

Christ Church

Prelude

Moments of Concern

Call to Worship: *Psalm 29:2* – Give unto the LORD the glory due to His name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.

Heidelberg Catechism: Lord's Day 2 (page 8)

Q. How do you come to know your misery?

A. The law of God tells me.

Q. What does God's law require of us?

A. Christ teaches us this in summary in Matthew 22 – “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the law and the prophets.”

Q. Can you live up to all this perfectly?

A. No. I have a natural tendency to hate God and my neighbor.

***Hymn of Adoration:** 319 *“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”*

Call to Confession: *Psalm 139:23-24* – Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me, and know my anxieties; and see if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

Prayer of Confession: Father, we beg Your forgiveness for we have shown hatred to You as we have disregarded Your commands and rejected Your call for us to be holy. We have not loved You with our whole heart and soul; instead we have allowed sin to creep in and steal our affections. We have been content to have you far from us and have failed to worship with true delight in You. We confess that we have hated our neighbor because we have not loved others as we love ourselves. For the sake of Jesus our Savior whose life was sacrificed that we might be free of our sins, have mercy on us and grant us full and complete pardon. We ask 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: *Zephaniah 3:16-17* – In that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: “Do not fear; Zion, let not your hands be weak. The Lord your God in your midst, the Mighty One, will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will quiet you with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing.”

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, Fountain of all truth and grace, grant us power to grasp Your beauty and glory. Grant us faith to worship even though we cannot yet see You as we will in heaven. We pray through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***Old Testament Lesson:** *2 Samuel 24:18-25*

¹⁸ And Gad came that day to David and said to him, “Go up, erect an altar to the LORD on the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite.”

¹⁹ So David, according to the word of Gad, went up as the LORD commanded.

²⁰ Now Araunah looked, and saw the king and his servants coming toward him. So Araunah went out and bowed before the king with his face to the ground.

²¹ Then Araunah said, “Why has my lord the king come to his servant?”

And David said, “To buy the threshing floor from you, to build an altar to the LORD, that the plague may be withdrawn from the people.”

²² Now Araunah said to David, “Let my lord the king take and offer up whatever seems good to him. Look, here are oxen for burnt sacrifice, and threshing implements and the yokes of the oxen for wood.

²³ All these, O king, Araunah has given to the king.” And Araunah said to the king, “May the LORD your God accept you.”

²⁴ Then the king said to Araunah, “No, but I will surely buy it from you for a price; nor will I offer burnt offerings to the LORD my God with that which costs me nothing.” So David bought the threshing floor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver.

²⁵ And David built there an altar to the LORD, and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings. So the LORD heeded the prayers for the land, and the plague was withdrawn from Israel.

***Epistle Lesson:** *Revelation 5:8-14*

⁸ Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.

⁹ And they sang a new song, saying: “You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals; for You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation,

¹⁰ And have made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth.”

¹¹ Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands,

¹² saying with a loud voice: “Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom, and strength and honor and glory and blessing!”

¹³ And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, I heard saying: “Blessing and honor and glory and power be to Him who sits on the throne, And to the Lamb, forever and ever!”

¹⁴ Then the four living creatures said, “Amen!” And the twenty-four elders fell down and worshiped Him who lives forever and ever.

***Gospel Lesson:** *Matthew 2:1-12* (pages 849-850)

Children’s Sermon

***Hymn of Preparation:** *Psalms 72:9-15* (back of bulletin)

Sermon: *“Learning from the Magi About Worship”*

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:** *“Clothed in Righteousness”* (PB #70)

***Benediction**

***Threefold Amen**

***Postlude**