

† LENTEN MIDWEEK SERVICE †
Wednesday, February 28, 2024

Service of Evening Prayer 7:30 p.m.
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PRELUDE

Liebster Jesu, wir sind hier

J. S. Bach

INVOCATION and CALL TO WORSHIP (*Congregation rising*)

P In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P I rejoiced with those who said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord."

C By day the Lord directs His love, at night His song is with me – a prayer to the God of my life.

P Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom;

C as we sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in our hearts to God.

CONFESSION

P As we have come together in the house of the Lord to worship our God, let us confess our sin:

C Heavenly Father, we have not loved You with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have failed to keep Your commandments. O Lord, have mercy upon us.

P Because of the perfect obedience, atoning death, and glorious resurrection of Jesus:

C O Christ, have mercy upon us.

P Strengthen and preserve us in the true faith, in the power of the Holy Spirit.

C O Lord, have mercy upon us.

P As a called and ordained servant of the Word, I announce the grace of God to all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

OPENING PRAYER

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray:

C O Lord, let the incense of our repentant prayer ascend before You, and let Your loving-kindness descend on us, that with purified minds, we may sing Your praises with the Church on earth and the whole heavenly host, and may glorify You forever. Amen.

(Please be seated)

OFFICE HYMN

Blessed Jesus, at Your Word (v. 1-3)

LSB Hymn 904

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 56:1-8

This is what the Lord says: "Maintain justice and do what is right, for my salvation is close at hand and my righteousness will soon be revealed. ² Blessed is the one who does this — the person who holds it fast, who keeps the Sabbath without desecrating it, and

keeps their hands from doing any evil." ³ Let no foreigner who is bound to the Lord say, "The Lord will surely exclude me from his people." And let no eunuch complain, "I am only a dry tree." ⁴ For this is what the Lord says: "To the eunuchs who keep my Sabbaths, who choose what pleases me and hold fast to my covenant — ⁵ to them I will give within my temple and its walls a memorial and a name better than sons and daughters; I will give them an everlasting name that will endure forever. ⁶ And foreigners who bind themselves to the Lord to minister to him, to love the name of the Lord, and to be his servants, all who keep the Sabbath without desecrating it and who hold fast to my covenant — ⁷ these I will bring to my holy mountain and give them joy in my house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house will be called a house of prayer for all nations." ⁸ The Sovereign Lord declares — he who gathers the exiles of Israel: "I will gather still others to them besides those already gathered."

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

Colossians 2:16-23

¹⁶ Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day. ¹⁷ These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ. ¹⁸ Do not let anyone who delights in false humility and the worship of angels disqualify you. Such a person also goes into great detail about what they have seen; they are puffed up with idle notions by their unspiritual mind. ¹⁹ They have lost connection with the head, from whom the whole body, supported and held together by its ligaments and sinews, grows as God causes it to grow. ²⁰ Since you died with Christ to the elemental spiritual forces of this world, why, as though you still belonged to the world, do you submit to its rules: ²¹ "Do not handle! Do not taste! Do not touch!"? ²² These rules, which have to do with things that are all destined to perish with use, are based on merely human commands and teachings. ²³ Such regulations indeed have an appearance of wisdom, with their self-imposed worship, their false humility and their harsh treatment of the body, but they lack any value in restraining sensual indulgence.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORY (*Congregation rising*)

P In many and various ways, God spoke to His people of old by the prophets.

C But now in these last days, He has spoken to us by His Son.

GOSPEL

Mark 2:23-28

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 2nd chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

²³ One Sabbath Jesus was going through the grainfields, and as his disciples walked along, they began to pick some heads of grain. ²⁴ The Pharisees said to him, "Look, why are they doing what is unlawful on the Sabbath?" ²⁵ He answered, "Have you never read what David did when he and his companions were hungry and in need? ²⁶ In the days of Abiathar the high priest, he entered the house of God and ate the consecrated bread, which is lawful only for priests to eat. And he also gave some to his companions."

²⁷ Then he said to them, "The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath."

²⁸ So the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

CATECHISM REVIEW

P The Ten Commandments, as the head of the family should teach them in a simple way to the household. The Third Commandment:

C Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.

P What does this mean?

C We should fear and love God that we do not despise preaching and God's Word, but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it.

SERMON

"The 3rd Commandment: The Day That Makes the Difference"
Rev. Dr. Robert Hartwell

HYMN OF THE DAY

O Day of Rest and Gladness

LSB Hymn 906

THE APOSTLES' CREED (*Congregation rising*)

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

A In peace let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

A For the gift of divine peace and of pardon, with all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

A For the holy Christian Church, here and scattered throughout the world, and for the proclamation of the gospel and the calling of all to faith, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

A For this nation, for our cities and communities, and for the common welfare of us all, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

A For seasonable weather and for the fruitfulness of the earth, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

A For those who labor, for those whose work is difficult or dangerous, and for all who travel, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

A For all those in need, for the hungry and homeless, for the widowed and orphaned, and for all those in prison, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

A For the sick and dying and for all those who care for them, including those we lift up in the quiet of this moment...(pause), let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

A For the faithful who have gone before us and are with Christ, let us give thanks to the Lord:

C Thanks be to God.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P Taught by our Lord, and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:

C Our Father, who 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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

CLOSING PRAYER

P O Lord, our time is in Your hands; help us to find our rest in You. Teach us to receive anew Your gift of the Sabbath, and with the forgiving power of Jesus to heal and redirect us, help us to walk joyfully with all who enter into the house of the Lord; through Jesus Christ, Your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

BENEDICTION

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

C Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name We Raise

LSB Hymn 917

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace to serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Nun ruhen alle Wälder

Walther/Bach

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Participants in the Service:

Officiant Rev. Dr. Robert Hartwell
Senior Pastor

Asst. Minister Deacon Kristin Pimentel

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