

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

The central miracle asserted by Christians is the Incarnation. They say that God became Man. Every other miracle prepares for this, or exhibits this, or results from this. (C.S. Lewis)

God Calls Us to Worship Him

Call to Worship:

Philippians 4.4-5

Leader: Rejoice in the Lord always.

People: I will say it again: Rejoice!

Leader: Let your gentleness be evident to all.

People: The Lord is near!

Leader: Let's rejoice in the hope of Christ's coming!

People: Let's worship God!

Greeting:

Ruth 2.4

Leader: The LORD be with you!

People: And also with you.

Leader: As we enter this season of Advent,

May the love of God the Father,

And the grace of Jesus the Son,

And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit

Be and abide with us all.

People: Amen.

Prayer of Invocation

Hymn of Praise: Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates!
Trinity Hymnal #198

God Cleanses Us by His Grace

Conviction of the Gospel: Romans 3.19-20

Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

Confession of Sin

Comfort of the Gospel: Romans 3.21-25a

But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith.

God Consecrates Us by Praise and Prayer

Hymn of Thanksgiving: Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus
Trinity Hymnal #196

Advent Reading of Hope:

Isaiah 40.1-11

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

A voice of one calling: "In the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. And the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all people will see it together. For the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

A voice says, "Cry out." And I said, "What shall I cry?" "All people are like grass, and all their faithfulness is like the flowers of the field. The grass withers and the flowers fall, because the breath of the Lord blows on them. Surely the people are grass. The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever."

You who bring good news to Zion, go up on a high mountain. You who bring good news to Jerusalem, lift up your voice with a shout, lift it up, do not be afraid; say to the towns of Judah, "Here is your God!" See, the Sovereign Lord comes with power, and he rules with a mighty arm. See, his reward is with him, and his recompense accompanies him. He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young.

Hymn of Meditation:

What Child Is This
Trinity Hymnal #213

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.

Presentation of Tithes and Offering

**Children dismissed to Little Church*

God Counsels Us through His Word

Scripture Reading:

Psalm 15.1-5

Sermon:

How to Get Up the Mountain

God Communes with Us in the Sacrament

Creed:

The 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.**

Hymn of Preparation: Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence
Trinity Hymnal #193

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 Adoration and Assistance

Invitation to the Table: Revelation 3.20

Fencing of the Table: 1 Corinthians 11.27-32

Words of Institution: 1 Corinthians 11.23-26

God Commissions Us to Serve Him

Hymn of Response: Go Tell It on the Mountain
Trinity Hymnal #224

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.