

Christ Church

Prelude

Moments of Concern

Call to Worship: *Psalm 34:3* – Oh, magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt His name together.

Heidelberg Catechism: Lord's Day 16 (pages 16-17)

Q. Why did Christ have to go all the way to death?

A. Because God's justice and truth demand it: only the death of God's Son could pay for our sin.

Q. Why was He buried?

A. His burial testifies that He really died.

Q. Since Christ has died for us, why do we still have to die?

A. Our death does not pay the debt of our sins. Rather, it puts an end to our sinning and is our entrance into eternal life.

Q. What further advantage do we receive from Christ's sacrifice and death on the cross?

A. Through Christ's death our old selves are crucified, put to death, and buried with Him, so that the evil desires of the flesh may no longer rule us, but that instead we may dedicate ourselves as an offering of gratitude to Him.

Q. Why does the creed add: "He descended into hell"?

A. To assure me in times of personal crisis and temptation that Christ my Lord, by suffering unspeakable anguish, pain, and terror of soul, especially on the cross but also earlier, has delivered me from the anguish and torment of hell.

***Hymn of Adoration:** 323 *Holy! Holy! Holy! Lord God Almighty*

Call to Confession: *Psalm 51:16-17* – For You do not desire sacrifice, or else I would give it; You do not delight in burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and a contrite heart—these, O God, You will not despise.

Prayer of Confession: Father in heaven, forgive us for we have not loved our Savior as He has loved us. Even though we have been

purchased at the price of His blood, we have continued in the ways of the flesh. We have failed to consider ourselves crucified with Christ. We have broken Your laws and rebelled against our calling to offer ourselves in gratitude to our Savior. Have mercy on us. Give us grace that we might live the new life Jesus gives us. We pray in His Name. Amen.

Agnus Dei:

Women & Children: O Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

Men: O Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

All: O Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, grant us your peace. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon: *Isaiah 53:4-5* – Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gloria Patri: 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 (unison): Almighty God, we praise You for You have brought back our Lord Jesus from the dead. Fill us with the resurrection life of Christ so that we might live our lives to please You rather than the people of this world. Give us clear consciences and fix our hopes on the day of resurrection when our Lord will return and make us like He is. We pray through Jesus Christ our Lord who ever lives to make intercession for us. Amen.

***Old Testament Lesson:** *Proverbs 9:10* – The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

***Epistle Lesson:** *1 Thessalonians 2:1-4*

¹ For you yourselves know, brethren, that our coming to you was not in vain.

² But even after we had suffered before and were spitefully treated at Philippi, as you know, we were bold in our God to speak to you the gospel of God in much conflict.

³ For our exhortation did not come from error or uncleanness, nor was it in deceit.

⁴ But as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, even so we speak, not as pleasing men, but God who tests our hearts.

***Gospel Lesson:** *John 14:21* – He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him.

Missions Moment

Children's Sermon

***Hymn of Preparation:** *Psalm 98 (back of bulletin)*

Sermon: *1 Thessalonians 2:1-4*

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.

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

***Offertory Response:** Doxology

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.

***Prayer of Dedication**

***Hymn of Response:** Praise Book #34 – *In Christ Alone*

***Benediction**

***Threefold Amen**

***Postlude**