

Christ Church

Pastor John Nothwang, Worship Leader

Katrina Gentsch, Organist

Daniel Kletzing, Acolyte

Reformed Teaching † *Re-forming People*

Prelude

Moments of Concern

Call to Worship: Psalm 22:25-26

My praise shall be of You in the great assembly;

I will pay My vows before those who fear Him.

The poor shall eat and be satisfied;

Those who seek Him will praise the LORD.

Let your heart live forever!

Heidelberg Catechism: Lord's Day 31

Q. What are the keys of the kingdom?

A. The preaching of the holy gospel and Christian discipline toward repentance. Both preaching and discipline open the kingdom of heaven to believers and close it to unbelievers.

Q. How does preaching the gospel open and close the kingdom of heaven?

A. According to the command of Christ: The kingdom of heaven is opened by proclaiming and publicly declaring to each and every believer that, as often as he accepts the gospel promise in true faith, God, because of what Christ has done, truly forgives all his sins. The kingdom of heaven is closed, however, by proclaiming and publicly declaring to unbelievers and hypocrites that, as long as they do not repent, the anger of God and eternal condemnation rest on them. God's judgment, both in this life and in the life to come, is based on this gospel testimony.

Q. How is the kingdom of heaven closed and opened by Christian discipline?

A. According to the command of Christ: If anyone, though called a Christian professes unchristian teachings or lives an unchristian life, if

after repeated brotherly counsel, he refuses to abandon his errors and wickedness, and, if after being reported to the church, that is, to its officers, he fails to respond also to their admonition – such a one the officers exclude from the Christian fellowship by withholding the sacraments from him, and God himself excludes him from the kingdom of Christ. Such a person, when he promises and demonstrates genuine reform, is received again as a member of Christ and of his church.

Collect of the Day: Lord, grant us a right heart and strong conviction so that we would not be deterred from the mission entrusted to us to be generous witnesses of Your presence and power, even when the world around us seems to be in chaos, and the behavior of our society troubles us. Fill our affections with love for You. We pray through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***Old Testament Lesson:** *Proverbs 19:17*

He who has pity on the poor lends to the LORD,

And He will pay back what he has given.

***First Gospel Lesson:** *Matthew 6:19-24*

¹⁹ "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal;

²⁰ **but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.**

²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

²² **"The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light.**

²³ But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is that darkness!

²⁴ **"No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.**

***Second Gospel Lesson:** *Luke 12:29-34*

²⁹ "And do not seek what you should eat or what you should drink, nor have an anxious mind.

³⁰ **For all these things the nations of the world seek after, and your Father knows that you need these things.**

³¹ But seek the kingdom of God, and all these things shall be added to you.

³² **“Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.**

³³ Sell what you have and give alms; provide yourselves money bags which do not grow old, a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches nor moth destroys.

³⁴ **For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.**

Children’s Sermon

Sermon: Generosity – Part 5

***Reading of The Law: Exodus 20:1-17**

And God spoke all these words, saying:

² “I *am* the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

³ “You shall have no other gods before Me.

⁴ “You shall not make for yourself a carved image—any likeness of *anything* that *is* in heaven above, or that *is* in the earth beneath, or that *is* in the water under the earth; ⁵ you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, *am* a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth *generations* of those who hate Me, ⁶ but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.

⁷ “You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold *him* guiltless who takes His name in vain.

⁸ “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. ⁹ Six days you shall labor and do all your work, ¹⁰ but the seventh day *is* the Sabbath of the LORD your God. *In it* you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who *is* within your gates. ¹¹ For *in* six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that *is* in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.

¹² “Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God is giving you.

¹³ “You shall not murder.

¹⁴ “You shall not commit adultery.

¹⁵ “You shall not steal.

¹⁶ “You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

¹⁷ “You shall not covet your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that *is* your neighbor’s.”

Call to Confession: 1 Corinthians 11:27-29 Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord’s body.

Prayer of Confession: Father in heaven, we confess that we have not diligently applied ourselves to understand and heed the preaching of Your Word. We have lived as if there are no keys to the kingdom. This means we have been proud and independent-minded and have downplayed the authority of those You have appointed to lead in Your church. We have not loved discipline and have failed to honor its practice within the body of Christ. We have lacked faith to believe that the sometimes difficult ways you have taught us are best. Forgive us, and make us a body which works together to pursue holiness as we love You and each other. 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: 2 Chronicles 7:14 “If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.”

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.

Holy Communion

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**