

# A SERVICE OF THE WORD & SACRAMENT

December 10, 2023

The Prelude

The Welcome & Announcements

The Silent Preparation

## -THE LORD CALLS US TO WORSHIP-

### The Salutation

2 Thessalonians 1:2

<sup>2</sup> Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

### The Call to Worship

Psalm 148 (Responsively)

<sup>1</sup> Praise the LORD!

Praise the LORD from the heavens;  
praise him in the heights!

<sup>2</sup> **Praise him, all his angels;  
praise him, all his hosts!**

<sup>3</sup> Praise him, sun and moon,  
praise him, all you shining stars!

<sup>4</sup> **Praise him, you highest heavens,  
and you waters above the heavens!**

<sup>5</sup> Let them praise the name of the LORD!  
For he commanded and they were created.

<sup>6</sup> **And he established them forever and ever;  
he gave a decree, and it shall not pass away.**

<sup>7</sup> Praise the LORD from the earth,  
you great sea creatures and all deeps,

<sup>8</sup> **fire and hail, snow and mist,  
stormy wind fulfilling his word!**

<sup>9</sup> Mountains and all hills,  
fruit trees and all cedars!

<sup>10</sup> **Beasts and all livestock,  
creeping things and flying birds!**

<sup>11</sup> Kings of the earth and all peoples,  
princes and all rulers of the earth!

<sup>12</sup> **Young men and maidens together,  
old men and children!**

<sup>13</sup> Let them praise the name of the LORD,  
for his name alone is exalted;  
his majesty is above earth and heaven.

<sup>14</sup> **He has raised up a horn for his people,  
praise for all his saints,  
for the people of Israel who are near to him.  
Praise the LORD!**

## Hymn #319

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

1. O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
come and behold him born the King of angels;

*Refrain:*

*O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*

2. God of God, Light of Light;  
lo, he abhors not the virgin's womb;  
very God, begotten not created; *[Refrain]*

3. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above;  
glory to God, all glory in the highest; *[Refrain]*

4. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning:  
Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n;  
Word of the Father, late in flesh appearing; *[Refrain]*

### The Invocation & Prayer of Praise

## -THE LORD ASSURES US OF HIS FORGIVENESS-

### The Call to Confession

James 2:10-11

<sup>10</sup> For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become guilty of all of it. <sup>11</sup> For he who said, "Do not commit adultery," also said, "Do not murder." If you do not commit adultery but do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law.

### The Confession of Sin

- ❖ Silent Prayers of Confession
- ❖ General Prayer of Confession

Unison:

Almighty and most merciful Father; we have erred and strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against your holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; and we have done those things which we ought not to have done; and there is no health in us. O Lord, have mercy upon us. Spare those, O God, who confess their faults. Restore those who are penitent, according to Your promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord. And grant, O merciful Father, for His sake; that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life; to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

### The Assurance of Pardon

Micah 7:18-20

<sup>18</sup> Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity and passing over transgression for the remnant of his inheritance? He does not retain his anger forever, because he delights in steadfast love. <sup>19</sup> He will again have compassion on us; he will tread our iniquities underfoot. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea. <sup>20</sup> You will show faithfulness to Jacob and steadfast love to Abraham, as you have sworn to our fathers from the days of old.

## Hymn #305

*Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

1. Lo, how a rose e'er blooming  
from tender stem hath sprung,  
of Jesse's lineage coming,  
as men of old have sung.  
It came, a flow'ret bright,  
amid the cold of winter,  
when half spent was the night.
2. Isaiah 'twas foretold it,  
the rose I have in mind;  
with Mary we behold it,  
the virgin mother kind.  
To show God's love aright  
she bore to men a Savior,  
when half spent was the night.
3. The shepherds heard the story,  
proclaimed by angels bright,  
how Christ, the Lord of glory,  
was born on earth this night.  
To Bethlehem they sped  
and in the manger found him,  
as angel heralds said.
4. This flow'r, whose fragrance tender  
with sweetness fills the air,  
dispels with glorious splendor  
the darkness ev'rywhere.  
True man, yet very God,  
from sin and death he saves us  
and lightens ev'ry load.
5. O Savior, child of Mary,  
who felt our human woe;  
O Savior, King of glory,  
who dost our weakness know,  
bring us at length, we pray,  
to the bright courts of heaven  
and to the endless day.

## The Prayer of the Church

Matthew 7:7-8

<sup>7</sup>“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. <sup>8</sup>For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.

## **-THE LORD INSTRUCTS US FROM HIS WORD-**

### **The Old Testament Reading**

1 Samuel 2:1-11

<sup>1</sup> And Hannah prayed and said, "My heart exults in the Lord; my horn is exalted in the Lord. My mouth derides my enemies, because I rejoice in your salvation. <sup>2</sup> "There is none holy like the Lord: for there is none besides you; there is no rock like our God. <sup>3</sup> Talk no more so very proudly, let not arrogance come from your mouth; for the Lord is a God of knowledge, and by him actions are weighed. <sup>4</sup> The bows of the mighty are broken, but the feeble bind on strength. <sup>5</sup> Those who were full have hired themselves out for bread, but those who were hungry have ceased to hunger. The barren has borne seven, but she who has many children is forlorn. <sup>6</sup> The Lord kills and brings to life; he brings down to Sheol and raises up. <sup>7</sup> The Lord makes poor and makes rich; he brings low and he exalts. <sup>8</sup> He raises up the poor from the dust; he lifts the needy from the ash heap to make them sit with princes and inherit a seat of honor. For the pillars of the earth are the Lord's, and on them he has set the world. <sup>9</sup> "He will guard the feet of his faithful ones, but the wicked shall be cut off in darkness, for not by might shall a man prevail. <sup>10</sup> The adversaries of the Lord shall be broken to pieces; against them he will thunder in heaven. The Lord will judge the ends of the earth; he will give strength to his king and exalt the horn of his anointed." <sup>11</sup> Then Elkanah went home to Ramah. And the boy<sup>l</sup> was ministering to the Lord in the presence of Eli the priest.

### **The New Testament Reading**

Luke 1:39-56

<sup>39</sup> In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, <sup>40</sup> and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup> And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, <sup>42</sup> and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! <sup>43</sup> And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? <sup>44</sup> For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup> And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord." <sup>46</sup> And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, <sup>47</sup> and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, <sup>48</sup> for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed; <sup>49</sup> for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. <sup>50</sup> And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. <sup>51</sup> He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts; <sup>52</sup> he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate; <sup>53</sup> he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty. <sup>54</sup> He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, <sup>55</sup> as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever." <sup>56</sup> And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home.

### **The Sermon**

Rev. Dr. Michael J. Matossian

*Leading Indicators*

Luke 1:39-56

## Hymn #311

*Hark! the Herald Angels Sing*

1. Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King;  
peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,  
join the triumph of the skies;  
with th'angelic host proclaim,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Refrain:

*Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the new-born King!"*

2. Christ, by highest heav'n adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord!  
Late in time behold him come,  
offspring of the Virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;  
hail th'incarnate Deity,  
pleased as man with men to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel. *[Refrain]*

3. Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
ris'n with healing in his wings.  
Mild, he lays his glory by,  
born that man no more may die,  
born to raise the sons of earth,  
born to give them second birth. *[Refrain]*

## **-THE LORD FEEDS US FROM HIS TABLE-**

### **The Confession of Faith**

*The Heidelberg Catechism Q & A #1*

Q. *What is your only comfort in life and in death?*

A. Unison:

That I am not my own, but belong —body and soul, in life and in death—to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ.

He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood, and has delivered me from the tyranny of the devil. He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven; in fact, all things must work together for my salvation.

Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, also assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him. (*Trinity Psalter Hymnal, p. 872*)

## The Celebration of the Lord's Supper

- ❖ Words of Institution
- ❖ The Breaking of the Bread
- ❖ The Sharing of the Cup

### -THE LORD DISMISSES US TO HIS SERVICE-

#### The Benediction

2 Corinthians 13:14

<sup>14</sup> The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

#### The Doxology – Gloria Patri

*(Tune: Regent Square #213)*

Glory be to God the Father;  
Glory be to God the Son;  
Glory be to God the Spirit,  
ever three and ever one:  
As it was in the beginning,  
now and evermore shall be.