



## Morning Worship and Communion Service

11:15 A.M.

December 1, 2024

*We worship the one true and living 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 and meets with us here! Because of that, our worship takes the form of a dialogue as God speaks to us from his word and as we respond to him. In our worship, we only do what God commands 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** Rev. Jeremiah Montgomery

### 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 Ephesians 1:2

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

### God's Call to Worship Psalm 67:3-5

Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you! Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon earth. Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you!

**Psalm** 67B *O God, Show Mercy to Us*

### Opening Prayer

*Having come into God's presence, we read from the commandments in his word as the standard of righteousness required of us. Because we have not met this standard, the reading serves as a call to confess our sins.*

### Reading of the Law and Call to Confession 1 John 1:5-8 (Bible p.1021)

*We respond to hearing God's commandments 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 union. 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 union)

Almighty God, you have given your only-begotten Son to take our nature and be born of a virgin. You have poured out upon us the new light of your incarnate Word. Yet we confess that too often we willingly walk in the darkness of selfishness and spiritual compromise. Too often our love for this world and its good things hinders us from loving you, the Creator and Giver of all good things. Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us: let your grace forgive us, and your power deliver us. Please kindle afresh in our hearts this day the light of Christ, and may that light shine forth to expel every shadow of sin from our hearts and lives. Grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may this day be renewed by your Holy Spirit, through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with you and the same Spirit be honor and glory, now and forever. Amen.

### Assurance of Pardon 1 John 1:9

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

### Hymn 243 *How Firm a Foundation*

*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) The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only begotten Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary; He suffered under Pontius Pilate; was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; The third day he rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

*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** Acts 15:36-16:18 (Bible, p.924)

*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. We conclude by praying the Lord's Prayer in unison.*

**Prayer and The Lord's Prayer** Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in 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, for ever. Amen.

*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. Afterward, we sing our praise and thanks using the Doxology.*

**Offering and Doxology** (Hymn #570)

*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.*

**Prayer for Understanding**

**Sermon:** Rev. Jeremiah Montgomery

**Text** Luke 1:1-4 (Bible p.855)

**Title** The Greatest Question

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

**Hymn** 404 *The Church's One Foundation*

*We celebrate the Lord's Supper weekly to remember the death of Jesus and to look forward to the communion with him we will enjoy in the Kingdom of Heaven. Because the broken body and shed blood of Jesus is pictured in the bread and the cup and Christ is spiritually present when we partake with faith, we truly eat his body and drink his blood. All baptized members of a Christian Church who have professed their faith are invited to come to the Lord's Table if they seek forgiveness and freedom from their sins through Jesus, unless otherwise prohibited. Because this meal also reminds us of our unity and communion with one another, we wait to partake together. Both wine and grape juice are served and the communion bread is gluten free.*

**The Lord's Supper**

**Diaconal Offering**

**Hymn** 324 *Thou Who Was Rich beyond All Splendor*

*God sends us with a blessing from his word.*

**God's Blessing**

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**Worship Leader and Preacher:** Rev. Jeremiah Montgomery, General Secretary for the Committee on Home Missions

**Musician** Sara Meilahn Tyson

**Sound** Nathan Hanko