

Morning Worship
Twelfth Sunday after Trinity
September 7, 2025

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Call to Worship

To you I lift up my eyes, O you who are enthroned in the heavens! Behold, as the eyes of servants look to the hand of their master, as the eyes of a maidservant to the hand of her mistress, so our eyes look to the Lord our God, till he has mercy upon us.
(Psalm 123:1-2).

Adoration

Opening Hymn

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 will we be when he comes.*

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Invocation

The Lord's Prayer

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 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.

Confession

Call to Confession

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.(1 John 1:8-9).

Corporate Confession of Sin

Heavenly Father, we confess that our lifestyle has never been without covetousness. After all this time, we still have not learned to be content with the things we have. Who can say he is free from the love of money, which is the root of all kinds of evil? We have been controlled in thought and action by a covetousness which is nothing less than idolatry. We have sought great things for ourselves, though you have plainly said, 'Seek them not.' We repent of these sins and ask you to forgive us for them. Help us to seek first your kingdom and righteousness, trusting that you will add to us all that is truly needful. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

Silent Confession of Sin

Assurance

Assurance of Pardon

Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water (Hebrews 10:19-22).

Thanksgiving

Offertory

Doxology

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavn'ly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

Offertory Prayer

Petition and Intercession

Pastoral Prayer

Silent Prayer for the Salvation of Others

Instruction

Hymn of Preparation

Hast Thou Heard Him, Seen Him, Known Him?

Hast thou heard Him, seen Him, known Him? Is not thine a captured heart?

Chief among ten thousand own Him, joyful choose the better part.

Chorus: Captivated by His beauty, Worthy tribute haste to bring.

Let His peerless worth constrain thee, Crown Him now unrivaled King.

What can strip the seeming beauty, from the idols of the earth?

Not a sense of right or duty, but the sight of peerless worth. Chorus

'Tis that look that melted Peter, 'tis that face that Stephen saw,

'Tis that heart that wept with Mary, can alone from idols draw. Chorus

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Old Testament Reading

Numbers 21:5-9

Leader: The word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God!

New Testament Reading

John 3:1-15

Leader: The word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God!

Sermon

John 3:1-15

Rev. Sammy Rhodes

Campus Minister, RUF-USC

Communion

Hymn of Preparation

How Deep the Father's Love For Us

How deep the Father's love for us, how vast beyond all measure,

That He should give His only Son to make a wretch His treasure.

How great the pain of searing loss - the Father turns His face away,

As wounds which mar the chosen One, bring many sons to glory.

Behold the Man upon a cross, my sin upon His shoulders;

Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice call out among the scoffers.

It was my sin that held Him there until it was accomplished;

His dying breath has brought me life - I know that it is finished.

*I will not boast in anything, no gifts, no power, no wisdom;
But I will boast in Jesus Christ, His death and resurrection.
Why should I gain from His reward? I cannot give an answer;
But this I know with all my heart - His wounds have paid my ransom.*

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Affirmation of Faith

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds; God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God; begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made. Who, for us and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

And We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life; who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets; and we believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and we look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Sursum Corda

Leader: The Lord be with you.

Congregation: And with your spirit.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

Congregation: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Congregation: It is good and right to do so.

We welcome to Communion (also called The Lord's Table or The Eucharist) all baptized Christians who have received and are resting on Jesus alone for salvation, and are communing members of any church that faithfully proclaims the gospel. If that does not currently describe you, we invite you to participate by observing but not partaking of the elements – in part because of the warnings Scripture gives those who partake of the Supper without discerning its spiritual significance; but also because we don't want you to express something with your body that isn't true of your heart and

mind, namely, that you're trusting in and depending on Jesus as your Lord and Savior. We invite you to take this time to consider what you've seen and heard in the worship service, including Jesus' love for sinners as it is portrayed in this meal. There's also a prayer below for those considering Christianity that you might wish to pray. If this raises questions or concerns, we welcome them and invite you to address them to our pastor or elders.

Prayer for those searching for truth: Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. If you are real, please open my heart and mind to the truth of who you are and what you have done in your life, death, and resurrection. Give me faith to trust you for salvation and satisfaction, and to follow you as my Lord. Help me to see this as the only way to the life you promise and for which I long. Amen.

Prayer for Christians: Lord, you have prepared for me a feast; and though I am unworthy to sit down as a guest, I rest on the merits of Jesus, and come clothed in his righteousness. While I see the bread and the cup, may I ponder why Jesus died and hear him say, "I gave my life to purchase yours, presented myself as an offering to satisfy divine justice, shed my blood to blot out your guilt, opened my side to make you clean, endured your curses to set you free." May I obey, extend the hand, take the bread, receive the cup, eat and drink, testify before all that I gladly receive Jesus to be my life, strength, nourishment, joy, delight. In the Supper give me assurance of pardon, adoption, life, and glory. As the outward elements nourish my body, may your Spirit invigorate my soul, until that day when I hunger and thirst no more, and sit with Jesus at his heavenly feast. Amen.

- excerpted and adapted from *Valley of Vision*, "The Lord's Supper"

Charge and Blessing

Closing Hymn

Yet Not I, but Through Christ in Me

*What gift of grace is Jesus my redeemer
There is no more for heaven now to give
He is my joy, my righteousness, and freedom
My steadfast love, my deep and boundless peace*

*Refrain 1: To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus
For my life is wholly bound to his
Oh how strange and divine, I can sing: all is mine!
Yet not I, but through Christ in me*

*The night is dark but I am not forsaken
For by my side, the Saviour He will stay
I labour on in weakness and rejoicing
For in my need, His power is displayed*

Refrain 2: To this I hold, my Shepherd will defend me

*Through the deepest valley He will lead
Oh the night has been won, and I shall overcome!
Yet not I, but through Christ in me*

*No fate I dread, I know I am forgiven
The future sure, the price it has been paid
For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon
And He was raised to overthrow the grave*

*Refrain 3: To this I hold, my sin has been defeated
Jesus now and ever is my plea
Oh the chains are released, I can sing: I am free!
Yet not I, but through Christ in me*

*With every breath I long to follow Jesus
For He has said that He will bring me home
And day by day I know He will renew me
Until I stand with joy before the throne*

*Refrain 4: To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus
All the glory evermore to Him
When the race is complete, still my lips shall repeat:
Yet not I, but through Christ in me! X2*

*Tag: When the race is complete, still my lips shall repeat:
Yet not I, but through Christ in me!
Yet not I, but through Christ in me!
Yet not I, but through Christ in me!*

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Benediction