

Christ Church

Prelude

Moments of Concern

Call to Worship: Psalm 37:12-18 – The wicked plots against the just, and gnashes at him with his teeth. The Lord laughs at him, for He sees that his day is coming. The wicked have drawn the sword and have bent their bow, to cast down the poor and needy, to slay those who are of upright conduct. Their sword shall enter their own heart, and their bows shall be broken. A little that a righteous man has is better than the riches of many wicked. For the arms of the wicked shall be broken, but the LORD upholds the righteous. The LORD knows the days of the upright, and their inheritance shall be forever.

Heidelberg Catechism: Lord's Day 3 (page 9)

Q. Did God create man so wicked and perverse?

A. No. God created man good and in His own image, that is, in true righteousness and holiness, so that He might truly know God his creator, love Him with all his heart, and live with Him in eternal happiness for His praise and glory.

Q. Then where does man's corrupt human nature come from?

A. From the fall and disobedience of our first parents, Adam and Eve, in Paradise. This fall has so poisoned our nature that we are born sinners – corrupt from conception on.

Q. But are we so corrupt that we are totally unable to do any good and inclined toward all evil?

A. Yes, unless we are born again, by the Spirit of God.

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

Call to Confession: Psalm 145:8, 18 – The LORD is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and great in mercy. The LORD is near to all who call upon Him, to all who call upon Him in truth.

Prayer of Confession: Holy Father in heaven, we confess before You our sinfulness. We are polluted through and through—even in the deeds that look good to the public. We abhor what we have become due to Adam's sin, and we abhor the sins we have committed. As we

have come to trust in Jesus for salvation, the One who alone can remove our uncleanness and impurity, teach us to live in dependence on Him every day, trusting that the washing we receive from Him will supply cleansing for every sin we commit. We ask Your forgiveness for not daily striving to lay hold of You. We pray in the Name of our precious Savior, Jesus. 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): Almighty and everlasting God, we live in a world where evil creates danger. Have mercy on us and defend us so that we may neither be swallowed up by evil nor be corrupted by it. Make us holy as our King is holy. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***Old Testament Lesson:** *Isaiah 53:3* – He is despised and rejected by men, a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.

***Epistle Lesson:** *Romans 8:18* – For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

***Gospel Lesson:** *Matthew 2:13-23*

¹³ Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Arise, take the young Child

and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him.”

¹⁴ When he arose, he took the young Child and His mother by night and departed for Egypt,

¹⁵ and was there until the death of Herod, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, “Out of Egypt I called My Son.”

¹⁶ Then Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men.

¹⁷ Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying:

¹⁸ “A voice was heard in Ramah, lamentation, weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, refusing to be comforted, because they are no more.”

¹⁹ Now when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt,

²⁰ saying, “Arise, take the young Child and His mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the young Child’s life are dead.”

²¹ Then he arose, took the young Child and His mother, and came into the land of Israel.

²² But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea instead of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And being warned by God in a dream, he turned aside into the region of Galilee.

²³ And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, “He shall be called a Nazarene.”

Missions Moment

Children’s Sermon

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

Sermon: “*Are You a Nazarene Too?*” ~ *Matthew 2:13-23*

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:** 107 “*Amazing Grace*”

***Benediction**

***Threefold Amen**

***Postlude**