

Celebration of Worship

February 9, 2025

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

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

Call to Worship

From Psalm 96

Pastor: Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord all the earth. Sing to the Lord, praise his name; proclaim his salvation day after day.

All: *Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples. For great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; he is to be feared above all gods.*

Pastor: For all the gods of the nations are but idols, but the Lord made the heavens.

All: *Splendor and majesty are before him; strength and glory are in his sanctuary. Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad; let the sea resound and all that is in it.*

***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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***O God, No Longer Hold Thy Peace
(from Psalm 83)***

Tune: I Sing the Mighty Power of God

Public Confession of Sin

All: *Father, teach us not to sin with such abandon.
We do it all so easily:
Pretend, lie, envy, lust,
criticize, brood, ignore, deny,
consume, hoard, defame, distort, make excuses, and
then expect an easy forgiveness for the asking. God,
forgive us for our negligence of your holy character. Let
us not misinterpret your patience with our sin as though
it were permissiveness. Loving Father, astonish us with a
wholesome, godly fear which will not drive us to despair,
but cause us to number our days and give us hearts of
wisdom. In Jesus' name. Amen*

Silent Prayer of Confession

Comfort and Assurance of the Gospel

The Lord our God is merciful and forgiving, even though we have rebelled against him....We do not make requests of You because we are righteous, but because of Your great mercy. -Daniel 9:9, 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

* Indicates please stand if able.

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 6:19-27

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

Scripture context:

The angel of the Lord, very likely a theophany, has appeared to Gideon to instruct him on what to do as the next judge of Israel

So Gideon went into his house and prepared a young goat and unleavened cakes from an ephah of flour. The meat he put in a basket, and the broth he put in a pot, and brought them to him under the terebinth and presented them.²⁰ And the angel of God said to him, "Take the meat and the unleavened cakes, and put them on this rock, and pour the broth over them." And he did so.²¹ Then the angel of the LORD reached out the tip of the staff that was in his hand and touched the meat and the unleavened cakes. And fire sprang up from the rock and consumed the flesh and the unleavened cakes. And the angel of the LORD vanished from his

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sight.²² Then Gideon perceived that he was the angel of the LORD. And Gideon said, "Alas, O Lord GOD! For now I have seen the angel of the LORD face to face."²³ But the LORD said to him, "Peace be to you. Do not fear; you shall not die."

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**

His Mercy Is More

Chorus

**Praise the Lord His mercy is more
Stronger than darkness new every morn
Our sins they are many His mercy is more**

Verse 1

What love could remember no wrongs we have done
Omniscient all knowing He counts not their sum
Thrown into a sea without bottom or shore
Our sins they are many His mercy is more

Chorus

* Indicates please stand if able.

Verse 2

What patience would wait as we constantly roam
What Father so tender is calling us home
He welcomes the weakest the vilest the poor
Our sins they are many His mercy is more

Chorus

Verse 3

What riches of kindness He lavished on us
His blood was the payment His life was the cost
We stood 'neath a debt we could never afford
Our sins they are many His mercy is more

Chorus

**Praise the Lord His mercy is more
Stronger than darkness new every morn
Our sins they are many His mercy is more**

Matt Boswell | Matt Papa

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Across the Lands

You're the Word of God the Father
From before the world began.
Ev'ry star and ev'ry planet
Has been fashioned by Your hand.
All creation holds together
By the power of Your voice.
Let the skies declare Your glory;
Let the land and seas rejoice!

CHORUS

***You're the Author of creation;
You're the Lord of ev'ry man;
And Your cry of love rings out across the lands.***

Yet You left the gaze of angels,
Came to seek and save the lost,
And exchanged the joy of heaven
For the anguish of a cross.
With a prayer You fed the hungry;
With a word You calmed the sea;
Yet how silently You suffered
That the guilty may go free!

CHORUS

With a shout You rose victorious,
Wresting vict'ry from the grave,
And ascended into heaven,
Leading captives in Your way.
Now You stand before the Father,
Interceding for Your own;
From each tribe and tongue and nation,
You are leading sinners home!

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PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

Scripture Reading & Prayer of Illumination

Sermon Text:

John 1:1-5

Preaching of the Word

Introducing Jesus

***Closing Hymn**

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O For A Thousand Tongues to Sing

* Indicates please stand if able.

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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

* Indicates please stand if able.

Memory Verse of the Week:

1 Corinthians 13:4-8a Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant⁵ or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful;⁶ it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth.⁷ Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.⁸ Love never ends.

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