
 preparing our hearts

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

– 1 Peter 1:3-5 ESV

 ** call to worship

Leader: Praise the LORD!

All: I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

Leader: Great are the works of the LORD, studied by all who delight in them.

All: Full of splendor and majesty is his work, and his righteousness endures forever.

Leader: He has caused his wondrous works to be remembered; the LORD is gracious and merciful.

All: He sent redemption to his people; he has commanded his covenant forever.

Leader: Holy and awesome is his name!

– Psalm 111:1-4, 9 ESV

ALL HAIL THE POWER OF JESUS' NAME

All hail the pow'r of Jesus' name! Let angels prostrate fall;
Bring forth the royal diadem and crown him Lord of all;
Bring forth the royal diadem and crown him Lord of all!

You chosen seed of Israel's race, you ransomed from the fall,
Hail him who saves you by his grace and crown him Lord of all;
Hail him who saves you by his grace and crown him Lord of all!

Let every kindred, every tribe on this terrestrial ball,
To him all majesty ascribe and crown him Lord of all;
To him all majesty ascribe and crown him Lord of all!

O that with yonder sacred throng we at his feet may fall;
We'll join the everlasting song and crown him Lord of all;
We'll join the everlasting song and crown him Lord of all!

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**** prayer of invocation**

Leader: Mighty God, we do not yet see the glory you plan for all humankind, but in faith we do see Jesus. We thank you for the humility and holiness in which he lived and died. We praise you that he freed us from our sin, that he comforts and strengthens us through our struggles, and that he gives us courage to follow him. Most merciful Redeemer, may we know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day. Amen.

THE NICENE CREED

All: We believe in one God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
begotten from the Father before all ages,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made; of the same essence as the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven;
he became incarnate by the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,
and was made human.
He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered and was buried.
The third day he rose again, according to the Scriptures.
He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again with glory to judge the living and the dead.
His kingdom will never end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life.
He proceeds from the Father and the Son,
and with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified.
He spoke through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic* and apostolic church.
We affirm one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look forward to the resurrection of the dead,
and to life in the world to come. Amen.

* Here, "catholic" means "universal," and refers to the Christian church in all places

COME BEHOLD THE WONDROUS MYSTERY

Come behold the wondrous mystery, in the dawning of the King.
He the theme of heaven's praises, robed in frail humanity.
In our longing, in our darkness, now the light of life has come.
Look to Christ, who condescended, took on flesh to ransom us.

Come behold the wondrous mystery, he the perfect Son of Man.
In his living, in his suffering, never trace nor stain of sin.
See the true and better Adam, come to save the hell-bound man.
Christ the great and sure fulfillment of the law; in him we stand.

Come behold the wondrous mystery, Christ the Lord upon the tree.
In the stead of ruined sinners hangs the Lamb in victory.
See the price of our redemption; see the Father's plan unfold.
Bringing many sons to glory, grace unmeasured, love untold.

Come behold the wondrous mystery; slain by death the God of life.
But no grave could e'er restrain Him; praise the Lord; He is alive!
What a foretaste of deliverance; how unwavering our hope.
Christ in power resurrected as we will be when he comes.

"Come Behold The Wondrous Mystery," Words & Music: Matt Papa, Matt Boswell, & Michael Bleecker.
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CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

Leader: For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!”

— Romans 8:15 ESV

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

All: **O Lord God, in you is the light of life.**
Shine into the dark reaches of my soul,
That no part would remain untouched and unchanged by you.
Where I have been disarmed by sin’s charms,
Let your Spirit sound alarms and alert me to its harmful intent.
Where sin has taken residence in me,
Let my heart be overturned and every wicked habit thrown out.
Where sin remains hidden from my sight,
Let its stink reach me that I would seek to chase it away.
Instead of sin, let the Lord of my heart be my Savior
And give me strength to listen to him, obey him, and become like him,
Since he purchased my life by his precious blood.
By the gracious name of Jesus, I pray. Amen

Please reflect and silently confess your sins.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE **

Leader: In all their affliction he was afflicted, and the angel of his presence saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

— Isaiah 63:9 ESV

All: **Thanks be to God.**

THY MERCY, MY GOD

Thy mercy, my God, is the theme of my song,
The joy of my heart and the boast of my tongue;
Thy free grace alone, from the first to the last,
Hath won my affections, and bound my soul fast.

Without thy sweet mercy I could not live here;
Sin would reduce me to utter despair;
But, through thy free goodness, my spirits revive,
And he that first made me still keeps me alive.

Thy mercy is more than a match for my heart,
Which wonders to feel its own hardness depart;
Dissolved by thy goodness, I fall to the ground,
And weep to the praise of the mercy I've found.

Great Father of mercies, thy goodness I own,
And the covenant love of thy crucified Son;
All praise to the Spirit, whose whisper divine
Seals mercy, and pardon, and righteousness mine.

All praise to the Spirit, whose whisper divine
Seals mercy, and pardon, and righteousness mine.

“Thy Mercy, My God,” Words: John Stocker, Public Domain. Music: Sandra McCracken.
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Leader: John 10:7-15
This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

prayer

An officer of the church prays for the world, nation, community, and church.

Leader: All these mercies we ask in the name of Jesus, who prayed saying,

**All: Our Father who is in heaven, hallowed be your name;
Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors,
Do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil,
For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever, Amen.**

** passing the peace

Leader: Jesus said, “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.” In a world filled with trouble, let us encourage one another to look to the one who has overcome the world. May the peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

An elder will lead the passing of the peace. If you are joining us from your home, please unmute yourself so that you can greet one another. If you are gathered here with us today, greet one another warmly with the peace of Christ while being careful to practice safe social distancing.

Series | “The Glory of Christ in the Life of the Church”

Sermon | “Every Spiritual Blessing”

October 4, 2020

Ephesians 1:1-14 ESV | 1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God,

To the saints who are in Ephesus, and are faithful in Christ Jesus:

2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, 4 even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love 5 he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, 6 to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. 7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, 8 which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight 9 making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ 10 as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

11 In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, 12 so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. 13 In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, 14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

1. Introduction to Ephesians
2. A Blessing for Those Who Are “In Christ”
3. A Blessing Planned From All Eternity

**** gospel charge**

Leader: In light of the Word we have heard, how ought we live?

All: Jesus said, “You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you.”

– Adapted from John 15:16_{ESV}

WELCOME TO HIS TABLE

The Lord's Supper is a family meal for Christians – a time when we delight in Christ and in the good news that His work alone has made us right with God. All baptized Christians who trust in Christ alone as their Savior, belong to a church that embraces the gospel, and seek strength to live more faithfully to Christ are invited to participate. If you are not a Christian, or if you are not prepared to share in this meal, please use this time to meditate on the following prayer.

Lord Jesus Christ, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever dared admit, but through you I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt on the cross, taking what I deserved in order to offer me complete forgiveness. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as my Savior and Lord. Amen.

Please remain seated for communion. As a symbol of our unity in Christ, please wait until everyone has been served the elements, and we will all partake together. There are two tabs on the communion sets. The clear tab on top opens the bread. The tab underneath opens the grape juice.

Please hold on to your materials to dispose of on your way out of the sanctuary. If you have a gluten allergy, please indicate this when prompted and to your server, to receive a gluten-free wafer. During the celebration of communion, we will sing the printed hymn.

NOTE TO PARENTS: To receive communion, a child must have been baptized, publicly professed their faith in Christ, and been formally received as a communing member by the elders of this church or the governing body of the church to which you belong. We look forward to welcoming your children to the table when they come to this point and ask that you speak to the pastor when you feel your child is ready to begin the process of becoming a communing member.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, “Take, eat; this is my body.” And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, “Drink of it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom.”

– Matthew 26:26-29 ESV

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

Minister: Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

All: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Minister: It is very good and right, our duty and privilege, to at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, Creator of heaven and earth.

Hear us then, as we pray.

All: Father, we give you thanks for your Son, Jesus Christ, for his willing obedience and suffering during his life on earth, and for his sacrifice of his body and blood on the cross. As we partake of these, your gifts of the bread and the cup, give us assurance that we are made whole by his body and our sins are pardoned through his blood. Fill our minds with your peace and turn our eyes to heaven, where Christ is at your right hand interceding for us. Enable us to offer up ourselves in service to Christ and unite us with each other through your Spirit so that we may continue in the living hope of our Savior’s coming in glory. Hear us now through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Minister: The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

As the elements are distributed, sing as one body, affirming that in Christ we are united to him and to one another.

ALAS! AND DID MY SAVIOR BLEED

Alas! and did my Savior bleed, and did my Sovereign die!
Would he devote that sacred head for such a worm as I!

Was it for crimes that I had done he groaned upon the tree!
Amazing pity! Grace unknown! And love beyond degree!

Well might the sun in darkness hide, and shut his glories in,
When Christ, the mighty Maker, died for man the creature's sin.

Thus might I hide my blushing face while his dear cross appears;
Dissolve my heart in thankfulness, and melt mine eyes in tears.

But drops of grief can ne'er repay the debt of love I owe;
Here, Lord, I give myself away, 'tis all that I can do.

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As you are able, please continue to joyfully give to the work of the Lord through our church by giving [online](#) or depositing your offering in the box with the deacon.

Note: [Other ways to give](#), including mailing a check to the office, are available.

REJOICE, THE LORD IS KING

Rejoice, the Lord is King: your Lord and King adore!
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing, and triumph evermore.
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

Jesus the Savior reigns, the God of truth and love;
When he had purged our stains he took his seat above.
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

His kingdom cannot fail, he rules o'er earth and heaven;
The keys of death and hell are to our Jesus given.
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

He sits at God's right hand till all his foes submit,
And bow to his command, and fall beneath his feet.
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

Rejoice in glorious hope! Our Lord, the Judge, shall come,
And take his servants up to their eternal home.
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

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**** benediction**

****doxology**

**All: 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.**