



Morning Worship and Communion Service

11:15 A.M.

February 9, 2025

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

God's Call to Worship Psalm 30:4-5

Sing praises to the Lord, O you his saints, and give thanks to his holy name. For his anger is but for a moment, and his favor is for a lifetime. Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning.

Hymn 242 *Father, Long Before Creation*

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 Ecclesiastes 7:20, 29 (Bible p.557)

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, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, you yourself give to us life and breath and everything. In you we live and move and have our being. You are the Author of life. Yet we regularly act as though we were the authors of our own existence. Every act of selfishness is sin, and every sin is a turning away from you, the Author of life – bringing a cascade of ruin and sadness into our lives, into the lives of others, and indeed into the creation itself. Grant us grace today to grieve over our sins. Forgive us of our guilt and cleanse us of all unrighteousness. We ask this not because we deserve it, but because Jesus earned it. In his name we pray, and in his promises we hope, amen."

Assurance of Pardon Isaiah 40:1-2

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

Psalm 23C *The Lord is My Shepherd*

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 #56-58*

Q 56. What do you believe concerning "the forgiveness of sins"?

A. I believe that God, because of Christ's satisfaction, will no longer remember any of my sins or my sinful nature which I need to struggle against all my life. Rather, by grace God grants me the righteousness of Christ to free me forever from judgment.

Q 57. How does “the resurrection of the body” comfort you?

A. Not only will my soul be taken immediately after this life to Christ its head,¹ but also my very flesh will be raised by the power of Christ, reunited with my soul, and made like Christ’s glorious body.

Q 58. How does the article concerning “life everlasting” comfort you?

A. Even as I already now experience in my heart the beginning of eternal joy, so after this life I will have perfect blessedness such as no eye has seen, no ear has heard, no human heart has ever imagined: a blessedness in which to praise God forever.

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 Isaiah 24:4-16 (Bible p.585)

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 Matthew 5:1-12 (Bible p.809)

Title The Echo of Eternity

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

Hymn 532 *Be Still My Soul*

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

Hymn *Come People of the Risen King* [see insert]

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 and Church Extension

Musician Jason Carpenter

Sound Pete Sorkness