

# THE LORD'S DAY

January 26, 2025

10 O'clock A.M.

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PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

REFLECTION

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 95:1-7

**O come, let us sing to Yahweh!**

**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.**

*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.*

\*HYMN OF ADORATION

#57

*Hallelujah, Praise Jehovah, O My Soul*

\*PRAYER OF ADORATION

**“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 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.

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.

## Sermon Notes

### CONFESSION OF FAITH

### A Westminster Creed

**I believe in the 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.*

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

#598

*Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah  
Ushers come forward at this time.*

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

\*OFFERTORY RESPONSE

*Doxology*

#731

\*READING OF GOD'S WORD

**Ephesians 1:3-14**  
Pew Bible Pg.1159

PREACHING OF THE WORD

**Present & Future Blessings**

\*HYMN OF RESPONSE

*Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

#457

\*BENEDICTION

\*GLORIA PATRI

#735

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*\*Stand if you are able*

## Scripture Reading

### Ephesians 1:3-14

#### Spiritual Blessings in Christ

<sup>3</sup>Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, <sup>4</sup>even as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him. In love <sup>5</sup>He predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of His will, <sup>6</sup>to the praise of His glorious grace, with which He has blessed us in the Beloved. <sup>7</sup>In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace, <sup>8</sup>which He lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight <sup>9</sup>making known to us the mystery of His will, according to His purpose, which He set forth in Christ <sup>10</sup>as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in Him, things in heaven and things on earth.

<sup>11</sup>In Him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will, <sup>12</sup>so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of His glory. <sup>13</sup>In Him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in Him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, <sup>14</sup>who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.