

## CHRIST CHURCH

### Prelude

### Moments of Concern

#### Call to Worship

*Psalm 68:4*

Sing to God, sing praises to His name; extol Him who rides on the clouds, by His name YAH, and rejoice before Him.

#### Heidelberg Catechism

*Lord's Day 19 (page 18)*

*Q. Why the next words: "and sits at the right hand of God"?*

A. Christ ascended to heaven, there to show that He is head of His church, and that the Father rules all things through Him.

*Q. How does this glory of Christ our head benefit us?*

A. First, through His Holy Spirit He pours out His gifts from heaven upon us His members. Second, by His power He defends us and keeps us safe from all enemies.

*Q. How does Christ's return "to judge the living and the dead" comfort you?*

A. In all my distress and persecution I turn my eyes to the heavens and confidently await as judge the very One who has already stood trial in my place before God and so has removed the whole curse from me. All His enemies and mine He will condemn to everlasting punishment: but me and all His chosen ones He will take along with Him into the joy and the glory of heaven.

#### \*Hymn of Adoration

*"Rejoice, the Lord is King"*

*Hymnal #374*

#### Call to Confession

*Ezekiel 18:30-32*

"Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways," says the Lord God. "Repent, and turn from all your transgressions, so that iniquity will not be your ruin. Cast away from you all the transgressions which you have committed, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit. For why should you die, O house of Israel? For I have no

pleasure in the death of one who dies," says the Lord God. "Therefore turn and live!"

#### Prayer of Confession (unison)

Father eternal, we confess that we have not honored our exalted Lord as He deserves. We have not cherished and put to good use the gifts He has given. Nor have we persistently sought His help to battle against the enemies of the world, the flesh and the devil. Have mercy on us and forgive us. Teach us to look forward to the return of our Savior and to prepare with repentant and submissive hearts for that day. We ask these things 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

*Isaiah 53:4-5*

Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed.

**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, Amen.

#### Collect of the Day (unison)

O God, we praise You for the light that You have sent to dispel the darkness in our hearts and to guide us through this dark world. Give us grace to love the light and walk in it constantly. We pray through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### \*Old Testament Lesson

*Isaiah 9:1-7 (Pew Bible page 611)*

**\*Epistle Lesson***2 Corinthians 4:6*

For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

**\*Gospel Lesson***Matthew 4:12-17*

<sup>12</sup> Now when Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, He departed to Galilee.

<sup>13</sup> And leaving Nazareth, He came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is by the sea, in the regions of Zebulun and Naphtali,

<sup>14</sup> that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying:

<sup>15</sup> "The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, by the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles:

<sup>16</sup> The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and upon those who sat in the region and shadow of death Light has dawned."

<sup>17</sup> From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

**Children's Sermon****\*Hymn of Preparation**

*"We Will Feast in the House of Zion"                      Back of bulletin*

**Sermon**

*Desperate for Light"*

**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**

*"As the Deer"*

*Praise Book #5*

**\*Benediction****\*Threefold Amen****\*Postlude**