

THE ORDER FOR THE CELEBRATION AND PUBLIC WORSHIP OF GOD ON

The Lord's Day, February 18, 2018
The Christian Year: The First Sunday of Lent

10:30 AM Morning Service

*For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice,
the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings. (Hosea 6:6)*

[Please turn off cell phones and observe silence when the prelude begins.]

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

The Voluntary for Silent Prayer

***Call to Worship** **Psalm 96**

Minister: Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth.

People: Sing to the LORD, praise His name; proclaim His salvation day after day.

Minister: Declare His glory among the nations, His marvelous deeds among all peoples.

People: For great is the LORD and most worthy of praise; He is to be feared above all gods.

Unison: Ascribe to the LORD, O families of nations, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength!

***Hymn of Adoration** **No. 7**
From All That Dwell below the Skies
(verse 3, a cappella)

***Prayer of Adoration and Congregational Invocation**

Almighty God, your main plan, and the end of your will, is to make Christ glorious and beloved in heaven where He is now ascended and where one day all the elect will behold His glory, and love and glorify Him forever. In this world you have given me a beginning; one day it will be perfected in the new earth. Help me, now, to see and know Christ, to take Him, receive Him, possess Him, love Him, bless Him in my heart, mouth and life until that day when I will know, even as I am fully known. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

***Affirmation of Faith** **WCF XIV.1,2**

Minister: What do you believe concerning saving faith?

People: The grace of faith, whereby the elect are enabled to believe to the saving of their souls, is the work of the Spirit of Christ in their hearts, and is ordinarily wrought by the ministry of the Word, by which also, and by the administration of the sacrament, and prayer, it is increased and strengthened.

By this faith, a Christian believes to be true whatsoever is revealed in the Word, for the authority of God himself is speaking therein; and acts differently upon that which each particular passage contains; yielding obedience to the commands, trembling at the threatening, and embracing the promises of God for this life, and that which is to come. But the principal acts of saving faith are accepting, receiving, and resting upon Christ alone for justification, sanctification, and eternal life, by virtue of the covenant of grace.

***Gloria Patri** **Tune: Hyfrydol**
God of glory, power, mercy, all creation praises thee;
We, thy creatures, would adore thee now and through eternity.
Saved to magnify thy goodness, grant us strength to do thy will;
With our acts as with our voices, thy commandments to fulfill.

Psalter Reading (responsive reading, p. 806) **Psalm 62**

***Hymn of Preparation** **No. 528**
My Faith Looks Up to Thee

The Prayers of Intercession

Unison: Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all whom you have made. We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ, for the means of grace and for the hope of glory. Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us, granting us in this world knowledge of Thy truth and in the world to come life everlasting. Amen.

Minister: Father, we pray for your people throughout the world; for our denomination; for this church; and for all ministers and missionaries.

People: We pray for the leaders of our nation and all who hold authority, especially that they would resolve to protect the lives of the unborn and defenseless.

Minister: We pray for the world, especially that you would bring peace to the Middle East and to all nations in need of true reformation and restoration. We pray for our brothers and sisters in these places as they offer the hope of the gospel of Jesus Christ amid great danger and opposition.

People: And we pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day.

Pastoral Prayer

Words of Encouragement

Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the creator of the ends of the earth. He does not become faint or grow weary. His understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might He increases strength. Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; but they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint. (Isaiah 40:28-31)

Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless His holy name!

***Hymn of Praise** **No. 691**
It Is Well with My Soul

Worship of God through Tithes and Offerings

***Doxology** **Tune: Lasst Uns Erfreuen**
Let all things their Creator bless,
And worship Him in humbleness,
O praise Him, alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
And praise the Spirit, Three in One;
O praise Him, O praise Him,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication

***Reading of the Holy Scriptures** **Matthew 9:9-13**

***The Prayer for Illumination**

Sermon **Dr. Michael Allen**
"THE OLD-TIME RELIGION"

***Hymn of Response** **No. 468**
My Faith Has Found a Resting Place

***The Benediction**

Postlude

**Denotes congregation standing, if able.*

Cookies & Catechism, immediately following the service