

WE CONFESS OUR SINS TOGETHER

Lord, you have called us to worship you. We gladly gather! As we praise you, though, our own inadequacy reminds us of how we have broken our relationship with you. Because we have sinned against you, even our worship fails to be what it could. We often treat it as a show. We simply go through motions, failing to recognize that you want to engage us deeply. Renew us, we pray, according to your steadfast love. Remind us of your covenant faithfulness and have mercy on us in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

WE CONFESS OUR SINS IN OUR HEARTS (Silently)

GOD ASSURES US WE ARE FORGIVEN: 1 John 2:1

¹ My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.

“COME, THOU LONG EXPECTED JESUS”

Trinity Hymnal #196

Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.
Israel’s strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art,
Dear Desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Joy to those who long to see thee, Day-spring from on high, appear;
Come, thou promised Rod of Jesse, of thy birth we long to hear!
O’er the hills the angels singing news, glad tidings of a birth:
Go to him, your praises bringing; Christ the Lord has come to earth.

Come to earth to taste our sadness, He whose glories knew no end;
By His life he brings us gladness, our Redeemer, Shepherd, Friend.
Leaving riches without number, born within a cattle stall;
This the ever-lasting wonder, Christ was born the Lord of all.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king,
Born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring!
By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
By thine all-sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.

WE READ FROM GOD’S WORD: Luke 2:1-7

¹ In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴ And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵ to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶ And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

“WHO IS THIS, SO WEAK AND HELPLESS”

Who is this, so weak and helpless, Child of lowly Hebrew maid,
Rudely in a stable sheltered, Coldly in a manger laid?
’Tis the Lord of all creation, Who this wondrous path has trod;
He is Lord from everlasting, And to everlasting God.

Who is this, a Man of Sorrows, Walking sadly life’s hard way,
Homeless, weary, sighing, weeping, Over sin and Satan’s sway?
’Tis our God, our glorious Savior, Who above the starry sky,
Is for us a place preparing, Where no tear can dim the eye.

Who is this? Behold him shedding drops of blood upon the ground!
Who is this, despised, rejected, mocked, insulted, beaten, bound?
’Tis our God, Who gifts and graces on His church is pouring down;
Who shall smite in holy vengeance all His foes beneath His throne.

Who is this that hangs there dying, While the rude world scoffs and scorns,
Numbered with the malefactors, Torn with nails, and crowned with thorns?
’Tis our God Who lives forever, Mid the shining ones on high,
In the glorious golden city, Reigning everlastingly.

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WE PRAY TO GOD FOR THE CONGREGATION

Mr. Jim Aldridge

WE WORSHIP GOD BY GIVING TITHES AND OFFERINGS

(Welcome visitors! Please fill out a blue information card, located in a chair pocket, and place in offering plate)

“LET ALL MORTAL FLESH KEEP SILENCE” *Trinity Hymnal #193 (vs 1,2,4)*

Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand;
Ponder nothing earthly-minded, for with blessing in His hand,
Christ our God to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand.

King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth He stood,
Lord of lords, in human vesture, in the body and the blood;
He will give to all the faithful, His own self for heavenly food.

At His feet the six-winged seraph; cherubim, with sleepless eye,
Veil their faces to the presence, as with ceaseless voice they cry,
“Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Lord Most High!”

WE PRAISE GOD FOR HIS BLESSINGS (“DOXOLOGY”) *Trinity Hymnal #731*

SERMON TEXT: Revelation 7:9-12

⁹ After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, ¹⁰ and crying out with a loud voice, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!” ¹¹ And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, ¹² saying, “Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen.”

WE HEAR FROM GOD’S WORD: *“The Family Gathering” Pastor Michael Colvard*

WE CELEBRATE THE LORD’S SUPPER TOGETHER

(wine is in the outer most ring, grape juice is in the inner rings)

“ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH”

Trinity Hymnal # 214

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o’er the plains,
And the mountains in reply echo back their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
Say what may the tidings be, which inspire your heav’nly song?
Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo.

WE RECEIVE GOD’S BLESSING OVER US (BENEDICTION)

POSTLUDE

