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## MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE

### 10:15 AM

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#### Prelude and Silent Prayer

*(Upon entering the sanctuary, please remain silent as the congregation prepares for worship.)*

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of your only-begotten Son, so that by his coming we may be enabled to serve and obey you with pure hearts and minds. Lighten the darkness of our hearts even now, by coming to us with your Holy Spirit, so that we may readily receive your good and gracious gifts today through your appointed means of grace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen!

#### Welcome and Announcements

Choral Anthem “O God Beyond All Praising”

#### God Calls Us to Worship

†Call to Worship Revelation 19:1-5  
After this I heard what seemed to be the loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, crying out, “Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God, for his judgments are true and just; for he has judged the great prostitute who corrupted the earth with her immorality, and has avenged on her the blood of his servants.” Once more they cried out, “Hallelujah! The smoke from her goes up forever and ever.” And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who was seated on the throne, saying, “Amen. Hallelujah!” And from the throne came a voice saying, “Praise our God, all you his servants, you who fear him, small and great.”

†Opening Prayer

†Responsive Reading Rev. 1:4-5; Psa. 80  
Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the

firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth.

**Amen!**

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock!

**You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth.**

Before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh,

**Stir up your might and come to save us!**

Then we shall not turn back from you;

**give us life, and we will call upon your name!**

Restore us, O LORD God of hosts!

**Let your face shine, that we may be saved!**

†“O God Beyond All Praising” #241

#### God Assures Us of Forgiveness

Call to Confession Psalm 51:13-17

Confession of Sin (Abraham Kuyper, *Our Worship*)

**O eternal God and merciful Father, we humble ourselves before your great majesty, against which we have frequently and grievously sinned. We acknowledge our waywardness, and are heartily sorry for all our sins. Nevertheless, O Lord God and gracious Father, we know that you do not desire the death of the sinner, but rather that he should turn to you and live. Wash us in the pure fountain of Jesus’ blood, so that we may become clean and white as snow. Inscribe your law upon the tablets of our hearts. And give us the desire and strength to walk in the ways of your precepts. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever. Amen!**

Assurance of Pardon Isaiah 25:6-9

On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine, of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined. And he will swallow up on this mountain the covering that is cast over all peoples, the veil that is spread over all



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## EVENING CATECHISM SERVICE

6:00 PM

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### Prelude and Silent Prayer

*(Upon entering the sanctuary, please remain silent as the congregation prepares for worship.)*

O Lord, my heart is not lifted up; my eyes are not raised too high; I do not occupy myself with things too great and too marvelous for me. But I have calmed and quieted my soul, like a weaned child with its mother; like a weaned child is my soul within me. O Israel, hope in the Lord from this time forth and forevermore. (Psalm 131)

†Call to Worship Psalm 144:1-2

†Opening Prayer

†Responsive Reading Psalms 124:8; Eph. 1:2

Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**Who made heaven and earth.**

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

**Amen!**

†Psalm 144B

†The Apostles' Creed #560

The Life of Gratitude Philippians 2:1-11

So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.

**Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.**

Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

**Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.**

And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

**Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**

Pastoral Prayer *(The Worship Sourcebook, based on Heidelberg Catechism Q. & A. 122-129)*

**Our Father who is in heaven, hallowed be your name.**

Help us to truly know you, to honor, glorify, and praise you for all your works and for all that shines forth from them: your almighty power, wisdom, kindness, justice, mercy, and truth. Help us to direct all our living—what we think, say, and do—so that your name will never be blasphemed because of us but always honored and praised.

**Your kingdom come.**

Rule us by your Word and Spirit in such a way that more and more we submit to you. Preserve and increase your church. Destroy the devil's work; destroy every force which revolts against you and every conspiracy against your holy Word. Do all this until your kingdom fully comes, when you will be all in all.

**Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.**

Help us and all people to renounce our own wills and without any back talk to obey your will, for it alone is good. Help everyone carry out his office and calling, as willingly and faithfully as the angels in heaven.

**Give us this day our daily bread.**

Provide for all our physical needs so that we may recognize that you are the only source of everything good, and that neither our care and work nor your gifts can do us any good without your blessing. Therefore may we withdraw our

trust from all creatures and place it in you alone.

**And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.**

Because of Christ's blood, do not impute to us, poor sinners that we are, any of the transgressions we do or the evil that constantly clings to us. Forgive us just as we are fully determined, as evidence of your grace in us, wholeheartedly to forgive our neighbors.

**And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

We are so weak that we cannot stand on our own for a moment, and our sworn enemies—the devil, the world, and our own flesh—never stop attacking us. And so, Lord, uphold us and make us strong by the power of your Holy Spirit, so that we may not be defeated in this spiritual fight, but may firmly resist our enemies until we finally win the complete victory.

**For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever.**

We have made all these petitions of you because, as our all-powerful king, you are both willing and able to give us all that is good; and because your holy name, and not we ourselves, should receive all the praise, forever. For it is much more certain that God has heard my prayer than I feel in my heart that I desire such things from him.

**Amen!**

*Advent Hymn*

†“Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers” #388

Scripture Reading Deuteronomy 4:9-14  
This is the Word of the Lord. (p. 148)

**Thanks be to God!**

Prayer for Illumination  
Sermon

YOU SAW NO FORM ON THE DAY THAT THE  
LORD SPOKE TO YOU  
LORD'S DAY 35A  
THE HEIDELBERG CATECHISM

96 Q. What is God's will for us in the second commandment?

**A. That we in no way make any image of God nor worship him in any other way than has been commanded in God's Word.**

97 Q. May we then not make any image at all?

**A. God cannot and may not be visibly portrayed in any way. Although creatures may be portrayed, yet God forbids making or having such images in order to worship them or serve God through them.**

98 Q. But may not images, as books for the unlearned, be permitted in churches?

**A. No, we should not try to be wiser than God. He wants the Christian community instructed by the living preaching of his Word— not by idols that cannot even talk.**

†Psalm 115A

Offering

General Fund

†Benediction

2 Corinthians 13:14

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**Amen!**

†“Christ Shall Have Dominion”

#421

Postlude

† = please stand, if able

**bold** = congregational response