

CHRIST CHURCH

Prelude

Moments of Concern

Call to Worship

Psalm 145:14-21

¹⁴The LORD upholds all who fall, and raises up all who are bowed down. ¹⁵The eyes of all look expectantly to You, and You give them their food in due season. ¹⁶You open Your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing. ¹⁷The LORD is righteous in all His ways, gracious in all His works. ¹⁸The LORD is near to all who call upon Him, to all who call upon Him in truth. ¹⁹He will fulfill the desire of those who fear Him; He also will hear their cry and save them. ²⁰The LORD preserves all who love Him, but all the wicked He will destroy. ²¹My mouth shall speak the praise of the LORD, and all flesh shall bless His holy name forever and ever.

Heidelberg Catechism

Lord's Day 18 (pages 17-18)

Q. What do you mean by saying, "He ascended into heaven"?

A. That Christ, while His disciples watched, was lifted up from the earth into heaven and will be there for our good until He comes again to judge the living and the dead.

Q. But isn't Christ with us until the end of the world as He promised us?

A. Christ is true man and true God. In His human nature Christ is not now on earth; but in His divinity, majesty, grace, and Spirit He is not absent from us for a moment.

Q. If His humanity is not present wherever His divinity is, then aren't the two natures of Christ separated from each other?

A. Certainly not. Since divinity is not limited and is present everywhere, it is evident that Christ's divinity is surely beyond the bounds of the humanity He has taken on, but at the same time His divinity is in and remains personally united to His humanity.

Q. How does Christ's ascension into heaven benefit us?

A. First, He pleads our cause in heaven in the presence of His Father. Second, we have our own flesh in heaven – a guarantee that Christ our head will take us, His members, to Himself in heaven. Third, He sends His spirit to us on earth as a further guarantee. By the Spirit's power we make the goal of our lives, not earthly things, but the things above where Christ is, sitting at God's right hand.

*Hymn of Adoration

"You Servants of God, Your Master Proclaim" *Hymnal #360*

*Collect of the Day (unison)

O Lord our God, grant us grace to desire you with our whole heart, so that desiring you, we may seek and find you; and so finding you, may love you; and so loving you, may hate those sins which separate us from you, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

-ANSELM, bishop of Canterbury (1033-1109)

*Old Testament Lesson

Proverbs 10:22

²²The blessing of the LORD makes one rich, and He adds no sorrow with it.

*Epistle Lesson

Corinthians 4:16-18 (page 1027)

*Gospel Lesson

Matthew 4:1-11 (page 851)

Children's Sermon

Sermon

"Worship is Serious Business"

*Hymn of Preparation

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

Reading of the Law

Exodus 20:1-17 (page 68)

Call to Confession

1 Corinthians 11:27-29

Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body.

Prayer of Confession (unison)

Father in heaven, we recognize that our Savior has ascended into heaven and from there rules all things for the good of His people. Forgive us for failing to demonstrate His rule in our lives as we often behave as if we are merely citizens of this world instead of showing a yearning for heaven. We have lived lives of doubt, not being willing to give ourselves freely in service, and we have not given ourselves to You in love by walking in a manner worthy of the calling we have received to participate in Your kingdom and glory. Since we cannot see our Savior at the present time, our worship often becomes haphazard and anemic. Cleanse us and teach us to imitate our holy Savior. We pray in the Name of Jesus who intercedes for us this day. 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.

Holy Communion

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**

"How Deep the Father's Love for Us"

Praise Book #33

***Benediction**

***Threefold Amen**

***Postlude**