

Celebration of Worship

February 23, 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

Almighty God, whose blessed Son was led by the Spirit to be tempted by Satan: Come quickly to help us who are assaulted by many temptations; and, as you know the weaknesses of each of us, let each one find you mighty to save; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, 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 130

Pastor: Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD!

People: *O Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleas for mercy!*

Pastor: If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand?

People: *But with you there is forgiveness, that you may be feared.*

Pastor: I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word I hope;

People: *My soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for the morning, more than watchmen for the morning.*

***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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Sing, Choirs of New Jerusalem

Public Confession of Sin

Leader: Hear us, O Lord, as we confess our sin.

All: O Lord, no day of our lives passes that does not prove us guilty in your sight. Our best services are filthy rags. All things in us call for our rejection. However, all things in Christ plead our acceptance. Grant us to hear your voice assuring us that by your stripes we are healed, that you were bruised for our iniquities, that you became sin for us that we might become righteous in you. Grant that by resting in your righteousness we may hereafter walk in newness of life and run hard after your commandments. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Silent Prayer of Confession

Comfort and Assurance of the Gospel

My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world. ~ 1 John 2:1-2

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

* Indicates please stand if able.

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

Presentation of New Member

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 6:36-40

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

Scripture context:

Even though Gideon had received the Spirit of God, his faith remained weak. He requested another sign from God, and God graciously fulfilled his request

Then Gideon said to God, "If you will save Israel by my hand, as you have said,³⁷ behold, I am laying a fleece of wool on the threshing floor. If there is dew on the fleece alone, and it is dry on all the ground, then I shall know that you will save Israel by my hand, as you have said."³⁸ And it was so. When he rose early next morning and squeezed the fleece, he wrung enough dew from the fleece to fill a bowl with water.³⁹ Then Gideon said to God, "Let not your

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anger burn against me; let me speak just once more. Please let me test just once more with the fleece. Please let it be dry on the fleece only, and on all the ground let there be dew."⁴⁰ And God did so that night; and it was dry on the fleece only, and on all the ground there was dew.

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**

Cornerstone

Verse 1

My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness
I dare not trust the sweetest frame
But wholly trust in Jesus' Name
(REPEAT)

Chorus:

***Christ alone cornerstone
Weak made strong in the Savior's love
Through the storm He is Lord
Lord of all***

* Indicates please stand if able.

Verse 2

When darkness seems to hide His face
I rest on His unchanging grace
In every high and stormy gale
My anchor holds within the veil
My anchor holds within the veil
(Chorus)

Verse 3

When He shall come with trumpet sound
Oh may I then in Him be found
Dressed in His righteousness alone
Faultless stand before the throne
(Chorus)

The Lord Is My Salvation

Verse 1

The grace of God has reached for me
And pulled me from the raging sea
And I am safe on this solid ground
The Lord is my salvation

Verse 2

I will not fear when darkness falls
His strength will help me scale these walls
I'll see the dawn of the rising sun
The Lord is my salvation

Chorus

***Who is like the Lord our God, Strong to save faithful in love
My debt is paid and the victory won, The Lord is my salvation***

Verse 3

My hope is hidden in the Lord
He flow'rs each promise of His Word

When winter fades I know spring will come
The Lord is my salvation

Verse 4

In times of waiting times of need
When I know loss when I am weak
I know His grace will renew these days
The Lord is my salvation

Chorus

***Who is like the Lord our God, Strong to save faithful in love
My debt is paid and the victory won, The Lord is my salvation***

Verse 5

And when I reach the final day
He will not leave me in the grave
But I will rise He will call me home
The Lord is my salvation

Chorus

***Who is like the Lord our God, Strong to save faithful in love
My debt is paid and the victory won, The Lord is my salvation***

Bridge

*Glory be to God the Father, Glory be to God the Son
Glory be to God the Spirit, The Lord is our salvation*

Chorus

***Who is like the Lord our God, Strong to save faithful in love
My debt is paid and the victory won, The Lord is my salvation***

The Lord is our salvation! The Lord is our salvation!

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PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

Scripture Reading & Prayer of Illumination

Sermon Text:

John 1:6-13

Preaching of the Word

Responding to the Light

***Closing Hymn**

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Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus

***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:

James 1:19-20 Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger;²⁰ for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness that God requires.