

Christ Church

Prelude

Moments of Concern

Call to Worship: *Psalm 19:14* – Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my strength and my Redeemer.

Heidelberg Catechism: Lord's Day 33 (page 27)

Q. What is involved in genuine repentance or conversion?

A. Two things: the dying-away of the old self, and the coming-to-life of the new.

Q. What is the dying-away of the old self?

A. It is to be genuinely sorry for sin, to hate it more and more, and to run away from it.

Q. What is the coming-to-life of the new self?

A. It is wholehearted joy in God through Christ and a delight to do every kind of good as God wants us to.

Q. What do we do that is good?

A. Only that which arises out of true faith, conforms to God's law, and is done for His glory; and not that which is based on what we think is right or on established human tradition.

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

Call to Confession: *Ezra 9:5-6* – At the evening sacrifice I arose from my fasting; and having torn my garment and my robe, I fell on my knees and spread out my hands to the LORD my God. And I said: "O my God, I am too ashamed and humiliated to lift up my face to You, my God, for our iniquities have risen higher than our heads, and our guilt has grown up to the heavens."

Prayer of Confession: Almighty and most merciful Father, we have erred and strayed from Your ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts and have not hated our sins. We have offended against Your holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; and we have done those things which we ought not to have done; and there is nothing good in us. We have fallen far short of Your commands to

grow in holiness. O Lord, have mercy upon us, miserable offenders. Spare us, O God, who confess our faults. Restore us who are penitent; according to Your promises declared unto us in Christ Jesus our Lord. Grant that we may produce truly good works arising from faith, conforming to Your law and executed reverently for Your glory. Amen.

Have Mercy:

Have mercy on us. Have mercy on us.

Oh Lord, have mercy. Oh Lord, have mercy.

Oh, help my unbelief. Oh, help my unbelief.

Oh Lord, have mercy. Oh Lord, have mercy.

Assurance of Pardon: God sent a reply to Josiah, the repenting king of Judah which said, "because your heart was tender, and you humbled yourself before God when you heard His words . . . and you tore your clothes and wept before Me, I also have heard you." (excerpted from 2 Chronicles 34:26-27)

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 and everlasting God, You call us to press for excellence in godliness. Remove from us any feelings of stagnating contentment with our present level of maturity and create in us a hunger to grow to be more like Jesus each day. We pray through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.

***Old Testament Lesson:** *Exodus 19:5-6*

⁵ Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine.

⁶ And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.'

These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel."

***Epistle Lesson:** *1 Thessalonians 3:11-4:3a* (read responsively)

L: Now may our God and Father Himself, and our Lord Jesus Christ, direct our way to you.

C: And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love to one another and to all, just as we do to you,

L: so that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints.

C: Finally then, brethren, we urge and exhort in the Lord Jesus that you should abound more and more, just as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God;

L: for you know what commandments we gave you through the Lord Jesus.

C: For this is the will of God, your sanctification...

***Gospel Lesson:** *John 15:1-2*

¹ “I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser.

² Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit.

Children’s Sermon

***Hymn of Preparation:** *“Better Is One Day”* (back of bulletin)

Sermon: *1 Thessalonians 4:1-3a*

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:** 442 *“O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee”*

***Benediction**

***Threefold Amen**

***Postlude**