

The Divine Service of Covenant Renewal

on the Lord's Day
December 24, 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)

See, the loveliest blooming rose, Alleluia! From the branch of Jesse grows. On this day God gave us Christ, His Son, to save.

† Call to Worship

Isaiah 40:1-5

Pastor: Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

People: A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Pastor: Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.

People: And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

Δ† Hymn of Adoration

208 *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

† 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. Curey

The Westminster Shorter Catechism Q/A's 21-26 (p. 870-871, responsively 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

God of love, it is your will that we should love you with heart, soul, mind, strength, and our neighbor as ourselves, but we are not sufficient for these things. We confess that our affections continually turn away from you: from purity to lust, from freedom to slavery, from compassion to indifference, from fullness to emptiness. Have mercy on us. Order our lives by your holy Word, and make your commandments the joy of our hearts. Conform us to the image of your loving Son, Jesus, that we may shine before the world to your glory. 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 Fourth Advent Candle

Matthew Rose Family (8:30 a.m.), Bigg Family (11:00 a.m.)

Δ† Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs

226 *As with Gladness Men of Old*

(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 Todd Phillips

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 1:18-25

Prayer for Illumination

Preaching of the Word

The Messiah King

"God With Us"

† Hymn of Response (as the Elders prepare the Table)

195 *Joy to the World!* (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 is gluten free.)

God Blesses Us and Sends Us Out

† Hymn of Dedication

195 *Joy to the World!* (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