

## *Christ Church*

### **Prelude**

### **Moments of Concern**

**Graduate Recognition:** Nicholas Bettwy and Brandon White

**Call to Worship:** *Psalm 123:1-2* – Unto You I lift up my eyes, O You who dwell in the heavens. Behold, as the eyes of servants look to the hand of their masters, as the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress, so our eyes look to the LORD our God, until He has mercy on us.

**Heidelberg Catechism:** Lord's Day 24 (pages 20-21)

*Q. Why can't the good we do make us right with God, or at least help make us right with Him?*

A. Because the righteousness which can pass God's scrutiny must be entirely perfect and must in every way measure up to the divine law. Even the very best we do in this life is imperfect and stained with sin.

*Q. How can you say that the good we do doesn't earn anything when God promises to reward it in this life and the next?*

A. This reward is not earned; it is a gift of grace.

*Q. But doesn't this teaching make people indifferent and wicked?*

A. No. It is impossible for those grafted into Christ by true faith not to produce fruits of gratitude.

**\*Hymn of Adoration:** 343 *"Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above"*

**Call to Confession:** *Psalm 119:132-133* – Look upon me and be merciful to me, as Your custom is toward those who love Your name. Direct my steps by Your word, and let no iniquity have dominion over me.

**Prayer of Confession:** Father in heaven, we confess to You that even the deeds we think are good are actually polluted by sin. Cleanse us and the works that we do so that they might be pleasing in Your sight. We often think more highly of ourselves than we ought to think, and that means we think less of You than we ought to think, robbing You of the glory and honor that is rightfully Yours. Our lives daily lack gratitude for the sacrifice of Christ, our justification, our home in

heaven and Your Spirit who lives within us and makes us alive. We confess that we love too little because we forget how much we have been forgiven. We pray for Your mercy and forgiveness in the Name of Jesus our Savior. 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 strength of all who trust in You. We are dependent on You to help us do the works that please You. Give us grace to love each other as You intend for us to do. We pray through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**\*First Epistle Lesson:** *1 Thessalonians 3:9-13* (page 1049)

**\*Second Epistle Lesson:** *Hebrews 3:12-13; 10:24-25*

L: Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God;

**C: but exhort one another daily, while it is called "Today," lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.**

L: And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works,

**C: not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.**

**\*Gospel Lesson:** *John 15:11-13* (page 956)

**Children's Sermon**

**\*Hymn of Preparation:** *"He Will Keep You"* (back of bulletin)

**Sermon:** *1 Thessalonians 3:11-13*

**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:** 462 *"Living for Jesus"*

**\*Benediction**

**\*Threefold Amen**

**\*Postlude**