

Christ Church

Prelude

Moments of Concern

Call to Worship: *Psalm 36:7-9* – How precious is Your lovingkindness, O God! Therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of Your wings. They are abundantly satisfied with the fullness of Your house, and You give them drink from the river of Your pleasures. For with You is the fountain of life; in Your light we see light.

Heidelberg Catechism: Lord's Day 35 (page 29)

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

A. That we in no way make any image of God nor worship Him in any other way than He has commanded in His word.

Q. May we then not make any image at all?

A. God can not and may not be visibly portrayed in any way. Although creatures may be portrayed, yet God forbids making or having such images if one's intention is to worship them or to serve God through them.

Q. But may not images be permitted in the churches as teaching aids for the unlearned?

A. No, we shouldn't try to be wiser than God. He wants His people instructed by the living preaching of His Word – not by idols that cannot even talk.

***Hymn of Adoration:** 1 *"For the Beauty of the Earth"*

Call to Confession: *Psalm 143:7-8* – Answer me speedily, O LORD; my spirit fails! Do not hide Your face from me, lest I be like those who go down into the pit. Cause me to hear Your lovingkindness in the morning, for in You do I trust; cause me to know the way in which I should walk, for I lift up my soul to You.

Prayer of Confession: Father in heaven, forgive us for we have neglected applying ourselves to carefully attending to the reading and preaching of Your Word. Cleanse our hearts of all idolatry that would lead us to look for more exciting or stimulating methods of worship or

knowing Your will apart from Your Word. Purify our worship and our affections and grant us understanding of Your Word. Teach us to desire heartily what you would give us and to reject all substitutes. Grant us strong and unwavering conviction to persevere in holding to Your Word, and forgive us for our cowardice in times past when the world has intimidated us. We pray in the Name of our Savior, Jesus, whose blood has removed our guilt. 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 have loved us with an everlasting love. Cause us to reflect and grow in that love in our dealings with each other, and may our work in this lifetime be beneficial and a blessing to those around us. We pray through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.

***Old Testament Lesson:** *Proverbs 21:25-26*

²⁵ The desire of the lazy *man* kills him, for his hands refuse to labor.

²⁶ He covets greedily all day long, but the righteous gives and does not spare.

***Epistle Lesson:** *1 Thessalonians 4:1-12* (pages 1049-1050)

***Gospel Lesson:** *John 6:43-45*

⁴³ Jesus therefore answered and said to them, "Do not murmur among yourselves.

⁴⁴ No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day.

⁴⁵ It is written in the prophets, 'And they shall all be taught by God.' Therefore everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to Me.

Children's Sermon

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

Sermon: *1 Thessalonians 4:9-12*

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:** 408 *"I Surrender All"*

***Benediction**

***Threefold Amen**

***Postlude**