

The Divine Service of Covenant Renewal

on the Lord's Day
December 17, 2023

Prelude

But the Lord is in his holy temple; let all the earth keep silence before Him.
Habakkuk 2:20

Welcome

God Calls Us to Worship Him

Choral Introit (11:00)

Now sing we, now rejoice, now raise to heaven our voice; He from whom joy streameth poor in a manger lies; not so brightly beameth the sun in yonder skies, Thou my Savior art! Oh, where shall joy be found? Where but on heavenly ground? Where the angels singing with all His saints unite, sweetest praises bringing in heavenly joy and light. Oh, that we were there!

† Call to Worship Luke 2:12-14

Pastor: And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,
People: “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!”

Δ† Hymn of Adoration # 214 Angels We Have heard on High

† Salutation and Responsive Scriptures

Pastor: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit!
People: Amen!
Pastor: The Lord be with you!
People: And also with you!
Pastor: Our help is in the Name of the Lord!
People: Who made heaven and earth!
Pastor: The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit;
People: A broken and contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.

† Prayer of Thanksgiving and Praise

† The Lord's Prayer Together as God's People

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.

† Affirmation of Faith The Rev. Nathan E. Currey The Apostles' Creed (p. 845, together as God's people)

Δ† 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.*

God Graciously Renews Us in Christ

§ We Confess Our Sin ***Jesus, forgive my sins. Forgive the sins that I remember, and the sins I have forgotten. Forgive my many failures in the face of temptation, and those times when I have been stubborn in the face of correction. Forgive the times I have been proud of my own achievements and those when I have failed to boast in your works. Forgive the harsh judgments I have made of others, and the leniency I have shown myself. Forgive the lies I have told to others, and the truths I have avoided. Forgive me the pain I have caused others and the indulgence I have shown myself. Jesus, have mercy on me and make me whole. Amen.***

§ Individual Silent Confession of Sin § God Forgives Us in Christ Micah 7:18-19 Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity and passing over transgression for the remnant of His inheritance? He does not retain His anger forever, because He delights in steadfast love. He will again have compassion on us; He will tread our iniquities underfoot. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea. *In Jesus Christ our sins are forgiven!*

Interlude for Meditation Lighting of the Third Advent Candle Cecil Family (8:30 a.m.), Brooks Family (11:00 a.m.)

Δ† Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs # 215 While By the Sheep We Watched By Night (11:00) Children ages 3 to Kdg. to Children's Church (look for the flag bearer)

† The Passing of the Peace Pastor: May the peace of Christ be with you! **People: And also with you!** Pastor: Let us offer one another a sign of peace! (Members of the congregation greet one another with a sign of friendship such as the ancient words which the church has used over the centuries, “The peace of Christ be with you,” and the response, “And also with you.”)

§ Morning Prayer Elder Mike Dykstra

We Give Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

† 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.*

God Instructs Us With His Word

Scripture Reading The Rev. Dr. Anthony J. Felich Matthew 1:1-17

Prayer for Illumination

Preaching of the Word The Messiah King

“The Genesis of Jesus”

† Hymn of Response (as the Elders prepare the Table) # 200 It Came Upon The Midnight Clear (1-2)

God Meets and Feeds Us at His Table

Invitation and the Words of Institution Rev. Currey

Prayer of Consecration

Distribution of the Elements The Elders (Partake of the Bread individually and the Cup together. Wine is used for communion with a limited amount of grape juice in the center rings. Please note the bread in the center of the plate is gluten free.)

God Blesses Us and Sends Us Out

† Hymn of Dedication # 200 It Came Upon The Midnight Clear (3-4)

† Benediction Rev. Felich

† Hymn of Dismissal # 218 Angels From the Realms of Glory (5)

All creation join in praising, God the Father, Spirit, Son; Ever more your voices raising to th'eternal Three in One. Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King!

Postlude The Order of Divine Worship concludes with your silent prayer of praise and thanksgiving.

† Indicates the congregation standing
§ Indicates the congregation kneeling (if able)
Δ Ushers may seat latecomers