

THE LORD'S DAY

November 26, 2023

10 O'clock A.M.

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

REFLECTION

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalms 105:1-3

Pastor: Oh, give thanks to Yahweh; call upon His Name!

People: Make known His deeds among the peoples!

**Pastor Sing to Him, sing praises to Him,
tell of all His wonderful works!**

*People: Glory in His holy Name; let the hearts of
those who seek the LORD, rejoice!*

*HYMN OF ADORATION *Now Thank We All Our God* #98

*PRAYER OF ADORATION

CONFESSION OF FAITH

Pastor: Christian, why do you need Jesus? **1 Timothy 1:15**

*People: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners,
I am the worst!*

Pastor: Christian, why do you confess Jesus? **Romans 10:9-11**

*People: If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in
your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with
the heart, one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses
and is saved.*

Perhaps the pinnacle of God using ordinary means to commune with his people in extraordinary ways happened when God sent his Son to this earth, when "...the Word became flesh and dwelt among us." When Isaiah prophesied about Jesus centuries before he came, he wrote that "...he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him." (Isaiah 53:2) John, in his gospel, tells us that the creator of the universe came to his creations, but nobody recognized him for who he was, nor did they accept him. "He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him." (John 1:10) And yet we also know that when Jesus came to earth, it was God himself who became flesh and dwelt with his people in a way that could hear with their ears, see with their eyes and touch with their hands.

When we come to the sacraments, particularly the Lord's Table, we see how God has chosen unimpressive, ordinary things in order to commune with us in a special and glorious way. There is nothing inherently sacred or special about the elements of bread and wine. Yet, on Jesus's last night with his disciples during the Passover meal, he took ordinary unleavened bread and said, "This is my body, which is given for you," and also in the same manner, ordinary wine, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood." When we, as God's people, celebrate this sacrament and meal as the Lord intended, we are not just remembering what Jesus did, but we actually experience God's presence communing with us in a supernatural and wonderful way. God uses these ordinary means in order to strengthen, encourage and sustain our faith in an extraordinary way as we commune with and spiritually feast by faith upon our risen and ascended Lord and Savior.

Lord Supper Preparation for Advent

THE ORDINARY AND EXTRAORDINARY WAYS OF GOD

By Eric Venable

“Things are more than just aggregates of matter lying around the universe, They have the potentiality of lighting up for us the mystery of God himself.”

-John Macquarrie, from A Guide to the Sacraments

God has always used ordinary means to commune with his people in extraordinary ways. We can see how true this is all throughout the Scriptures. When God instructed his people in the Old Testament as to how to worship him, he commanded his people to construct and use ordinary things to commune with him. At Mount Sinai, God commanded his people to construct a sanctuary, telling Moses, “and let them make a sanctuary, that I may dwell in their midst” (Exodus 25:8). It’s quite interesting to note just what exactly God’s people are commanded to use in order to build the structure that God’s special presence would inhabit. The tabernacle was simply a large tent comprised of animal skins on poles. The Ark of the Covenant, another specific place that God’s presence would dwell, was made of wood from a tree overlaid with gold. The other items that went inside the tabernacle were also ordinary in their nature, and included things such as lamps, a wooden table, and an altar for incense. Even though these items might appear extraordinary to us due to their cultural peculiarity, to those living on the Israelites’ generation, nothing would have set these items apart as being particularly amazing or supernatural. And yet, we are told that in the midst of common, ordinary things, the glory of God consumed the tabernacle and God’s presence communed with his people in a way that produces absolute awe, terror, and worship.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Unison

Eternal God, in whom we live and move and have our being, whose face is hidden from us by our sins, and whose mercy we forget in the blindness of our hearts; cleanse us from all our offenses, and deliver us from proud thoughts and vain desires, that with reverent and humble hearts we may draw near to you, confessing our faults, confiding in your grace, and finding in your our refuge and strength through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

Psalms 130

Pastor: Hear my pleas for mercy.

People: If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand?

Pastor: But with you there is forgiveness, that you may be feared.

People: Put your hope in the Lord.

Pastor: For with the LORD there is steadfast love, and with Him is plentiful redemption.

People: God will redeem His people from all their iniquities.

*HYMN OF DEVOTION

*And Can It Be That I Should Gain
Ushers come forward at this time.*

#455

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE

Doxology

*READING OF GOD’S WORD

Exodus 15:10-26 and Acts 16:19-30
Pew Bible Pg,67,68,1100

PASTORAL PRAYER

PREACHING OF THE WORD

Pastor Gary Englestad

The Paradox of Thankfulness

*HYMN OF RESPONSE *O The Deep, Deep Love of Jesus* #535

*BENEDICTION

*GLORIA PATRI #735

*Stand if you are able

SCRIPTURE READING

Exodus 15:10-26

¹⁰ You blew with your wind; the sea covered them; they sank like lead in the mighty waters.

¹¹ “Who is like you, O LORD, among the gods? Who is like you, majestic in holiness, awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders?”

¹² You stretched out your right hand; the earth swallowed them.

¹³ “You have led in your steadfast love the people whom you have redeemed; you have guided them by your strength to your holy abode.

¹⁴ The peoples have heard; they tremble; pangs have seized the inhabitants of Philistia.

¹⁵ Now are the chiefs of Edom dismayed; trembling seizes the leaders of Moab; all the inhabitants of Canaan have melted away.

¹⁶ Terror and dread fall upon them; because of the greatness of your arm, they are still as a stone, till your people, O LORD, pass by, till the people pass by whom you have purchased.

¹⁷ You will bring them in and plant them on your own mountain, the place, O LORD, which you have made for your abode, the sanctuary, O Lord, which your hands have established.

¹⁸ The LORD will reign forever and ever.”

¹⁹ For when the horses of Pharaoh with his chariots and his horsemen went into the sea, the LORD brought back the waters of the sea upon them, but the people of Israel walked on dry ground in the midst of the sea. ²⁰ Then Miriam the prophetess, the sister of Aaron, took a tambourine in

her hand, and all the women went out after her with tambourines and dancing. ²¹ And Miriam sang to them:

“Sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider he has thrown into the sea.

²² Then Moses made Israel set out from the Red Sea, and they went into the wilderness of Shur. They went three days in the wilderness and found no water. ²³ When they came to Marah, they could not drink the water of Marah because it was bitter; therefore it was named Marah. ²⁴ And the people grumbled against Moses, saying, “What shall we drink?” ²⁵ And he cried to the LORD, and the LORD showed him a log, and he threw it into the water, and the water became sweet. There the LORD made for them a statute and a rule, and there he tested them, ²⁶ saying, “If you will diligently listen to the voice of the LORD your God, and do that which is right in his eyes, and give ear to his commandments and keep all his statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you that I put on the Egyptians, for I am the LORD, your healer.”

Acts 16:19-30

¹⁹ But when her owners saw that their hope of gain was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace before the rulers. ²⁰ And when they had brought them to the magistrates, they said, “These men are Jews, and they are disturbing our city. ²¹ They advocate customs that are not lawful for us as Romans to accept or practice.” ²² The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates tore the garments off them and gave orders to beat them with rods. ²³ And when they had inflicted many blows upon them, they threw them into prison, ordering the jailer to keep them safely. ²⁴ Having received this order, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks. ²⁵ About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them, ²⁶ and suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken. And immediately all the doors were opened, and everyone's bonds were unfastened. ²⁷ When the jailer woke and saw that the prison doors were open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped. ²⁸ But Paul cried with a loud voice, “Do not harm yourself, for we are all here.” ²⁹ And the jailer^[a] called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas. ³⁰ Then he brought them out and said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”