



JANUARY 28, 2024

The Order of Worship

11:15 A.M.

We worship God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, who is worthy of praise for who he is and what he has done as our Creator and Savior. When we worship together, God is present with us, his people, and meets with us here! Because of that, our worship takes the form of a dialogue between God and us, as he speaks to us from his word and as we respond to him. We only do what God specifically commands in the Scriptures in our worship because God said about how he is to be worshiped, "Everything that I command you, you shall be careful to do. You shall not add to it or take from it."

Prelude

Announcements: Mr. Sandy Finlayson

Silent Preparation

As the service begins, we remember that we worship God at his gracious initiative and invitation to us in Jesus Christ. Every worship service begins with God's greeting of grace and call to worship from his word, which we respond to with praise and prayer.

God's Greeting

God's Call to Worship: Psalm 96:1-5

Oh sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth!

² Sing to the Lord, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day. ³ Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples! ⁴ For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; he is to be feared above all gods. ⁵ For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols, but the Lord made the heavens.

Psalm #96: *Sing to the Lord, Sing His Praise*

Prayer for God's Blessing

Hymn: #288 *We Come, O Christ, to You*

Because we worship God together as one body, we confess our faith in unison, using a statement of faith from one of the creeds, confessions of faith, or catechisms used in the history of the church.

Confession of Faith (in unison): Heidelberg Catechism Q & A #1

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

A: My only comfort in life and in death is 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 set me free 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, assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.

In all the parts of our worship where God speaks to us, he does so through his Word, the Scriptures. God commands, "the public reading of Scripture," so that we may know God, what he has done for us, and what he requires of us.

Scripture Reading: Colossians 3:1-17 (Bible, p.984)

We respond to hearing God's word by acknowledging our sins, both the ways we fail to do what God requires and the ways we do what he forbids, with a prayer of confession, typically said in unison. After confessing our sins, God assures us of his forgiveness and acceptance of us with a promise from his Word for those who turn from their sins in repentance and rely upon Jesus for forgiveness and acceptance with God. We respond to his grace and acts of redemption with thanks and praise in song.

Prayer of Confession (in unison): from Book of Common Prayer

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent, for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon: Colossians 1:13-14

¹³ He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Hymn #340 *There is a Fountain Filled with Blood*

Next, we come before God in prayer, to praise him, give thanks for his many blessings, ask him to provide for our needs, and to intercede for the needs of others in the church and the world.

Prayer for God's People

God's people have always worshiped God by giving to him from all that he gives to us. In the Old Testament, God's people were commanded to bring offerings, which provided for the sacrifices. In the New Testament, Jesus gave himself the final sacrificial offering and Christians are called to give generously, cheerfully, and sacrificially in response.

Offering

At the heart of our worship service is hearing God through preaching from his Word. In the sermon, God's Word is read, explained, and applied to our lives so that we repent, turning back to God from our sins, and renew our faith in Jesus and what he has done to deliver us from our sins. Before the sermon, we ask for the help of the Holy Spirit so that we may hear God's word with understanding.

Sermon: Rev. Wendell Stoltzfus

Text: Mark 10:46-52 (Bible p.847)

Title: Jesus, Son of David, Have Mercy on Me

We respond to what God has done for us in Jesus by joyfully expressing our thanks and praise in song.

Hymn: #283 *Fairest Lord Jesus*

God sends us with a blessing from his word.

God's Blessing