

THE LORD'S DAY

July 27, 2025

10 O'clock A.M.

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 Yahweh is a great God, and a great King
Above all gods.**

Oh come, let us worship and bow down;

Let us kneel before Yahweh, 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 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.

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.

Scripture Reading
Ephesians 4:17-20

¹⁷ Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. ¹⁸ They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. ¹⁹ They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity. ²⁰ But that is not the way you learned Christ!—

Romans 1:18-31

¹⁸ For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. ¹⁹ For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. ²⁰ For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. ²¹ For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. ²² Claiming to be wise, they became fools, ²³ and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things. ²⁴ Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, ²⁵ because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.

²⁶ For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; ²⁷ and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error.

²⁸ And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done. ²⁹ They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, ³⁰ slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, ³¹ foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless.

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.

**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 Yaweh.

Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice O righteous!

PASTORAL PRAYER

*HYMN OF DEVOTION *Guide Me, O Great Jehovah* #598
Ushers come forward at this time.

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE *Doxology* #731

*READING OF GOD'S WORD **Ephesians 4:17-20**
Pew Bible Pg.1161

PREACHING OF THE WORD **“A Pagan Lifestyle”**

*HYMN OF RESPONSE *I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord* #353

*BENEDICTION

*GLORIA PATRI #735

**Stand if you are able*