

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

...none are fitter for comfort than those that think themselves furthest off. Men, for the most part, are not lost enough in their own feeling for a Savior. ... Christ's sheep are weak sheep, and lacking in something or other.... His tenderest care is over the weakest. (Richard Sibbes)

God Calls Us to Worship Him

Call to Worship:

Psalm 100.1-5

Leader: Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth!

People: Serve the LORD with gladness!

Leader: Come into his presence with singing!

People: Know that the LORD, he is God!

It is he who made us, and we are his;

We are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

Leader: Enter his gates with thanksgiving,

And his courts with praise!

Give thanks to him; bless his name!

People: For the LORD is good;

His steadfast love endures forever,

And his faithfulness to all generations.

Prayer of Invocation

Hymn of Praise:

*Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken
Trinity Hymnal #345*

God Cleanses Us by His Grace

Conviction of the Gospel:

Ezekiel 34.1-6

The word of the Lord came to me: “Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel; prophesy, and say to them, even to the shepherds, Thus says the Lord God: Ah, shepherds of Israel who have been feeding yourselves! Should not shepherds feed the sheep? You eat the fat, you clothe yourselves with the wool, you slaughter the fat ones, but you do not feed the sheep. The weak you have not strengthened, the sick you have not healed, the injured you have not bound up, the strayed you have not brought back, the lost you have not sought, and with force and harshness you have ruled them. So they were scattered, because there was no shepherd, and they became food for all the wild beasts. My sheep were scattered; they wandered over all the mountains and on every high hill. My sheep were scattered over all the face of the earth, with none to search or seek for them.

Confession of Sin

Comfort of the Gospel:

Isaiah 53.6

All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

God Consecrates Us by Praise and Prayer

Hymn of Thanksgiving:

A debtor to mercy alone,
Of covenant mercy I sing;
Nor fear, with Thy righteousness on,
My person and offering to bring.
The terrors of law and of God
With me can have nothing to do;
My Savior's obedience and blood
Hide all my transgressions from view

The work which His goodness began,
The arm of His strength will complete;
His promise is yea and amen,
And never was forfeited yet.

Prayer of Intercession:

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings: Jesus, Priceless Treasure

Jesus, priceless treasure,
Source of purest pleasure
Truest friend to me
Long my heart hath panted
Til it well-nigh fainted
Thirsting after Thee
Thine I am, O spotless lamb
I will suffer naught to hide Thee
Ask for naught beside Thee
Ask for naught beside Thee

In Thy strength I rest me
If Thy arms protect me
Who can reach me here?
Though the earth be shaking
Every heart be quaking
God dispels our fear

**Children ages 3 and 4 are invited to attend Little Church at this time*

God Counsels Us through His Word

Scripture Reading:

Luke 15.1-10

Sermon:

God's Seeking Grace

God Communes with Us in the Sacrament

Creed:

Luke 15.1-2

Leader: Christians, let's draw near to Jesus, because...

People: This man receives sinners and eats with them.

A Debtor to Mercy Alone

Things future, nor things that are now,
Not all things below nor above
Can make Him His purpose forego,
Or sever my soul from His love.

My name from the palms of His hands
Eternity will not erase;
Impressed on His heart it remains
In marks of indelible grace.
Yes, I to the end shall endure,
As sure as the earnest is given
More happy, but not more secure,
The glorified spirits in heaven.

Sin and hell in conflict fell
With their heaviest storms assail us
Jesus will not fail us
Jesus will not fail us

Banished is our sadness
For the Lord of gladness Jesus enters in
Those who love the Father
Though the storms may gather
Still have peace within
Yea, what'er we here must bear
Still in Thee lies purest pleasure
Jesus, priceless treasure
Jesus, priceless treasure

Hymn of Preparation:

*Amidst Us Our Beloved Stands
Trinity Hymnal #427*

Sursum Corda:

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right for us to give thanks and praise.

Prayer of Assistance:

The Worship Sourcebook

Heavenly Father, show forth among us the presence of your life-giving Word and Holy Spirit, to sanctify us and your whole church through this sacrament. Grant that all who share the body and blood of our Savior, Jesus Christ, may be one in him and may remain faithful in love and hope. And as this grain has been gathered from many fields into one loaf and these grapes from many hills into one cup, grant, O Lord, that your whole church may soon be gathered from the ends of the earth into your kingdom.

Invitation to the Table:

John 6.35

Fencing of the Table:

1 Corinthians 11.27-32

Words of Institution:

1 Corinthians 11.23-26

Distribution

God Commissions Us to Serve Him

Hymn of Response:

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.

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? **Chorus**

Chorus

O sing hallelujah!

Our hope springs eternal;

O sing hallelujah!

Now and ever we confess

Christ our hope in life and death.

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. **Chorus**

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.