

## *Christ Church*

### **Prelude**

### **Moments of Concern**

**Call to Worship:** *Psalm 16:9-11* – Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoices; my flesh also will rest in hope. For You will not leave my soul in Sheol, nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption. You will show me the path of life; in Your presence is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

**Heidelberg Catechism:** Lord's Day 37 (page 30)

*Q. But may we swear an oath in God's name if we do it reverently?*

A. Yes, when the government demands it, or when necessity requires it, in order to maintain and promote truth and trustworthiness for God's glory and our neighbor's good. Such oaths are approved in God's Word and were rightly used by Old and New Testament believers.

*Q. May we swear by saints or other creatures?*

A. No. A legitimate oath means calling upon God as the one who knows my heart to witness to my truthfulness and to punish me if I swear falsely. No creature is worthy of such honor.

**\*Hymn of Adoration:** 337 *"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"*

**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:** Father in heaven, forgive us for we have often failed to promote truth or to prove ourselves and our words trustworthy. We have shaded the truth. We have gone back on our promises. We have made excuses for not fulfilling our commitments. We have not reflected Your trustworthiness in the covenant relationships we have made. Pardon our disrespect for truth and

disrespect for You. We confess to You our need for cleansing regarding the words we say.

Because You are true to Your promises, purge away and cover over our sin because of the sacrifice of our Savior Jesus. We pray in His Name.

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):** O Lord, we confess Your promises are true. Increase our faith in your promises to satisfy us. Teach us that the goodness and beauty of our Savior is greater than any other goodness or beauty that may attract us in this world. We pray through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**\*Old Testament Lesson:** *Ecclesiastes 7:2-4*

<sup>2</sup> Better to go to the house of mourning than to go to the house of feasting, for that is the end of all men; and the living will take it to heart.

<sup>3</sup> Sorrow is better than laughter, for by a sad countenance the heart is made better.

<sup>4</sup> The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning, but the heart of fools is in the house of mirth.

**\*Epistle Lesson:** *1 Thessalonians 4:13-18*

- <sup>13</sup> But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope.
- <sup>14</sup> For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.
- <sup>15</sup> For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep.
- <sup>16</sup> For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.
- <sup>17</sup> Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.
- <sup>18</sup> Therefore comfort one another with these words.
- \*Gospel Lesson:** *John 17:24* – Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.

### **Children's Sermon**

**\*Hymn of Preparation:** *Psalms 7:1-9* (back of bulletin)

**Sermon:** *1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 (part 2)*

### **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:** 621 *"Turn Your Eyes upon Jesus"*

**\*Benediction**

**\*Threefold Amen**

**\*Postlude**