



Worship Theme:

Being the Church of Grace for the People who will be Grace

PRELUDE - 'Tranquillo, ma con moto' – Herbert Howells (1892-1983)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: O Lord, majestic in holiness, who is like you?

People: In the greatness of your majesty you overthrew your adversaries.

Leader: O Lord, awesome in splendor, who is like you?

People: Your right hand, O Lord, glorious in power, shattered the enemy.

Leader: O Lord, worker of wonders, who is like you?

People: Sing to the Lord, my strength and my might, you are my salvation!

HYMN #315 Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain

1. Come, ye faithful, raise the strain of triumphant gladness; God hath brought forth Israel into joy from sadness; loosed from Pharaoh's bitter yoke Jacob's sons and daughters, led them with unmoistened foot through the Red Sea waters.

2.' Tis the spring of souls today; Christ hath burst his prison, and from three days' sleep in death as a sun hath risen; all the winter of our sins, long and dark, is flying from his light, to whom we give laud and praise undying.

3. Now the queen of seasons, bright with the day of splendor, with the royal feast of feasts, comes its joy to render; comes to glad Jerusalem, who with true affection welcomes in unwearied strains Jesus' resurrection.

4. Neither might the gates of death, nor the tomb's dark portal, nor the watchers, nor the seal hold thee as a mortal; but today amidst the twelve thou didst stand, bestowing that thy peace which evermore passeth human knowing.

5. "Alleluia!" now we cry to our King immortal, who, triumphant, burst the bars of the tomb's dark portal; "Alleluia!" with the Son, God the Father praising, "Alleluia!" yet again to the Spirit raising.

Opening Prayer

In this moment, gracious God, you have called us away from the world to a place and a time where we can commune with you and with one another. Hallow this communion, we pray. Calm our anxious spirits, that we may be set apart to hear your word of truth through which we receive grace to bring about the obedience of faith. Open us to the reality of your all-embracing love, both in this place and in the wider world. May we, by our words and actions, be bearers of your kingdom, in the name and Spirit of the Christ. Amen.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH, #881 The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth;
And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic** church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

GLORIA PATRI, #70

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

THE 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. Amen

Hymn #463 Lord, Speak to Me

1. Lord, speak to me, that I may speak in living echoes of thy tone; as thou has sought, so let me seek thine erring children lost and lone.
2. O strengthen me, that while I stand firm on the rock, and strong in thee, I may stretch out a loving land to wrestlers with the troubled sea.
3. O teach me, Lord, that I may teach the precious things thou dost impart; and wing my words, that they may reach the hidden depths of many a heart.
4. O fill me with thy fullness, Lord, until my very heart o'erflow in kindling thought and glowing word, thy love to tell, thy praise to show.
5. O use me, Lord, use even me, just as thou wilt, and when, and where, until thy blessed face I see, thy rest, thy joy, thy glory share.

ANTHEM - 'Hail, True Body' – Stanley Vann (1910-2010)

Hail, true Body, born of Mary, Spotless Virgin's virgin birth;
Thou who truly hangedst weary on the Cross for sons of earth;
Thou whose sacred side was riven, Whence the Water flowed and Blood,
O may'st thou, dear Lord, be given at death's hour to be our food:
O most kind! O gracious One!
O sweetest Jesu, holy Mary's Son! Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Exodus 14:19-31

The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. It came

between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night. Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. At the morning watch the Lord in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. He clogged[a] their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the Lord is fighting for them against Egypt." Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the Lord tossed the Egyptians into the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great work that the Lord did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the Lord and believed in the Lord and in his servant Moses.

EPISTLE LESSON Romans 14:1-12

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. 4 Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand. Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God. We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

HYMN #402 Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

1. Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart, in my heart; I want to be a Christian in my heart. (In my heart) In my heart, (in my heart) in my heart, (in my heart) Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart. (In my heart)

2. Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart, in my heart; Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart. (In my heart) In my heart, (in my heart) in my heart, (in my heart) Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart. (In my heart)

3. Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart, in my heart; Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart. (In my heart) In my heart, (in my heart) in my heart, (in my heart) Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart. (In my heart)

4. Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart, in my heart; Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart. (In my heart) In my heart, (in my heart) in my heart, (in my heart) Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart. (In my heart)

GOSPEL LESSON Matthew 18:21-35

Then Peter came and said to him, “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. “For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

Pastor: This is the Word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN #166 All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine

1. All praise to thee, for thou, O King divine, didst yield the glory that of right was thine, that in our darkened hearts thy grace might shine: Alleluia! Alleluia!

2. Thou cam'st to us, in lowliness of thought; by thee the outcast and the poor were sought, and by thy death was God's salvation wrought: Alleluia! Alleluia!

3. Let this mind be in us which was in thee, who wast a servant, that we might be free, humbling thyself to death on Calvary: Alleluia! Alleluia!

4. Wherefore, by God's eternal purpose, thou art high exalted o'er all creatures now, and given the name to which all knees shall bow: Alleluia! Alleluia!

5. Let every tongue confess with one accord in heaven and earth that Jesus Christ is Lord; and God the Father be by all adored: Alleluia! Alleluia!

BENEDICTION

*Go with the God who can part the troubled waters of your life
and lead you through to dry ground.*

*Go with the God who can scatter and subdue
all that hinders you on your journey.*

Go forth in God's might and in God's peace. Amen.

POSTLUDE – 'Sortie' – Noel Rawsthorne (1929-2019)

