

Christ Church

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Reformed Teaching † *Re-forming People*

Prelude

Moments of Concern

Deployment Prayer for Wade Dennis

Call to Worship: Psalm 107:1-2 Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever. Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, whom He has redeemed from the hand of the enemy.

Heidelberg Catechism: Lord's Day 26

Q. How does baptism remind you and assure you that Christ's one sacrifice on the cross is for you personally?

A. In this way: Christ instituted this outward washing and with it gave the promise that, as surely as water washes away the dirt from the body, so certainly his blood and his Spirit wash away my soul's impurity, in other words, all my sins.

Q. What does it mean to be washed with Christ's blood and Spirit?

A. To be washed with Christ's blood means that God, by grace, has forgiven my sins because of Christ's blood poured out for me in his sacrifice on the cross. To be washed with Christ's Spirit means that the Holy Spirit has renewed me and set me apart to be a member of Christ so that more and more I become dead to sin and increasingly live a holy and blameless life.

Q. Where does Christ promise that we are washed with his blood and Spirit as surely as we are washed with the water of baptism?

A. In the institution of baptism where he says: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." "He who believes and is baptized will be saved, but he who does not believe will be condemned." This promise is repeated when Scripture calls baptism the washing of regeneration and the washing away of sins.

Call to Confession: Isaiah 55:7 Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the Lord, and He will have mercy on him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon.

Prayer of Confession: Father in heaven, we lack the faith to believe that we have been cleansed from sin by Christ's blood and Spirit, and so we have not made proper effort to put to death our old natures and to die to sin. We have failed both to recognize how wicked our sins truly are and to realize how precious is the washing we have received. Forgive us and grant us grace to live lives of praise, glorifying You before the world. We pray in the Name of Jesus who shed His blood so we could be pardoned.

Amen.

Kyrie: (recited, not sung)

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

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.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gloria Patri: (recited, not sung)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost: as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Collect of the Day: O God, You are our source of strength and help. Guide us through this world so that we might know how to recognize and follow the path of holiness our Savior has opened for us. Lead us into Your glory. We pray through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***Old Testament Lesson (please stand and read responsively):**

Isaiah 35:1-10

The wilderness and the wasteland shall be glad for them,
And the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose;

² It shall blossom abundantly and rejoice,
Even with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
The excellence of Carmel and Sharon.
They shall see the glory of the LORD,
The excellency of our God.

³ Strengthen the weak hands,
And make firm the feeble knees.

⁴ Say to those *who are* fearful-hearted,
“Be strong, do not fear!
Behold, your God will come *with* vengeance,
With the recompense of God;
He will come and save you.”

⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
And the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped.

⁶ Then the lame shall leap like a deer,
And the tongue of the dumb sing.
For waters shall burst forth in the wilderness,
And streams in the desert.

⁷ The parched ground shall become a pool,
And the thirsty land springs of water;
In the habitation of jackals, where each lay,
There shall be grass with reeds and rushes.

⁸ A highway shall be there, and a road,
And it shall be called the Highway of Holiness.
The unclean shall not pass over it,
But it *shall be* for others.
Whoever walks the road, although a fool,
Shall not go astray.

⁹ No lion shall be there,
Nor shall *any* ravenous beast go up on it;
It shall not be found there.

But the redeemed shall walk *there*,

¹⁰ And the ransomed of the LORD shall return,
And come to Zion with singing,
With everlasting joy on their heads.

They shall obtain joy and gladness,
And sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

*Gospel Lesson: *Matthew 11:2-6*

² And when John had heard in prison about the works of Christ,
he sent two of his disciples ³ and said to Him, “Are You the Coming
One, or do we look for another?”

⁴ Jesus answered and said to them, “Go and tell John the things which
you hear and see: ⁵ *The* blind see and *the* lame walk; *the* lepers are
cleansed and *the* deaf hear; *the* dead are raised up and *the* poor have
the gospel preached to them. ⁶ And blessed is he who is not offended
because of Me.”

Children’s Sermon

Sermon: Isaiah 35:1-10

Prayers of the People

Lord’s Prayer (unison): Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be
Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy 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 Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory,
forever. Amen.

*Benediction

*Postlude