

Christ Church

Prelude

Moments of Concern

Call to Worship: *Revelation 5:9-10* – And they sang a new song, saying:

“You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals; for You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, and have made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth.”

Heidelberg Catechism: Lord’s Day 18 (pages 17-18)

Q. What do you mean by saying, “He ascended into heaven”?

A. That Christ, while His disciples watched, was lifted up from the earth into heaven and will be there for our good until He comes again to judge the living and the dead.

Q. But isn’t Christ with us until the end of the world as He promised us?

A. Christ is true man and true God. In His human nature Christ is not now on earth; but in His divinity, majesty, grace, and Spirit He is not absent from us for a moment.

Q. If His humanity is not present wherever His divinity is, then aren’t the two natures of Christ separated from each other?

A. Certainly not. Since divinity is not limited and is present everywhere, it is evident that Christ’s divinity is surely beyond the bounds of the humanity He has taken on, but at the same time His divinity is in and remains personally united to His humanity.

Q. How does Christ’s ascension into heaven benefit us?

A. First, He pleads our cause in heaven in the presence of His Father. Second, we have our own flesh in heaven – a guarantee that Christ our head will take us, His members, to Himself in heaven. Third, He sends His spirit to us on earth as a further guarantee. By the Spirit’s power we make the goal of our lives,

not earthly things, but the things above where Christ is, sitting at God’s right hand.

***Hymn of Adoration:** 349 “*O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing*”

Call to Confession: Ezekiel 18:30-32 “Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways,” says the Lord God. “Repent, and turn from all your transgressions, so that iniquity will not be your ruin. Cast away from you all the transgressions which you have committed, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit. For why should you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of one who dies,” says the Lord God. “Therefore turn and live!”

Prayer of Confession: Father in heaven, we recognize that our Savior has ascended into heaven and from there rules all things for the good of His people. Forgive us for failing to demonstrate His rule in our lives as we often behave as if we are citizens of this world instead of showing a yearning for heaven. We have lived lives of doubt, not being willing to give ourselves freely in service, and we have not given ourselves to You in love by walking in a manner worthy of the calling we have received to participate in Your kingdom and glory. Cleanse us and teach us to imitate our holy Savior. We pray in the Name of Jesus who intercedes for us this day. 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 Your holiness. Please give us grace to be rid of all things which do not belong in the lives of people who belong to such a holy God. We ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

***Old Testament Lesson:** *Proverbs 1:24-27*

²⁴ Because I have called and you refused, I have stretched out my hand and no one regarded,

²⁵ Because you disdained all my counsel, and would have none of my rebuke,

²⁶ I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your terror comes,

²⁷ When your terror comes like a storm, and your destruction comes like a whirlwind, when distress and anguish come upon you.

***Epistle Lesson:** *1 Thessalonians 2:1-12* (pages 1048-1049)

***Gospel Lesson:** *Luke 14:15-24* (page 924)

Children's Sermon

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

Sermon: *1 Thessalonians 2:9-12*

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:** 21 *"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"*

***Benediction**

***Threefold Amen**

***Postlude**