

Lord's Day Worship

**Grove City Christian Academy
Mill Street Campus**

December 19th, 2021

“The gospel of justifying faith means that while Christians are, in themselves still sinful and sinning, yet in Christ, in God’s sight, they are accepted and righteous. So we can say that we are more wicked than we ever dared believe, but more loved and accepted in Christ than we ever dared hope — at the very same time. This creates a radical new dynamic for personal growth. It means that the more you see your own flaws and sins, the more precious, electrifying, and amazing God’s grace appears to you. But on the other hand, the more aware you are of God’s grace and acceptance in Christ, the more able you are to drop your denials and self-defenses and admit the true dimensions and character of your sin.”

“The gospel is this: We are more sinful and flawed in ourselves than we ever dared believe, yet at the very same time we are more loved and accepted in Jesus Christ than we ever dared hope.”

-- Timothy Keller

Worship Presider: Robert Schmidtberger

Sing Praise to the Name of the Lord

Call to Worship: And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying,
“Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ
have come ... For to us a child is born, to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Rev.12:10; Is. 9:6
“Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made
known to us.” Luke 2:15b

Prayer of Invocation

We ask God's presence to enable us to worship him as we ought.

O Come, All You Unfaithful

O come, all you unfaithful; Come, weak and unstable;
Come, know you are not alone.

O come, barren and waiting ones; Weary of praying, come;
See what your God has done.
Christ is born, Christ is born, Christ is born for you.

O come, bitter and broken; Come with fears unspoken;
Come, taste of his perfect love.

O come, guilty and hiding ones; There is no need to run;
See what your God has done.
Christ is born, Christ is born, Christ is born for you.

*He's the Lamb who was given, slain for our pardon;
His promise is peace for those who believe. (twice)*

So come, though you have nothing; Come, he is the offering;
Come, see what your God has done.
Christ is born, Christ is born, Christ is born for you.

Recount the Wonders of His Mercy

Call to Confession: Mark 15:17-20; Lamentations 5:15-16

Twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on Jesus. And they began to salute him, "Hail, King of the Jews!" And they were striking his head with a reed and spitting on him and kneeling down in homage to him. And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. And they led him out to crucify him.

The joy of our hearts has ceased; our dancing has been turned to mourning. The crown has fallen from our head; woe to us, for we have sinned!

Confession of Sin

King of Heaven,

We long to worship you today with hearts full of joy, but we have sinned countless times and we have no crown of glory or obedience to wear before you. Our dancing is turned to mourning when we think of our sin. We understand that we are like the mockers who scoffed at Jesus as he died, the rebels who pressed the crown of thorns deeply onto his sinless head. We are undone and wonder how you could ever love us and welcome us as cherished sons and daughters. Father, forgive us for hearts which doubt you and turn away from you many times each day. Forgive us for worshipping other gods, and then running away in cycles of shame and guilt because we are disappointed in ourselves. Forgive us for believing that our sin is so much stronger than your love and grace.

Lord, thank you for your perfect Son who never sinned, yet became sin for us. Thank you for allowing his head to be bloodied by that thorny crown, so that you could lift up our heads and crown us with your steadfast love and mercy. Thank you for your deep and infinite love which willingly crushed your only Son so that his wounds could pay our ransom. Dear Father, thank you that our sin is dealt with, fully paid for, and that we have become the righteous through faith in the work of your Son.

Father, we are desperately weak people who constantly need your help. Please turn our eyes toward your radiant Son to see his head now crowned with glory and honor, always pleading in our defense. Help us remember all of the benefits that flow toward us because of our redemption in Christ. Give us such great love for your Son and gratitude to you, that we are transformed into people who want to obey you with all of our hearts. Make us children who love with the same kind of love that we have received from you. Cause us to point one another to Christ as our only hope for surviving this fallen world and our own sinful hearts. Thank you that nothing can keep us from reaching our heavenly home, where we will see your Lamb seated on his throne, crowned with radiant glory, where we will fall at his feet and worship for all eternity. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon: Hebrews 2:9-10, Psalm 103:1-4

We see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone. For it was fitting that he, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the founder of their salvation perfect through suffering.

Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name!

Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits, who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy.

O Come, All Ye Faithful

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant;
O come, ye, o come ye to Bethlehem.
Come and behold him, born the King of angels.

*O come, let us adore him; o come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*

God of God, Light from Light Eternal,
Lo, he abhors not the virgin's womb;
Very God, begotten, not created: *Refrain*

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;
Sing, all ye citizens of Heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest! *Refrain*

Child, for us sinners, poor and in the manger,
We would embrace thee with love and awe.
Who would not love thee, loving us so dearly? *Refrain*

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father now in flesh appearing!

Prayer for the Church and Congregation

Give Attention to His Powerful Word

Scripture Reading

Matthew 2:16-18

¹⁶ Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men. ¹⁷ Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah:

¹⁸ “A voice was heard in Ramah,
weeping and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children;
she refused to be comforted, because they are no more.”

Sermon

“The People Walking in Darkness”

Rev. Robert Pazehoski

Joy to the World

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare him room,
And heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow
Far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as, the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness,
And wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,
And wonders, wonders, of his love.

Receive the Gifts of His Grace

The Lord's Supper

All baptized Christians who trust in Christ alone as their Savior and Lord, who are communicant members of a Bible-believing church, and who seek strength and grace to live more faithfully to Christ are invited to participate. The cups with lighter liquid contain grape juice, the darker liquid is wine. The darker bread in the paper cup in the center of the plate is gluten-free. While communion is being served, please feel free to join in song or meditate quietly on Christ's sacrifice.

Song of Preparation:

God Made Low

Prophets promised long ago a King would come to bring us hope,
And now a virgin bears a son. The time to save the world has come.

Emmanuel has come to us. The Christ is born, Hallelujah!
Our God made low to raise us up - Emmanuel, has come to us.

Humble shepherds run in haste to see the One the angels praised;
In cattle stall they find a girl who holds the hope of all the world. *Chorus*

As he sleeps upon the hay, he holds the moon and stars in place;
Though born an infant He remains the sovereign God of endless days. *Chorus*

For all our sins one day He'll die to make us sons of God on high.
Let every heart prepare Him room; the promises have all come true.

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies;
With th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Christ, by highest Heav'n adored; Christ the everlasting Lord;
Late in time, behold him come, offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail th'incarnate Deity,
Pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Jesus our Emmanuel. *Refrain*

Come, Desire of nations, come, fix in us thy humble home;
Rise, the woman's conqu'ring Seed, bruise in us the serpent's head.
Adam's likeness, Lord, efface, stamp thine image in its place:
Second Adam from above, reinstate us in thy love. *Refrain*

Hail the heav'nly Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that man no more may die.
Born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth. *Refrain*
Song of Response:

Benediction

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