

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

It is only against the inky blackness of the night sky that the stars begin to appear, and it is only against the dark background of sin and judgment that the gospel shines forth. (John Stott)

God Calls Us to Worship Him

Call to Worship: Psalm 65.1-4

Leader: Praise is due you, O God, in Zion,  
And to you shall vows be performed.  
People: O you who hear prayer,  
To you shall all flesh come.  
Leader: When iniquities prevail against me,  
You atone for our transgressions.  
People: Blessed is the one you choose and bring near,  
To dwell in your courts!  
Leader: We shall be satisfied with the goodness of your house,  
The holiness of your temple!

Prayer of Invocation

Hymn of Praise: Lord, with Glowing Heart I’d Praise Thee Trinity #80

God Cleanses Us by His Grace

Conviction of the Gospel: 2 Corinthians 7.9-10

...I rejoice, not because you were grieved, but because you were grieved into repenting. For you felt a godly grief, so that you suffered no loss through us. For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death.

Confession of Sin: We Have Not Known Thee As We Ought Trinity #493

Comfort of the Gospel: 2 Corinthians 1.20

For all the promises of God find their Yes in him. That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory.

God Consecrates Us by Praise, Pledge and Prayer

Profession of Faith: James Cordell

Hymn of Thanksgiving: Christ, Our Hope in Life and Death

What is our hope in life and death?  
Christ alone, Christ alone.  
What is our only confidence?  
That our souls to Him belong.

Who holds our days within His hand?  
What comes, apart from His command?  
And what will keep us to the end?  
The love of Christ, in which we stand.

Refrain  
O sing hallelujah!  
Our hope springs eternal;  
O sing hallelujah!  
Now and ever we confess  
Christ our hope in life and death.

What truth can calm the troubled soul?  
God is good, God is good.  
Where is His grace and goodness known?  
In our great Redeemer’s blood.

Who holds our faith when fears arise?  
Who stands above the stormy trial?  
Who sends the waves that bring us nigh  
Unto the shore, the rock of Christ? Refrain

Unto the grave, what shall we sing?  
“Christ, He lives; Christ, He lives!”  
And what reward will heaven bring?  
Everlasting life with Him.

There we will rise to meet the Lord,  
Then sin and death will be destroyed,  
And we will feast in endless joy,  
When Christ is ours forevermore. Refrain

Prayer of Intercession: The Lord’s Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven,  
Hallowed be Thy name.  
Thy Kingdom come,  
Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.  
For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

\*Children dismissed to Little Church

God Counsels Us through His Word

Scripture Reading: Luke 3.1-20

Sermon: Prepare the Way!

God Commissions Us to Serve Him

Profession of Faith: Westminster Confession of Faith 15.1-2

Repentance unto life is an evangelical grace, the doctrine whereof is to be preached by every minister of the gospel, as well as that of faith in Christ. By it, a sinner, out of the sight and sense not only of the danger, but also of the filthiness and odiousness of his sins, as contrary to the holy nature and righteous law of God; and upon the apprehension of His mercy in Christ to such as are penitent, so grieves for, and hates his sins, as to turn from them all unto God, purposing and endeavoring to walk with Him in all the ways of His commandments.

Hymn of Response: I Will Glory in My Redeemer

I will glory in my Redeemer  
Whose priceless blood has ransomed me  
Mine was the sin that drove the bitter nails  
And hung him on that judgment tree  
I will glory in my Redeemer  
Who crushed the power of sin and death  
My only Savior before the Holy Judge  
The Lamb who is my righteousness  
The Lamb who is my righteousness

I will glory in my Redeemer  
My life He bought my love He owns  
I have no longings for another  
I’m satisfied in Him alone  
I will glory in my Redeemer  
His faithfulness my standing place  
Though foes are mighty and rush upon me  
My feet are firm held by His grace  
My feet are firm held by His grace

I will glory in my Redeemer  
Who carries me on eagle’s wings  
He crowns my life with lovingkindness  
His triumph song I’ll ever sing  
I will glory in my Redeemer  
Who waits for me at gates of gold  
And when He call me it will be paradise  
His face forever to behold  
His face forever to behold

Benediction: Numbers 6.24-26

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.