

## *Christ Church*

### **Prelude**

### **Moments of Concern**

**Call to Worship:** *Zephaniah 1:7a* – Be silent in the presence of the Lord GOD; For the day of the LORD is at hand.

**Heidelberg Catechism:** Lord's Day 38 (page 30)

*Q. What is God's will for us in the fourth commandment?*

A. First, that the gospel ministry and education for it be maintained, and that, especially on the festive day of rest, I regularly attend the assembly of God's people to learn what God's Word teaches, to participate in the sacraments, to pray to God publicly, and to bring Christian offerings for the poor. Second, that every day of my life I rest from my evil ways, let the Lord work in me through His Spirit, and so begin already in this life the eternal Sabbath.

**\*Hymn of Adoration:** 98 *"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"*

**Call to Confession:** Isaiah 1:18 – "Come now, and let us reason together," says the LORD, "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool."

**Prayer of Confession:** Father in heaven, we confess that we are often estranged from You. We are not disciplined to draw near to You in corporate worship, giving careful attention to Your Word. We are haphazard in our commitment to spend the Lord's Day with the body of Christ. We sometimes neglect the sacraments and often neglect public prayer. And we are not as diligent as we should be to imitate Jesus in our offerings for those in need. Instead, we have regarded the day of rest as a day to please ourselves. Forgive us for offending Your holy law and despising Your loving invitation to commune with You. May Your Spirit teach us to cherish our time together in Your presence and cause us to rest from sinning. We pray in Jesus' 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:** *Psalm 103:11-13* – 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):** Father, give us grace to walk in the light of Your glory. Fill our hearts with loving expectation for the return of our Savior. May we be found ready on that day. Train our affections on Him. We pray through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end. Amen.

**\*Old Testament Lesson:** *Zephaniah 1:14-18*

<sup>14</sup> The great day of the LORD is near; it is near and hastens quickly. The noise of the day of the LORD is bitter; there the mighty men shall cry out.

<sup>15</sup> That day is a day of wrath, a day of trouble and distress, a day of devastation and desolation, a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness,

<sup>16</sup> A day of trumpet and alarm against the fortified cities and against the high towers.

<sup>17</sup> "I will bring distress upon men, and they shall walk like blind men, Because they have sinned against the LORD; their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like refuse."

<sup>18</sup> Neither their silver nor their gold shall be able to deliver them in the day of the LORD's wrath; but the whole land shall be devoured by the fire of His jealousy, for He will make speedy riddance of all those who dwell in the land.

**\*Epistle Lesson:** *1 Thessalonians 5:1-6*

- <sup>1</sup> But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you.
- <sup>2</sup> For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night.
- <sup>3</sup> For when they say, “Peace and safety!” then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape.
- <sup>4</sup> But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief.
- <sup>5</sup> You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness.
- <sup>6</sup> Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober.

**\*Gospel Lesson:** *Matthew 25:1-13* (pages 875-876)

#### **Missions Moment**

#### **Children’s Sermon**

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

**Sermon:** *1 Thessalonians 5:1-6*

#### **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:** *“In Christ Alone”* (Praise Book #34)

**\*Benediction**

**\*Threefold Amen**

**\*Postlude**