

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

January 17, 2021

Second Sunday after Epiphany

We Gather in God's Name . . .

PRELUDE

PRAYER OF PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

(for silent prayer during the prelude)

Eternal God, your Son, Jesus Christ, now exalted as Lord of all, pours out his gifts on the church. Grant us that unity which your Spirit gives, keep us in the bond of peace, and bring all creation to worship before your throne; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.¹ Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND GREETING

*CALL TO WORSHIP (BASED ON PSALM 139)

One: Where can we go from your spirit, O God?

All: Or where can we flee from your presence?

One: If we ascend to heaven, you are there;

All: if we make our bed in Sheol, you are there.

One: If we take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,

All: even there your hand shall lead us, and your right hand shall hold us fast.

One: If we say, "Surely the darkness shall cover us, and the light around us become night,"

All: even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to you.

One: There is none like you, O God, for we cannot flee from your presence,

All: and nothing about us is a secret to you. Let us worship God!

HYMN OF PRAISE: "O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go" #384

O love that wilt not let me go, I rest my weary soul in Thee; I give Thee back the life I owe, That in Thine ocean depths its flow May richer, fuller be.

O light that followest all my way, I yield my flickering torch to Thee; My heart restores its borrowed ray, That in Thy sunshine's

blaze its day May brighter, fairer be.

O joy that seekest me through pain, I can not close my heart to Thee; I trace the rainbow through the rain, And feel the promise is not vain That morn shall tearless be.

O cross that liftest up my head, I dare not ask to fly from Thee; I lay in dust life's glory dead, And from the ground there blossoms red Life that shall endless be.

*CALL TO CONFESSION

As we receive and trust in our Lord Jesus, we become one spirit with him. When we do what he has commanded us not to do, or when we fail to do what he has commanded us to do, we tarnish his image, and we violate that spirit of unity. Let us remember he has bought us with a price and confess where we have strayed from our Lord's ways.

*SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

*CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, you have searched us and know us. You know when we sit down and when we rise up; you discern our thoughts from far away. You, O Lord, know the sins of our minds, our hearts, and bodies. You know where we have strayed from your will. But you have bought us with a price. Forgive our sins, and restore our minds, our hearts, and our bodies according to your will and your plans for us. We pray this in the name of the one who suffered death that we might live. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Our Lord Jesus did buy each of us with a price, but he did so in love for his creation. For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Trust and believe in Jesus, and know that you are forgiven. Amen.

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

. . . to Proclaim God's Word

FIRST READING 1 Samuel 3:1-10 **p. 247**

EPISTLE READING 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 **p. 169**

***GOSPEL READING** John 1:43-51 **p. 92**

SERMON "Can Anything Good Come from There?"

Rev. Andy Smothers

ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF ELDERS AND DEACONS

One: There are varieties of gifts, but it is the same Spirit who gives them.

All: There are different ways of serving God, but it is the same Lord who is served.

One: God works through each person in a unique way, but it is God's purpose that is accomplished.

All: To each is given a gift of the Spirit to be used for the common good.

One: Together we are the body of Christ, and individually members of it. . . .

PASTORAL PRAYER AND 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.

*CONFESSION OF FAITH *Heidelberg Catechism* (Question 75-76)

One: How does the holy supper remind and assure you that you share in Christ's one sacrifice on the cross and in all his benefits?

Many: In this way: Christ has commanded me and all believers to eat this broken bread and to drink this cup in remembrance of him. With this command come these promises: First, as surely as I see with my eyes the bread of the Lord broken for me and the cup shared with me, so surely his body was offered and broken for me and his blood poured out for me on the cross. Second, as surely as I receive from the hand of the one who serves, and taste with my mouth the bread and cup of the Lord, given me as sure signs of Christ's body and blood, so surely he nourishes and refreshes my soul for eternal life with his crucified body and poured-out blood.

One: What does it mean to eat the crucified body of Christ and to drink his poured-out blood?

Many: It means to accept with a believing heart the entire suffering and death of Christ and thereby to receive forgiveness of sins and eternal life. But it means more.

Through the Holy Spirit, who lives both in Christ and in us, we are united more and more to Christ's blessed body. And so, although he is in heaven and we are on earth, we are flesh of his flesh and bone of his bone. And we forever live on and are governed by one Spirit, as the members of our body are by one soul.

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S SUPPER

GREAT THANKSGIVING

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

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

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise

One: It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, eternal God, our Creator. You formed us in your image, loved us with an everlasting love, and graced us with gifts for serving. When we were faithless and would not follow, you forgave us and returned us to your way. In the fullness of time, you sent Jesus, your only Beloved, to be for us the way, the truth, and the life. By your Spirit, he anointed all who would follow him to live a new life in your love. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with the choirs of heaven and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

All: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

One: You are holy, O God of majesty, and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. Baptized as one among us, he received the gift of your Spirit, and claimed his calling as a servant of your reign. Jesus proclaimed good news to the poor, and by the power of your Word set people free from all that bound them. He broke open the bread of life for all who were hungry, and upon the hurt and the lost poured out the living waters of your grace. In humble obedience, Jesus went to his death on the cross, and was raised by your power to reign in glory. In the resurrection the gifts of his Spirit were poured out upon your people, that the church might embrace his ministry and live as his body in the world. Remembering all your mighty and merciful acts, we

take this bread and this wine from the gifts you have given us and celebrate with joy the redemption won for us in Jesus Christ. Accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving as a living and holy offering of ourselves, that our lives may proclaim the One crucified and risen. Great is the mystery of faith:

All: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

One: Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and wine, that the bread we break and the cup we bless may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ. By your Spirit unite us with the living Christ and with all who are baptized in his name, that we may be one in ministry in every place. As this bread is Christ's body for us, send us out to be the body of Christ in the world. O God, by water and the Spirit, you have claimed us as your own, and anointed us for your service. Build up the body of Christ in your love, and equip the church for the work of ministry. Make us one body in Christ, where each one's gifts are honored and used for the good of all, where all submit to one another in humility and the bonds of the Spirit. Send us out into the world to do justice, to show mercy, and to walk humbly with you in trust and faith. Give us strength to serve you faithfully until that promised day of resurrection, when with the redeemed of all the ages we will feast with you at your table in glory. Through Christ, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, with the Holy Spirit in the holy church, now and forever. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND CONFESSION

Heidelberg Catechism (Question 77)

Many: Where does Christ promise to nourish and refresh believers with his body and blood as surely as they eat this broken bread and drink this cup?

One: In the institution of the Lord's Supper: "The Lord Jesus, on the night when he was betrayed, took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, 'This is my body that is broken for you.' In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.' For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes." This promise is repeated by Paul in these

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¹ *Book of Common Worship*, 206.