

Lord’s Day Worship

A DIVINE SERVICE OF COVENANT RENEWAL

EPIPHANY SEASON

January 22, 2023

PRELUDE

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Quiet our minds, O God, and gladden our hearts; that, as we come together to worship you, we may, by your Spirit, be drawn near to your presence and find that this place is indeed the very gate of heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SILENT PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

GOD CALLS US

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 105:1-6

†HYMN OF PRAISE

"O Worship the King"..... Selection 2

†SALUTATION AND PRAYER OF PRAISE

Pastor: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People: And blessed be his Kingdom, now and forever!

The LORD be with you!

And also with you!

Ruth 2:4

Our help is in the name of the LORD,

Who made heaven and earth!

Ps. 124:8

For we have died, and our life is hidden with Christ in God.

When the Christ who is our life appears,

Col.

we also will appear with him in glory. Alleluia!

3:3-4

Let us pray together:

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, you are slow to anger and full of mercy, welcoming sinners who return to you with penitent hearts, receiving in your loving embrace all who come home to you. Seat us at your bountiful table of grace, that, with all your children, we may feast with delight on all that satisfies our hunger and thirst for righteousness; through your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen!

GOD CLEANSSES US

†PRAYER OF CONFESSION..... PSALM 51:1-3, 7-12

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!

+Silent Prayer of Confession +

Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit. All this I ask in the name of my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

†DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Now lift up your heads, and hear these words of comfort and good news from the Scriptures...

"I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come? My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth."

Psalm 121:1-2

Pastor: Our heavenly Father, in his great mercy, has given his only Son to die for you, and for his sake forgives you all your sins; wherefore as Christ's minister and by his authority, I declare to you that all of your sins are forgiven, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen!

†*"Doxology"* Selection 733

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here

below: Alleluia, Alleluia! Praise him above, ye heavenly host, praise Father,

Son, and Holy Ghost: O praise him, O praise him, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

GOD CONVERSES WITH US

FIRST READING Genesis 1:26-31

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

SECOND READING..... Deuteronomy 11:8-15, 12:5-7

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

†GOSPEL READING John 6:1-14

This is the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ!

Praise be to you, O Christ!

†HYMN OF PRAISE

"Fairest Lord Jesus" Selection 170

†We Respond by Confessing Our Faith..... *Nicene Creed*

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds; God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God; begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made.

Who, for us men and for our salvation, came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us, under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and is seated on the right hand of the Father; and he shall come again, with glory, to judge the living and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins; and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen!

†*"Gloria Patri"* Selection 735

SERMON TEXT. Genesis 4:2-5a

PREACHING OF GOD’S WORD

"Offering the Fruits of Our Labor to God" Pastor Josh Anderson

II. Exposition of Genesis 4-12: The True History of the World

†PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Pr: We beseech you to hear us, O Lord God: That it may please you to rule and govern your holy Church universal in the right way,

P: We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.

To illumine our pastors and all ministers of the gospel, with true knowledge and understanding of your Word; and that, both by their preaching and their living, they may show it forth accordingly,

We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.

To send forth laborers into your harvest; to prosper the work of all missionaries, especially Wes & Jami; Doug & Masha; Eric & Allison; Graham & Sarah; John & Ellen; Bradford & Christina; Justin & Kathryn; to make your saving health known unto all nations; and to hasten the coming of your kingdom,

We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.

To give us a heart to love and fear you, and diligently to keep your commandments,

We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.

To strengthen the bonds of those in Holy Matrimony; to uphold the widowed and abandoned; and to comfort all whose homes are torn by strife,

We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.

To protect the unborn and their parents, and to preserve all women in childbirth,

We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.

To care for those who have lost children or face infertility, and to provide for young children and orphans,

We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.

To visit the lonely and those who grieve; to strengthen all who suffer in mind, body and spirit; to heal the sick; to comfort with your presence those who are failing and infirm,

We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.

To strengthen those who stand; to encourage the faint-hearted; to raise up those who fall; and finally to beat down Satan under our feet,

We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation...

Hear us, Lord;

For your mercy is great.

All these prayers, and even the desires of our hearts that are known only by your Holy Spirit, we offer to you, our Heavenly Father;

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen!

GOD COMMUNES WITH US

†COMMUNION HYMN

"At the Lamb’s High Feast We Sing"..... Selection 420

†The Great Thanksgiving

Pastor: The Lord be with you!

People: And also with you!

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord!

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise!

Pastor: It is indeed right and good and a joyful thing, always and everywhere, to give thanks unto you, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty, Everlasting God. Therefore, in union with the saints who have gone before us and the whole church on earth, we praise you, joining our voices with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

All: *Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts; heaven and earth are full of your glory. Glory be to you, O Lord Most High!*

INVITATION TO THE LORD’S TABLE

Prayer of Preparation & Faith

We do not presume to come to this your table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your steadfast love, which endures forever. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table. But you are the same Lord, whose character is always to have mercy. Grant us, therefore, gracious Father, to partake of the body and blood of your son Jesus Christ, that we may grow into his likeness, and evermore abide in union with him, and he with us. Amen.

Prayer of Thanksgiving for the Bread

Pastor: Alleluia, Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us:

All: **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!**

‡Prayer of Thanksgiving for the Wine

Pastor: Let us confess the mystery of our faith:

All: **Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again!**

GOD COMMISSIONS US

†Prayer of Dedication

All gracious God, who of your infinite love gave your only begotten son, Jesus Christ, to die for our sins and rise again for our justification, and have made us partakers of your divine nature through the gift of the Holy Spirit; accept the fruits of our labors which we now present to you in this offering and also our very selves as we stand before you; and hear us as we pray as your Son taught us: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen!

†Hymn of Praise

"Hallelujah, Praise Jehovah, O My Soul" (Psalm 146) Selection 57

†Pastoral Benediction

Pastor: The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace.

People: **Amen!**

†Those who are able are invited to stand.

Genesis 4:2-5a

[2] And again, she bore his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, and Cain a worker of the ground. [3] In the course of time Cain brought to the LORD an offering of the fruit of the ground, [4] and Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions. And the LORD had regard for Abel and his offering, [5] but for Cain and his offering he had no regard.

"The first, the basic definition of man is that he is the priest. He stands in the center of the world and unifies it in his act of blessing God, of both receiving the world from God and offering it to God—and by filling the world with this thanksgiving, he transforms his life, and the one that he receives from the world, into life with God, into communion with him."

– Alexander Schmemmann, *For the Life of the World*



Epiphany Season

January 22, 2023

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