

# A SERVICE OF THE WORD

January 7, 2024

The Prelude

The Welcome & Announcements

The Silent Preparation

## -THE LORD CALLS US `TO WORSHIP-

### The Call to Worship

Selections from Psalm 34

<sup>3</sup> Oh, magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together! <sup>4</sup> I sought the LORD, and he answered me and delivered me from all my fears. <sup>7</sup> The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them. <sup>8</sup> Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him! <sup>18</sup> The LORD is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit. <sup>22</sup> The LORD redeems the life of his servants; none of those who take refuge in him will be condemned.

### Hymn #236

*To God Be the Glory*

1. To God be the glory, great things he has done!  
So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,  
who yielded his life an atonement for sin,  
and opened the life gate that we may go in.

*Refrain:*

*Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,*

*let the earth hear his voice!*

*Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,*

*let the people rejoice!*

*O come to the Father thro' Jesus the Son,  
and give him the glory, great things he has done!*

2. O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood!  
To ev'ry believer the promise of God;  
the vilest offender who truly believes,  
that moment from Jesus forgiveness receives. [*Refrain*]
3. Great things he has taught us, great things he has done,  
and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;  
but purer and higher and greater will be  
our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see. [*Refrain*]

### The Invocation & Prayer of Praise

## -THE LORD ASSURES US OF HIS FORGIVENESS-

### The Call to Confession

Psalm 130:1-4

<sup>1</sup> Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD! <sup>2</sup> O Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleas for mercy! <sup>3</sup> If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? <sup>4</sup> But with you there is forgiveness, that you may be feared.

## The Confession of Sin

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

Unison:

Most holy and merciful Father, we confess that we have not loved our enemies, nor have we loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, both by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart, soul, mind, or strength, but have given ourselves over to the devices and desires of our own sinful hearts. Have mercy on us, O Lord, and forgive our sins through Jesus Christ our Lord. Wash and cleanse us with his precious blood, and grant us new affections that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

## The Assurance of Pardon

Isaiah 52:7-10

<sup>7</sup> How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." <sup>8</sup> The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their voice; together they sing for joy; for eye to eye they see the return of the LORD to Zion. <sup>9</sup> Break forth together into singing, you waste places of Jerusalem, for the LORD has comforted his people; he has redeemed Jerusalem. <sup>10</sup> The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

## Hymn #320

*As with Gladness Men of Old*

1. As with gladness men of old  
did the guiding star behold;  
as with joy they hailed its light,  
leading onward, beaming bright;  
so, most gracious God, may we  
evermore be led by thee.
2. As with joyful steps they sped  
to that lowly cradle bed,  
there to bend the knee before  
him whom heav'n and earth adore;  
so may we with willing feet  
ever seek thy mercy seat.
3. As they offered gifts most rare  
at that cradle rude and bare;  
so may we with holy joy,  
pure, and free from sin's alloy,  
all our costliest treasures bring,  
Christ, to thee, our heav'nly King.
4. Holy Jesus, ev'ry day  
keep us in the narrow way;  
and when earthly things are past,  
bring our ransomed souls at last  
where they need no star to guide,  
where no clouds thy glory hide.
5. In the heav'nly country bright  
need they no created light;  
thou its light, its joy, its crown,  
thou its sun which goes not down;  
there forever may we sing  
alleluias to our King.

## **The Prayer of the Church**

Matthew 6:7-8

<sup>7</sup>“And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. <sup>8</sup>Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

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

#### **The Old Testament Reading**

Exodus 12:1-8

<sup>1</sup> The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, <sup>2</sup>“This month shall be for you the beginning of months. It shall be the first month of the year for you. <sup>3</sup>Tell all the congregation of Israel that on the tenth day of this month every man shall take a lamb according to their fathers' houses, a lamb for a household. <sup>4</sup>And if the household is too small for a lamb, then he and his nearest neighbor shall take according to the number of persons; according to what each can eat you shall make your count for the lamb. <sup>5</sup>Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male a year old. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats, <sup>6</sup>and you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month, when the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill their lambs at twilight. <sup>7</sup>“Then they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. <sup>8</sup>They shall eat the flesh that night, roasted on the fire; with unleavened bread and bitter herbs they shall eat it.

#### **The New Testament Reading**

John 1:35-46

<sup>35</sup> The next day again John was standing with two of his disciples, <sup>36</sup>and he looked at Jesus as he walked by and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God!” <sup>37</sup> The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. <sup>38</sup> Jesus turned and saw them following and said to them, “What are you seeking?” And they said to him, “Rabbi” (which means Teacher), “where are you staying?” <sup>39</sup> He said to them, “Come and you will see.” So they came and saw where he was staying, and they stayed with him that day, for it was about the tenth hour. <sup>40</sup> One of the two who heard John speak and followed Jesus was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. <sup>41</sup> He first found his own brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which means Christ). <sup>42</sup> He brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, “You are Simon the son of John. You shall be called Cephas” (which means Peter). <sup>43</sup> The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, “Follow me.” <sup>44</sup> Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. <sup>45</sup> Philip found Nathanael and said to him, “We have found him of whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.” <sup>46</sup> Nathanael said to him, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Philip said to him, “Come and see.”

#### **The Sermon**

Shane Rosenthal

*New Life in the New Year*

Exodus 12:1-8

#### **Hymn #524**

*Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*

1. Guide me, O thou great Jehovah,  
pilgrim through this barren land;  
I am weak, but thou art mighty;  
hold me with thy pow'rful hand;  
Bread of heaven,  
Bread of heaven,  
feed me 'til I want no more,  
feed me 'til I want no more.

2. Open now the crystal fountain,  
whence the healing stream doth flow;  
let the fire and cloudy pillar  
lead me all my journey through;  
strong Deliv'rer,  
strong Deliv'rer,  
be thou still my strength and shield,  
be thou still my strength and shield.

3. When I tread the verge of Jordan,  
bid my anxious fears subside;  
Death of death, and hell's Destruction,  
land me safe on Canaan's side;  
songs of praises,  
songs of praises  
I will ever give to thee,  
I will ever give to thee.

### **The Confession of Faith**

*Heidelberg Catechism #18 & #19*

*Question #18: But who is [the] Mediator who at the same time is true God and a true and righteous man?*

Answer:

Our Lord Jesus Christ, who has become for us wisdom from God, that is our righteousness, holiness and redemption. (1 Cor 1:30)

*Question #19: From where do you know this?*

Answer:

From the holy gospel, which God himself first revealed in Paradise. Later, he had it proclaimed by the patriarchs and prophets, and foreshadowed by the sacrifices and other ceremonies of the law. Finally, he had it fulfilled through his only Son.

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

### **Closing Meditation**

1 Peter 2:1-10

<sup>1</sup>Put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander.<sup>2</sup>Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation—<sup>3</sup>if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. <sup>4</sup>As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, <sup>5</sup>you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. <sup>6</sup>For it stands in Scripture: “Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.” <sup>7</sup>So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, “The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,” <sup>8</sup> and “A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense.” They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. <sup>9</sup>But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. <sup>10</sup>Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

### **Closing Prayer**

## **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.

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Postlude. Scripture quotations taken from the ESV. All Lyrics Used by Permission: CCLI #11063671