

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

If you want to judge how well a person understands Christianity, find out how much he makes of the thought of being God's child, and having God as his Father. (J.I. Packer)

God Calls Us to Worship Him

Call to Worship: *Psalm 103.1-5, 11, 13, 22b*

Leader: Bless the LORD, O my soul,
And all that is within me, bless his holy name!

**People: Bless the LORD, O my soul,
And forget not all his benefits,**

Leader: Who forgives all your iniquity,
Who heals all your diseases,

**People: Who redeems your life from the pit,
Who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,**

Leader: Who satisfies you with good
So that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

**People: For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
So great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him.**

Leader: As a father shows compassion to his children,
So the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him.

All: Bless the LORD, O my soul!

Greeting: *Philippians 1.2*

Leader: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

People: And also to you!

Doxology: *Trinity Hymnal #731*

Prayer of Invocation

Hymn of Praise: *Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven
Trinity Hymnal #76*

God Cleanses Us by His Grace

Conviction of the Gospel: *1 John 3.1-3*

See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

Confession of Sin

Comfort of the Gospel:

1 John 2.1-2

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.

God Consecrates Us by Praise and Prayer

Hymn of Thanksgiving:

*Psalm 9.1-4;7-10
(Tune: Immortal, Invisible)*

I now will give wholehearted thanks to the LORD,
And all of Your marvelous works will record.
In You will be glad and exultingly cry,
And praise to Your name will I sing, O Most High.

When backward my foes were all turned in despair.
They stumbled and perished because You were there.
For You have defended my judgment and cause;
You sat in just judgment upholding Your laws

Refrain

*Most Holy, Most glorious / The Ancient of Days;
Almighty, victorious / Your great name we praise.*

The LORD will eternally sit on His throne,
Establishing it for His judgment alone.
In righteousness He'll judge the world from His seat
And unto all peoples shall equity mete.

The LORD is a stronghold, a lofty strong tower,
For all the oppressed in their troubles' dark hour.
Those knowing Your name, LORD, trust You for Your grace;
You have not forsaken those seeking Your face. **Refrain x 2**

Prayer of Intercession

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 Offerings

**Children dismissed to Little Church*

Hymn of Meditation: *How Deep the Father's Love for Us*

How deep the Father's love for us, / How vast beyond all measure,
That He should give His only Son / to make a wretch His treasure.
How great the pain of searing loss. / The Father turns His face away
As wounds which mar the Chosen One / bring many sons to glory.

Behold the Man upon the cross, / my sin upon His shoulders.
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice / call out among the scoffers.
It was my sin that held Him there / until it was accomplished;
His dying breath has brought me life. / I know that it is finished.

I will not boast in anything: / no gifts, no pow'r, no wisdom.
But I will boast in Jesus Christ: / His death and resurrection.
Why should I gain from His reward? / I cannot give an answer.
But this I know with all my heart: / His wounds have paid my ransom

God Counsels Us through His Word

Scripture Reading: *Galatians 4.1-7*

Sermon: *A Son Before a Father*

God Commissions Us to Serve Him

Creed: *The Heidelberg Catechism*

Q. 26. What do you believe when you say, "I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth"?

That the eternal Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who out of nothing created heaven and earth and everything in them, who still upholds and rules them by his eternal counsel and providence, is my God and Father because of Christ his Son. I trust him so much that I do not doubt he will provide whatever I need for body and soul, and he will turn to my good whatever adversity he sends me in this sad world. He is able to do this because he is almighty God; he desires to do this because he is a faithful Father.

Hymn of Response: *Lead on, O King Eternal
Trinity Hymnal #580*

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.