before the Lord

Our God our Maker

Come let us worship and bow down

Let us kneel before the Lord

Our God our Maker

For He is our God

And we are the people of His pasture

And the sheep of His hand

Just the sheep of His hand

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

Call to Worship

from Psalm 145

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

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

* Indicates please stand if able.

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

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

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

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

Pastor: 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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Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty

Public Confession of Sin

All: Our Father, we are sinful and you are holy. We recognize that we have heard in your Law difficult words, knowing how often we have offended you in thought, word and deed, not only by obvious violations, but by failing to conform to its perfect commands, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. There is nothing in us that gives us reason for hope, for where we thought we were well, we are sick in soul. Where we thought we were holy, we are in truth unholy and

* Indicates please stand if able.

ungrateful. Our hearts are filled with the love of the world; our minds are dark and are assailed by doubts; our wills are too often given to selfishness and our bodies to laziness and unrighteousness. By sinning against our neighbors, we have also sinned against you, in whose image they were created. Please forgive us for Christ's sake. Amen.

Silent Prayer of Confession

Comfort and Assurance of the Gospel

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. ***Ephesians 2.8-9***

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

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

Judges 1:1-7

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

Scripture context

The book of Judges continues the story of Israel after the death of Joshua. The title of the book refers to the men God raised up to deliver Israel from their oppressors. A repeating pattern comes to light during this period of history. The Israelites do evil, God then sends oppressors due to their sin. The Israelites cry out to God for help and God raises up a judge to deliver them and restore peace. But when the judge dies, the pattern begins all over. The human author is unknown.

After the death of Joshua, the people of Israel inquired of the LORD, "Who shall go up first for us against the Canaanites, to fight against them?" ² The LORD said, "Judah shall go up; behold, I have given the land into his hand." ³ And Judah said to Simeon his brother, "Come up with me into the territory allotted to me, that we may fight against the Canaanites. And I likewise will go with you into the territory allotted to you." So Simeon went with him. ⁴ Then Judah went up and the LORD gave the Canaanites and the Perizzites into their hand, and they defeated 10,000 of them at Bezek. ⁵ They found Adoni-bezek at Bezek and fought against him and defeated the Canaanites and the Perizzites. ⁶ Adoni-bezek fled, but they pursued him and caught him and cut off his thumbs and his big toes. ⁷ And Adoni-bezek said, "Seventy kings with their thumbs and their big toes cut off used to pick up scraps under my table. As I have done, so God has repaid me." And they brought him to Jerusalem, and he died there.

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**

Days of Elijah

These are the days of Elijah
Declaring the word of the Lord
And these are the days of Your servant Moses
Righteousness being restored
And though these are days of great trials
Of famine and darkness and sword
Still we are the voice in the desert crying
“Prepare ye the way of the Lord”

CHORUS:

***Behold he comes riding on the clouds
Shining like the sun at the trumpet call
So lift your voice it's the year of jubilee
And out of Zion's hill salvation comes***

And these are the days of Ezekiel
The dry bones becoming as flesh
And these are the days of Your servant, David
Rebuilding a temple of praise
And these are the days of the harvest
The fields are white in the world
And we are Your laborers in Your vineyard
Declaring the Word of the Lord

CHORUS:

***Behold he comes riding on the clouds
Shining like the sun at the trumpet call
So lift your voice it's the year of jubilee
And out of Zion's hill salvation comes***

There's no God like Jehovah
There's no God like Jehovah
There's no God like Jehovah
There's no God like Jehovah

CHORUS:

***Behold he comes riding on the clouds
Shining like the sun at the trumpet call
So lift your voice it's the year of jubilee
And out of Zion's hill salvation comes***

How Great Is Our God

The splendor of the King
Clothed in majesty
Let all the earth rejoice
All the earth rejoice
He wraps Himself in light
And darkness tries to hide
And trembles at His voice
And trembles at His voice

Chorus:

*How great is our God
Sing with me
How great is our God
And all will see how great
How great is our God*

And age to age He stands
And time is in His hands
Beginning and the End
Beginning and the End
The Godhead three in one
Father Spirit Son
The Lion and the Lamb
The Lion and the Lamb

Chorus:

*How great is our God
Sing with me
How great is our God
And all will see how great
How great is our God*

Name above all names
Worthy of all praise
My heart will sing
How great is our God
(repeat)

*How great is our God
Sing with me
How great is our God
And all will see how great
How great is our God*

*Then sings my soul
My Savior God to Thee
How great Thou art
How great Thou art
Then sings my soul*

My Savior God to Thee
How great Thou art, How great Thou art

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PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

Scripture Reading & Prayer of Illumination

Sermon Text:

James 2:14-26

Preaching of the Word

Saving Faith is NOT Alone

***Closing Hymn**

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Jesus, Lover of My Soul

***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:

1 Peter 4:12 Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you.