

Christ Church

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Reformed Teaching † *Re-forming People*

Prelude

Moments of Concern

Call to Worship: Psalm 112

Praise the LORD!

Blessed *is* the man *who* fears the LORD,
Who delights greatly in His commandments.

² His descendants will be mighty on earth;
The generation of the upright will be blessed.

³ Wealth and riches *will be* in his house,
And his righteousness endures forever.

⁴ Unto the upright there arises light in the darkness;
He is gracious, and full of compassion, and righteous.

⁵ A good man deals graciously and lends;
He will guide his affairs with discretion.

⁶ Surely he will never be shaken;
The righteous will be in everlasting remembrance.

⁷ He will not be afraid of evil tidings;
His heart is steadfast, trusting in the LORD.

⁸ His heart *is* established;
He will not be afraid,
Until he sees *his desire* upon his enemies.

⁹ He has dispersed abroad,
He has given to the poor;

His righteousness endures forever;
His horn will be exalted with honor.

¹⁰ The wicked will see *it* and be grieved;
He will gnash his teeth and melt away;
The desire of the wicked shall perish.

Heidelberg Catechism: Lord's Day 29

Q. Are the bread and wine changed into the real body and blood of Christ?

A. No. Just as the water of baptism is not changed into Christ's blood and does not itself wash away sins but is simply God's sign and assurance, so too the bread of the Lord's supper is not changed into the actual body of Christ even though it is called the body of Christ in keeping with the nature and language of sacraments.

Q. Why then does Christ call the bread his body and the cup his blood, or the new covenant in his blood? (Paul uses the words, a participation in Christ's body and blood.)

A. Christ has good reason for these words. He wants to teach us that as bread and wine nourish our temporal life, so too his crucified body and poured-out blood truly nourish our souls for eternal life. But more important, he wants to assure us, by this visible sign and pledge, that we, through the Holy Spirit's work, share in his true body and blood as surely as our mouths receive these holy signs in his remembrance, and that all of his suffering and obedience are as definitely ours as if we personally had suffered and paid for our sins.

Call to Confession: Acts 3:19 "Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord."

Prayer of Confession: Lord, we confess to You that we are displeased with ourselves. We believe that Christ has saved us, but we have failed to live as those who truly partake of Him daily. Instead, we have lived as if we are free to please ourselves, free to try to find our heaven here on earth instead of waiting to share Christ's glory when He returns, and free to depend on ourselves instead of relying on the Holy Spirit to direct and govern our lives. Our prayers show our lack of concern for Your glorious kingdom. Pardon and cleanse us and set our hearts in order. We pray in Jesus' Name. 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: Lord, You are the Author and Giver of all good things. Graft into our hearts such love of You that we will be free to imitate Your generosity. Increase in us true religion, and nourish us with Your goodness. We pray through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***Old Testament Lesson: Deuteronomy 14:22-15:18**

²² “You shall truly tithe all the increase of your grain that the field produces year by year.

²³ **And you shall eat before the LORD your God, in the place where He chooses to make His name abide, the tithe of your grain and your new wine and your oil, of the firstborn of your herds and your flocks, that you may learn to fear the LORD your God always.**

²⁴ But if the journey is too long for you, so that you are not able to carry *the tithe*, or if the place where the LORD your God chooses to put His name is too far from you, when the LORD your God has blessed you,

²⁵ **then you shall exchange *it* for money, take the money in your hand, and go to the place which the LORD your God chooses.**

²⁶ And you shall spend that money for whatever your heart desires: for oxen or sheep, for wine or similar drink, for whatever your heart desires; you shall eat there before the LORD your God, and you shall rejoice, you and your household.

²⁷ **You shall not forsake the Levite who *is* within your gates, for he has no part nor inheritance with you.**

²⁸ “At the end of *every* third year you shall bring out the tithe of your produce of that year and store *it* up within your gates.

²⁹ **And the Levite, because he has no portion nor inheritance with you, and the stranger and the fatherless and the widow who *are* within your gates, may come and eat and be satisfied, that the LORD your God may bless you in all the work of your hand which you do.**

1 “At the end of *every* seven years you shall grant a release of *debts*.

² **And this *is* the form of the release: Every creditor who has lent *anything* to his neighbor shall release *it*; he shall not require *it* of his neighbor or his brother, because it is called the LORD’s release.**

³ Of a foreigner you may require *it*; but you shall give up your claim to what is owed by your brother,

⁴ **except when there may be no poor among you; for the LORD will greatly bless you in the land which the LORD your God is giving you to possess *as* an inheritance—**

⁵ only if you carefully obey the voice of the LORD your God, to observe with care all these commandments which I command you today.

⁶ **For the LORD your God will bless you just as He promised you; you shall lend to many nations, but you shall not borrow; you shall reign over many nations, but they shall not reign over you.**

⁷ “If there is among you a poor man of your brethren, within any of the gates in your land which the LORD your God is giving you, you shall not harden your heart nor shut your hand from your poor brother,

⁸ **but you shall open your hand wide to him and willingly lend him sufficient for his need, whatever he needs.**

⁹ Beware lest there be a wicked thought in your heart, saying, ‘The seventh year, the year of release, is at hand,’ and your eye be evil against your poor brother and you give him nothing, and he cry out to the LORD against you, and it become sin among you.

¹⁰ **You shall surely give to him, and your heart should not be grieved when you give to him, because for this thing the LORD your God will bless you in all your works and in all to which you put your hand.**

¹¹ For the poor will never cease from the land; therefore I command you, saying, ‘You shall open your hand wide to your brother, to your poor and your needy, in your land.’

¹² “If your brother, a Hebrew man, or a Hebrew woman, is sold to you and serves you six years, then in the seventh year you shall let him go free from you.

¹³ And when you send him away free from you, you shall not let him go away empty-handed;

¹⁴ you shall supply him liberally from your flock, from your threshing floor, and from your winepress. *From what* the LORD your God has blessed you with, you shall give to him.

¹⁵ You shall remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the LORD your God redeemed you; therefore I command you this thing today.

¹⁶ And if it happens that he says to you, ‘I will not go away from you,’ because he loves you and your house, since he prospers with you,

¹⁷ then you shall take an awl and thrust *it* through his ear to the door, and he shall be your servant forever. Also to your female servant you shall do likewise.

¹⁸ It shall not seem hard to you when you send him away free from you; for he has been worth a double hired servant in serving you six years. Then the LORD your God will bless you in all that you do.

***Epistle Lesson:** *Hebrews 11:24-27*

²⁴ By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter, ²⁵choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin

²⁶ esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward.

²⁷ By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured as seeing Him who is invisible.

***Gospel Lesson:** *Matthew 5:42*

Give to him who asks you, and from him who wants to borrow from you do not turn away.

Missions Moment

Children’s Sermon

Sermon: Generosity – Part 3

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**