

THE SERVICE WITHOUT COMMUNION: 22 November, 2020

PREPARATION

IN THE NAME

In the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

HYMN 465 Praise, my soul v 1,2,4

1 Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;
To His feet thy tribute bring;
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
Evermore His praises sing.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise the everlasting King.

2 Praise Him for His grace and favour
To our fathers in distress;
Praise Him still the same for ever,
Slow to chide and swift to bless.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Glorious is His faithfulness.

4 Angels, help us to adore Him;
Ye behold Him face to face;
Sun and moon bow down before Him,
Dwellers all in time and space.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise with us the God of grace.

Henry Francis Lyte (1793-1847), alt.

CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF GRACE

Friends in Christ: Let us draw near to God our Father with a true heart to confess our sins, and ask him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

Our help is in the name of the Lord.

He made heaven and earth.

I said, I will confess my sins to the Lord.

Then he forgave the guilt of my sin.

Almighty God, our maker and redeemer, we confess to you that by nature we are sinful and unclean, and that we have sinned against you by thought, word, and deed. Therefore we flee for refuge to your infinite mercy and plead for your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Most merciful God,

you have given your only Son to die for us.

Have mercy on us,

and for his sake

grant us forgiveness of all our sins.

By your Holy Spirit

increase our knowledge of you and your will,

and make us obedient to your word,

so that by your grace

we may come to eternal life;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy on us, and has given his only Son to die for us, and for his sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in his name he has given the right to become children of God, and has given them his Holy Spirit. Whoever believes and is baptised will be saved. Grant this, Lord, to us all.

Amen.

PSALM 95:1-7

Oh come, let us sing to the LORD;
 let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!
 Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;
 let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!
 For the LORD is a great God,
 and a great King above all gods.
 In his hand are the depths of the earth;
 the heights of the mountains are his also.
 The sea is his, for he made it,
 and his hands formed the dry land.
 Oh come, let us worship and bow down;
 let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!
 For he is our God,
 and we are the people of his pasture,
 and the sheep of his hand.

LORD, HAVE MERCY

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**
 Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**
 Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST

Glory to God in the highest. And on earth peace, among those with whom he is pleased. We praise you, we bless you, we worship you, we glorify you, we give thanks to you for your great glory, O Lord God, heavenly King, God, the Father Almighty. O Lord, the only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father. You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. You take away the sin of the world; receive our prayer. You are seated at the right hand of God the Father; have mercy on us. For you alone are holy, you alone are Lord, you alone,

**O Christ, with the Holy Spirit, are most high in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.**

GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY (COLLECT)

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray

Almighty and everliving God, it is your will to restore all things in your dear Son. Bring together under his just and gentle rule all the peoples of the world, now divided and torn apart by sin. For he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING – Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 The Lord himself will be the Shepherd King

For thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

Therefore, thus says the Lord God to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep.

I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. And I, the Lord, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the Lord, have spoken.

After the reading:

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING – Ephesians 1:15-23 Be ready for the Lord's coming

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love towards all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

After the reading:

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL - Matthew 25:31-46 The King's final judgment

Jesus said ‘When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, “Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.” Then the righteous will answer him, “Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?” And the king will answer them, “Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.” Then he will say to those at his left hand, “You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.” Then they also will answer, “Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?” Then he will answer them, “Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.” And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.’

After the reading:

This is the gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S ADDRESS - Pastor Joshua Pfeiffer

HYMN 301 Take Thou my hand

1 Take Thou my hand and lead me
 O'er life's rough way,
 With heavenly manna feed me
 From day to day.
 Without Thy grace and favour
 I go astray;
 Take Thou my hand, O Saviour,
 Choose Thou my way.

2 Take Thou my heart, and hide it
 In folds of grace;
 Through weal or woe e'er guide it
 To seek Thy face.
 Draw, Lord, of Thy good pleasure
 Thy child to Thee,
 And grant me faith, full measure,
 Though naught I see.

3 Though oft it seems Thou hidest
 Thy wondrous might,
 Yet me Thou safely guidest
 Through darkest night.
 Take then my hand and lead me
 Till life is o'er,
 With heavenly manna feed me
 For evermore.

So nimm denn meine Hande
 Julie Hausmann (1825-1901)
 Tr. 'Australian Lutheran Hymn Book', 1921
 Revised, Hymnal Compilers

SERMON - Pastor Joshua Pfeiffer - 'Praying for you'; Ephesians 1:15-23

THE APOSTLES' CREED

**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, dead, and 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 catholic* church,
 the communion of saints,
 the forgiveness of sins,
 the resurrection of the body,
 and the life everlasting. Amen**

**or: Christian; 'catholic' here means 'universal'*

HYMN 371 O Jesus, I have promised v1,4,5

1 O Jesus, I have promised
 To serve Thee to the end;
 Be Thou for ever near me,
 My master and my friend.
 I shall not fear the battle
 If Thou art by my side,
 Nor wander from the pathway
 If Thou wilt be my guide.

4 O Jesus, Thou hast promised
 To all who follow Thee,
 That where Thou art in glory

There shall Thy servant be;
 And, Jesus, I have promised
 To serve Thee to the end;
 O give me grace to follow,
 My master and my friend.

5 O let me see Thy footmarks,
 And in them plant mine own:
 My hope to follow duly
 Is in Thy strength alone.
 O guide me, call me, draw me,
 Uphold me to the end;
 And then in heaven receive me,
 My Saviour and my friend.

John Ernest Bode (1816-1874)

OFFERTORY

What can I offer to the Lord :
 for all his goodness to me?
 I will lift up the cup of salvation :
 and call on the name of the Lord,
 I will offer you a sacrifice of thanksgiving :
 aid call on the name of the Lord :
 I will keep my promises to the Lord :
 In the presence of all his people;
 in the courts of the house of the Lord :
 in your midst, O Jerusalem.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Almighty God and King, we praise you for the coming of your Son to earth. We thank you that the first time he came in humility and lowliness as our Saviour; now we look forward to his return in power and glory as our merciful judge. Bless your holy church throughout the world, that she may be watchful and ready for your Son's return. Bless her with pure doctrine and a godly life, that

she may be kept from all error and inherit your glorious promises. Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

You watch over the nations of the earth, and have assigned all people their place to live. Ease the burdens of those who live in strife torn lands. Give all leaders a spirit of justice and wisdom and bless the labor of all who work for peace and harmony.

Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

You feed the hungry and take care of the orphan and widow. Be with the poor, the homeless, the friendless, the sick, and the prisoner. Use us to bring your blessing to those in need. Help us to serve and love you through our service to our Christian brothers and sisters. Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

We thank you for the opportunity to learn. Be with all who are finishing off studies for this year, and help all who mark exams and papers in the coming weeks. Give all people in our land a love of truth and wisdom. Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Father, your church awaits the day when the Son of Man will come in his glory, and the angels with him, and he will sit on his royal throne. Until that day, when we will be received as your blessed people, keep us safe in your care. Make us merciful, serving your Son now as he comes to us in those in need. We ask this in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.**

BLESSING

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 favour,† and give you* peace.

Amen. Amen. Amen.

HYMN 113 Crown him v1,5

1 Crown Him with many crowns,
The Lamb upon His throne;
Hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns
All music but its own:
Awake, my soul, and sing
Of Him who died for thee,
And hail Him as thy matchless king
Through all eternity.

5 Crown Him the Lord of heaven,
Enthroned in worlds above;
Crown Him the king to whom is given
The wondrous name of Love:
Crown Him with many crowns
As thrones before Him fall;
Crown Him, ye kings, with many crowns,
For He is king of all.

Sts. 1,3: Matthew Bridges (1800-1894)
Sts. 2,4,5: Godfrey Thring (1823-1903)