

THE LORD'S DAY

February 25, 2024

10 O'clock A.M.

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

REFLECTION

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Acts 4:24-29; Phil. 2:9-11

**Sovereign Lord, who made the heaven and the earth,
and the sea and everything in them,**

*Why did the Gentiles rage, and the peoples plot in vain?
the kings of the earth set themselves against the Lord
and His Anointed.*

**They were gathered together against Your Holy Servant Jesus,
whom You Anointed.**

*Herod, and Pilate, with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel,
to do whatever Your Hand and Your Plan predestined to take place.*

**Therefore, God has highly exalted Jesus and bestowed on
Him the name that is above every name,**

*So that at the Name of Jesus, every knee should bow, in heaven and
earth, and under the earth, and every tongue confess:*

Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father!

*HYMN OF ADORATION

#310

Rejoice, the Lord is King

*PRAYER OF ADORATION

From the quotation above, Calvin goes on to say that simply seeing the bread, knowing it is there, does not give nourishment to the body. We must eat the bread before we are nourished. He speaks of knowledge and there is certainly knowledge of what the sign is, and what it signifies, but there is more. The Holy Spirit quickens believers who take Communion in faith in a very real way. Through this work of the Spirit, in a way filled with mystery, we are confirmed in the covenant and strengthened again by His grace. We feel no electrical surge in this, no physical or even emotional difference, but we are comforted, confirmed, and strengthened.

As we consider receiving this grace in Communion, we begin to long for it more and more. We may not wake up on Sunday morning thinking of this longing but when the hour comes, we are satisfied through the physical elements, the bread and the wine, taken in faith, and this satisfaction is spiritual—we have participated in the body and blood of Christ as He proclaimed that evening two thousand years ago when the Supper was instituted. Our spiritual satisfaction becomes deeper each time we partake, for we need grace. We need it ever more desperately, and the Lord has wonderfully made it available to us in worship and in a special way, through Holy Communion. We can never have enough.

*The Lord's Supper
Preparation
February 25, 2024*

“This is For You”

Forty Reflections on the Sacrament of Communion

“Our Need” Jimmy Hopper

“There are some who define in a word, that to eat the flesh of Christ and to drink His blood, is no other than to believe in Christ Himself. But I conceive that in that remarkable discourse in which Christ recommends us to feed upon His body, He intended to teach us something more striking and sublime; namely that we are quickened by a real participation of Him, which He designates by the terms eating and drinking, and no person might suppose the life which we receive from Him to consist in simple knowledge.” —John Calvin, from The Institutes of Christian Religion

The Reformed Church has believed for centuries that Holy Communion is more than just a commemoration of the sacrifice of Christ, more than just a remembrance or some bit of sentimentality regarding the Lord and His love for His people. The Church believes that it is a means of grace and that we are very truly fed spiritually when we participate in the sacrament.

CONFESSION OF FAITH

A Westminster Creed

I believe there is but one true and living God.

I believe there are three persons in the one true and living God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one God, the same in substance, equal in power and glory.

I believe in God the Father who has foreordained all things.

I believe the Father made all things of nothing, by His powerful Word, in the space of six days, and all very good. The Father, by His providence, preserves and governs all His creatures and all their actions.

I believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, the only Redeemer of God's elect.

I believe that our Lord Jesus endured the miseries of this life, the wrath of God for us, the cursed death of the cross, and burial. He rose again from the dead on the third day, and ascended into heaven. He now sits at the right hand of God the Father and will come to judge the world on the last day.

I believe in the Holy Spirit who effectually applies the redemption of Christ to His elect.

I believe by the Holy Spirit's sovereign grace we are effectually called, justified, and sanctified, and gathered into the visible church, out of which there is no ordinary possibility of salvation.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Almighty God, we acknowledge and confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed; we have not loved you with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength; we have not loved our neighbor as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent through Jesus our Savior. Have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways to the glory of your Holy Name. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

Psalm 32:1,2,10,11

**Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered.**

*Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no
iniquity, and in whose spirit is no deceit*

Steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts in the LORD.

Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice O righteous!

PASTORAL PRAYER

*HYMN OF DEVOTION

#689

*Be Still My Soul (vs. 1,2,4)
Ushers come forward at this time.*

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE

Doxology

*READING OF GOD'S WORD

Mark 14:43-65
Pew Bible Pg, 1012,1013

PREACHING OF THE WORD

Condemned

*HYMN OF RESPONSE

#441

Jesus Shall Reign (vs. 1,3,5)

*BENEDICTION

*GLORIA PATRI

#735

**Stand if you are able*

Mark 14:43-65

⁴³ And immediately, while Jesus was still speaking, Judas came, one of the twelve, and with him a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the scribes and the elders. ⁴⁴ Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one I will kiss is the man. Seize him and lead him away under guard." ⁴⁵ And when Judas came, he went up to him at once and said, "Rabbi!" And he kissed him. ⁴⁶ And they laid hands on him and seized him. ⁴⁷ But one of those who stood by drew his sword and struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his ear. ⁴⁸ And Jesus said to them, "Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs to capture me? ⁴⁹ Day after day I was with you in the temple teaching, and you did not seize me. But let the Scriptures be fulfilled." ⁵⁰ And they all left him and fled.

⁵¹ And a young man followed him, with nothing but a linen cloth about his body. And they seized him, ⁵² but he left the linen cloth and ran away naked.

⁵³ And they led Jesus to the high priest. And all the chief priests and the elders and the scribes came together. ⁵⁴ And Peter had followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest. And he was sitting with the guards and warming himself at the fire. ⁵⁵ Now the chief priests and the whole council were seeking testimony against Jesus to put him to death, but they found none. ⁵⁶ For many bore false witness against him, but their testimony did not agree. ⁵⁷ And some stood up and bore false witness against him, saying, ⁵⁸ "We heard him say, 'I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and in three days I will build another, not made with hands.'" ⁵⁹ Yet even about this their testimony did not agree. ⁶⁰ And the high priest stood up in the midst and asked Jesus, "Have you no answer to make? What is it that these men testify against you?" ⁶¹ But he remained silent and made no answer. Again the high priest asked him, "Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?" ⁶² And Jesus said, "I am, and you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven." ⁶³ And the high priest tore his garments and said, "What further witnesses do we need? ⁶⁴ You have heard his blasphemy. What is your decision?" And they all condemned him as deserving death. ⁶⁵ And some began to spit on him and to cover his face and to strike him, saying to him, "Prophecy!" And the guards received him with blows.