

March 18 & 19, 2023

DIVINE SERVICE I

IN OUR WORSHIP TODAY ... We welcome Rev. Dennis Kleist. Some of us may remember him from his days as Pastor at our sister congregation in Morton Grove. Today he brings of the Good News of Jesus' work for us and our sister mission, Costa Maya Ministries of Mahahual, Mexico.

OPENING HYMN

"Good News of God Above"

Hymn 905

Good news of God above is ours to tell abroad,
the Father's everlasting love in Christ the risen Lord.
For neighbors near and far the seed of life is sown;
then spread the seed by word and deed to make the Savior known.

The love of Christ proclaim, who left his home on high;
to live our human life he came, our human death to die.
The Father's only Son became the sinners' friend,
our lot to share, our sin to bear, and death's dominion end.

The Lord of glory lives! From cross and death and grave
his own abundant life he gives to those he died to save.
His righteousness and peace declare from sea to sea;
his praises sound the world around for Christ has made us free.

Hear now the Master's word to those who bear his name:
"So send I you," till all have heard, "make known, declare, proclaim!"
Go forth in all the earth; embrace the path he trod
with Christ beside as friend and guide to bring good news of God.

INVOCATION

In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

M: Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

C: **Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Jesus, our risen Lord, you commanded your Church to preach the gospel to all nations. We are part of that Church. We pray that you would prosper the work of the missionaries sent out in your name. Protect them and their families from illness and danger, and give them joy in proclaiming the good news of salvation to all people everywhere. Bless us also as we support them with our prayers and offerings. In your name we pray.

Amen.

FIRST READING

Here God promises childless Abram not only that he would be a great nation, but that all peoples on earth would be blessed through him. That would happen of course, as Abram was the ancestor of Jesus, the Savior of the world. Through Jesus all peoples on earth would indeed be blessed!

Genesis 12:1–3

The LORD had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you.

“I will make you into a great nation,
 and I will bless you;
 I will make your name great,
 and you will be a blessing.
 I will bless those who bless you,
 and whoever curses you I will curse;
 and all peoples on earth
 will be blessed through you.”

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 67D

Refrain



Let the peo - ple praise you, O God, let all the peo - ple praise you.

Tone



May God be gracious to us and / bless us
 and make his face / shine on us—
 so that your ways may be / known on earth,
 your salvation among all / nations.
 May the peoples / praise you, God;
 may all the peoples / praise you.
 May the nations be glad and / sing for joy,
 for you rule the peoples with equity and guide the nations / of the earth.

Refrain

Tone



The land yields its / harvest;
God, our God, / blesses us.
May God / bless us still,
so that all the ends of the earth will / fear him.
Glory be to the Father and / to the Son
and to the Holy / Spirit,
as it was in the be- / ginning,
is now, and will be forever. / Amen.

Refrain



Let the peo-ple praise you, O God, let all the peo - ple praise you.

SECOND READING

In our New Testament reading the apostle John, writer of the book of Revelation, shares the vision of heaven at the end of the world. It includes people, "from every nation, tribe, people, and language."

Revelation 7:9-14

After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice:

"Salvation belongs to our God,
who sits on the throne,
and to the Lamb."

All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying:

“Amen!
Praise and glory
and wisdom and thanks and honor
and power and strength
be to our God for ever and ever.
Amen!”

Then one of the elders asked me, “These in white robes—who are they, and where did they come from?”

I answered, “Sir, you know.”

And he said, “These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Revelation 7:10

And they cried out in a loud voice:
“Salvation belongs to our God,
who sits on the throne,
and to the Lamb.”

GOSPEL

Why do we do mission work? Because our Lord Jesus wants every person to hear the Gospel and be saved. So he has commanded each of us to “go” with the Good news in the familiar words of the Great Commission:

Matthew 28:16–19

Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise be to you, O Christ!**

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Hark, the Voice of Jesus Crying"
Hymn 745

Hark, the voice of Jesus crying, "Who will go and work today?
Fields are ripe and harvests waiting; who will bear the sheaves away?"
Loud and long the Master calleth; rich reward he offers thee.
Who will answer, gladly saying, "Here am I, send me, send me"?

If you cannot speak like angels, if you cannot preach like Paul,
you can tell the love of Jesus, you can say he died for all.
If you cannot rouse the wicked with the judgment's dread alarms,
you can lead the little children to the Savior's waiting arms.

If you cannot be a watchman, standing high on Zion's wall,
pointing out the path to heaven, off'ring life and peace to all,
with your prayers and with your off'rings you can do what God demands;
you can be like faithful Aaron, holding up the prophet's hands.

Let none hear you idly saying, "There is nothing I can do,"
while the multitudes are dying, and the Master calls for you.
Take the task he gives you gladly, let his work your pleasure be;
answer quickly when he calleth, "Here am I, send me, send me!"

SERMON

"Mission Work Works"
Revelation 7:9-14

CREATE IN ME

Cre - ate in me a
pure heart, O God, and re - new a right spir - it with -
in me. Do not cast me a - way from your
pres - ence or take your Ho - ly Spir - it from

me. Re - store to me the joy of your sal - va - tion, and up -

hold, up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Brief intercessory prayers may be added in a fitting place.

May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face shine on us, that his ways may be known on earth, his salvation among all nations.

May the peoples praise you, O God. May all the peoples praise you.

Loving Lord, your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, has given gifts to the Church in the apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers. According to your will, raise up more workers and send them into harvest fields in our land and around the world. By the power of your gospel, strengthen them so that they do not become discouraged but continue in the course you have set before them.

May the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you rule the peoples justly and guide the nations of the earth.

Pour out your wisdom, O Lord, on all who train and prepare those who proclaim the everlasting gospel in their own communities and cultures. Through the power of the Spirit lead them to rely on the authority of your Word and to look for success in the witness of your love. Let them find support in their partners in ministry as we work together around the world.

May the peoples praise you, O God. May all the peoples praise you.

Spare those who serve your people far away from infections and injury. Provide medical facilities to diagnose and treat disease. Give help and comfort to all the sick in every land [especially... *here name the person and the cause of the petition*]. Bring healing and health according to your will.

May the nations be glad and sing for joy.

Lord God, King of the universe, direct the governments of the world so that your people may live quiet and peaceful lives. Protect us from crime and war. Let freedom of religion flourish that the gospel may be freely preached throughout the world. Cast down rulers who oppress their people; remove governments that oppose the gospel. Bring relief to Christians who are persecuted.

For you rule the peoples with equity and guide the nations of the earth.

Wherever we go, near or far, move us to share the gospel with eagerness and joy. Give us grace to be models to all so that our brothers and sisters might see our good works and glorify you. Plant in the hearts of your people a deeper desire to share the gospel with their lips and their gifts so that many more may come to know and believe the love of your Son.

The land yields its harvest, and God, our God, blesses us. May God bless us, so that all the ends of the earth will revere him. Amen.

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT

(Guests, please see our communion practice on page 2.)

(Gluten-free wafers are available; ask Pastor.)

M: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

C: **It is good and right so to do.**

M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who brought the gift of salvation to all people by his death on the tree of the cross, so that the devil, who overcame us by a tree would in turn by a tree be overcome. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

The musical score is written on six staves in a single system. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is written in a simple, hymn-like style. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The final note of the sixth staff is marked with a circled number 8, indicating a repeat.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er,
God of might: heav'n and earth are full of your glo -
ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless -
ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san -
na in the high - est. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my (+) body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my (+) blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **Amen.**

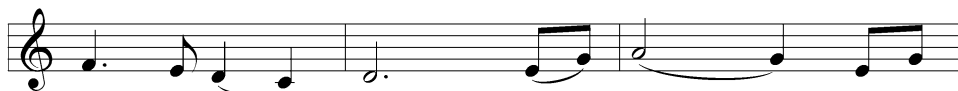
O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD



O Christ, Lamb of



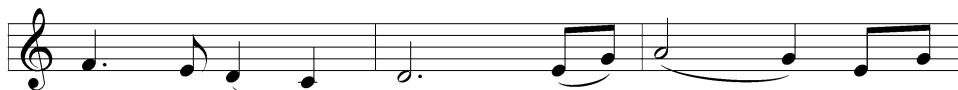
God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have



mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of



God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have



mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of

God, you take a - way the sin of the world;

grant us your peace. A - men. A - men.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

"Draw Near and Take the Body of Your Lord"

Hymn 661

Draw near and take the body of your Lord,
 and drink the holy blood for you outpoured.
 Saved by his body and his holy blood,
 with souls refreshed we give our thanks to God.

Christ our Redeemer, God's eternal Son,
 has by his cross and blood the vict'ry won.
 He gave his life for greatest and for least,
 himself the off'ring and himself the priest.

Let us approach with faithful hearts sincere
 and take the pledges of salvation here.
 Christ, who in this life all the saints defends,
 gives all believers life that never ends.

With heav'nly bread he makes the hungry whole,
 gives living waters to the thirsting soul.
 Lord of the nations, to whom all must bow,
 in this great feast of love be with us now.

CLOSING PRAYER

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.
and his mercy endures forever.

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this Holy Supper. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, 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 on you with favor and give you peace. **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

"Jerusalem the Golden"

Hymn 889

Jerusalem the golden, with milk and honey blest—
the sight of it refreshes the weary and oppressed.
I know not, oh, I know not what joys await us there,
what radiancy of glory, what bliss beyond compare:
to sing the hymn unending with all the martyr throng,
amidst the halls of Zion resounding full with song.

O sweet and blessed country, the home of God's elect!
O sweet and blessed country that eager hearts expect,
where they who with their leader have conquered in the fight
forever and forever are clad in robes of white:
in mercy, Jesus, bring us to that dear land of rest
where sings the host of heaven your glorious name to bless.

The Christ is ever with them, the daylight is serene;
the pastures of the blessed are ever rich and green.
There is the throne of David, and there, from care released,
the shout of them that triumph, the song of them that feast.
To God enthroned in glory the Church's voices blend,
the Lamb forever blessed, the Light that knows no end.

OFFERING

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