

## *Christ Church*

### **Prelude**

### **Moments of Concern**

**Call to Worship:** *Psalm 44:20-22, 26* – If we had forgotten the name of our God, or stretched out our hands to a foreign god, would not God search this out? For He knows the secrets of the heart. Yet for Your sake we are killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter... Arise for our help, and redeem us for Your mercies' sake.

**Heidelberg Catechism:** Lord's Day 21 (page 19)

*Q. What do you believe concerning "the holy catholic church"?*

A. I believe that the Son of God, through His Spirit and Word, out of the entire human race, from the beginning of the world to its end, gathers, protects, and preserves for Himself a community chosen for eternal life and united in true faith. And of this community I am and always will be a living member.

*Q. What do you understand by "the communion of saints"?*

A. First, that believers one and all, as members of this community, share in Christ and in all His treasures and gifts. Second, that each member should consider it his duty to use his gifts readily and cheerfully for the service and enrichment of the other members.

*Q. What do you believe concerning "the forgiveness of sins"?*

A. I believe that God, because of Christ's atonement, will never hold against me any of my sins nor my sinful nature which I need to struggle against all my life. Rather, in His grace God grants me the righteousness of Christ to free me forever from judgment.

**\*Hymn of Adoration:** 363 *"To God Be the Glory"*

**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 confess to you that we have not loved the church as we should. We have easily taken offence and separated from our brothers and sisters. We are not diligent in serving one another or praying for one another. We have neglected the gifts that You have given us or have instead been jealous of gifts You have given to others. We have even rebelled against Your gracious promises to forgive us and have lived in self-condemnation and doubt as if You could have lied to us when You promised to remove our sins. Forgive us and grant us grace to comply with Your will for our lives. We pray in Jesus' 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:** Psalm 103:10-13 – He has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor punished us according to our iniquities. For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is His mercy toward those who fear Him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us. As a father pities his children, so the Lord pities those who fear him.

**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):** O God, You are the King of glory. By the resurrection and ascension of our King Jesus, You have ensured His kingdom's victory over all enemies. Grant us Your Holy Spirit to equip us to live a life of unwavering faith and conviction before Your enemies in this evil age. We pray through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**\*Old Testament Lesson:** *Proverbs 29:27* – An unjust man is an abomination to the righteous, and he who is upright in the way is an abomination to the wicked.

**\*Epistle Lesson:** *1 Thessalonians 3:1-5* (page 1049)

**\*Gospel Lesson:** *John 15:18-25* (pages 956-957)

### **Missions Moment**

### **Children's Sermon**

**\*Hymn of Preparation:** *"We Will Feast in the House of Zion"* (back of bulletin)

**Sermon:** *1 Thessalonians 3:1-5*

### **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. men.

### **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 #8 *"Before the Throne"*

**\*Benediction**

**\*Threefold Amen**

**\*Postlude**