
MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE
10:15 AM

Prelude and Silent Prayer

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

O God, who, by the mouth of your holy prophets, promised that your only-begotten Son should come in the flesh for us, and be born of a pure virgin, and has in these last days fulfilled your word; grant, we beseech you, that when he who came once to redeem the world comes to be our Judge, we may not be ashamed before him at his coming; through the merits of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Welcome and Announcements

God Calls Us to Worship

†Call to Worship Hebrews 10:19-22

Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

†Opening Prayer

†Responsive Reading Rev. 1:4-5; Isa. 40:3-5

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!

A voice cries: In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD;

Make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low;

The uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.

And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together,

For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

†“Come, Thou Almighty King” #212

God Assures Us of Forgiveness

Call to Confession 1 John 1:5-10

Confession of Sin

Almighty and most merciful Father; we have erred, and strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against your holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; and we have done those things which we ought not to have done; and so we are helpless without you. O Lord, have mercy upon us, miserable offenders. Spare us, as we confess our faults, restore us, as we are penitent, according to your promises declared to us in Christ Jesus our Lord, and grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake, that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and devout life, to the glory of your holy Name. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon Hebrews 7:23-25

The former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office, but he holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues forever. Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.

†Psalm 76

Pastoral Prayer

The Advent Psalm

†Psalm 96

God Speaks to Us Through His Word

Old Testament Reading Exodus 40:34-38
This is the Word of the Lord. (p. 80)
Thanks be to God!

New Testament Reading John 1:1-18
This is the Word of the Lord. (p. 886)
Thanks be to God!

Prayer for Illumination
Sermon

JOHN 1:1-18
WE HAVE SEEN HIS GLORY
THE HOPE OF IMMANUEL #2
i. In the Tabernacle
ii. In Jesus
iii. In the Future

The Advent Hymn
†“The Sands of Time are Sinking” #471

God Communes with Us in the Lord’s Supper

Preparation and Prayer of Consecration
By the promise of God this bread and wine are
for us the body and blood of Christ. Lift up
your hearts!
We lift them up to the Lord!

Distribution of the Bread and Wine
Prayer of Thanksgiving

Offering 1st: General Fund
2nd: Word and Deed

God Blesses Us and Sends Us to Be a Blessing

†Benediction Numbers 6:24-26
The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord
make his face to shine upon you and be
gracious to you; the Lord lift up his
countenance upon you and give you peace.
Amen!

†Doxology (unannounced, #568)
**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Postlude

† = please stand, if able
bold = congregational response

Invitation to the Lord’s Supper

We invite you to participate in the Lord’s Supper
with us if you are a professing member in good
standing of a Christian church. This means that:

1. you have been baptized;
2. you have made a public profession of
faith in Jesus Christ;
3. and you desire to live a godly life in
fellowship with his church.

Do you know your place in Christ? Are you
known as faithful to Christ by his church? Then
you too are welcome at his table.

EVENING CATECHISM SERVICE

6:00 PM

Prelude and Silent Prayer

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

Merciful God, our heavenly Father, you sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation. Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, age after age. Amen!

†Call to Worship Psalm 118:1

Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever!

†Opening Prayer

†Responsive Reading Psalms 124:8; Ephesians 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 118A, Stanzas 1-2, 7-8

†Confession of Faith 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;
suffered under Pontius Pilate; was
crucified, dead, and buried; he
descended into hell;¹ 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**

**shall come to judge the living and the
dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy
catholic² Church, the communion of
saints; the forgiveness of sins; the
resurrection of the body; and the life
everlasting. Amen.**

†“All Creatures of Our God and King”

Stanza 5, #248

**Let all things their Creator bless, and
worship him in humbleness, O praise
him, alleluia! Praise, praise the Father,
praise the Son, and praise the Spirit,
three in one, O praise him, O praise him,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

The Life of Gratitude

Exodus 20:1-17
Selection #7, p. 1049

Pastoral Prayer (adapted from *Psalter Hymnal*, 1976,
pp. 184-185)

O Lord, Almighty God, we pray that your holy name may not be blasphemed on account of our sins. For we have sinned against you in many ways. We do not obey your holy Word as it is necessary for us. Through ignorance, unthankfulness, and discontent, we daily provoke you to wrath. We confess, Lord, that you are just in inflicting punishment upon us. But we beseech you, O Lord, remember your great mercy and have compassion upon us. Teach us truly to know our sins and sincerely to mourn for them and to amend our life. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Strengthen the ministers of your Church here and everywhere in order that they may faithfully and steadfastly preach your holy Word. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

¹ See Heidelberg Catechism, Q&A 44; Canons of Dort, 2.4.

² “Catholic” means universal; that is, there is one church across all times, places, and peoples (Belgic Confession, art. 27; Heidelberg Catechism, Q&A 54).

Likewise, Lord, give strength to our rulers that they may wield the sword of civil authority in justice and equity. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

We pray particularly for...Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Keep us, we beseech you, from all hypocrisy and unfaithfulness, and frustrate all evil and subtle designs against your Word and your Church. O Lord, do not withhold from us your Word and your Spirit, but grant us increase in faith, and patience and steadfastness in all suffering and adversity. Comfort your Church, and deliver your people from opposition, ridicule, and tyranny, which it suffers at the hands of wicked men. Impart from on high strength to those that are sorely burdened with sorrow. And visit upon us your peace through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who gave us this sure promise: "Truly, truly, I say to you, whatever you ask of the Father in my name, he will give it to you," and taught us to pray, saying:

Our Father who is 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen!

Advent Hymn

†"Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers" #388

Scripture Reading Ecclesiastes 5:1-7
This is the Word of the Lord. (p. 555)
Thanks be to God!

Prayer for Illumination
Sermon

THE WISDOM OF THE SECOND COMMANDMENT
LORD'S DAY 35B
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 119L

Offering General Fund

†Benediction 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24
Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

Amen!

†"Abide with Me" #159

Postlude

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bold = congregational response