CATECHISM The First Article

- P. We have begun our worship this day in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Let us speak together the words of the Apostles' Creed regarding the First Person of the Holy Trinity and reflect on our confession of faith using the words written by Martin Luther in the Small Catechism.
- C. I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.
- P. What does this mean?
- C. I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them.

He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life.

He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil. All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him.

This is most certainly true.

TITHES & OFFERING

(While the music is playing, please bring your offerings forward and place them in the plate.)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

MESSAGE SONG

"Forth in Thy Name, O Lord, I Go" LSB 854 (sts. 1-5) (Sung to the tune of LSB 664)

MESSAGE OF THE DAY

"God's Work Established vs. Satan's Opposition" (Text: Nehemiah 4) The Rev. Peter Gueldner

(Please stand)

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

THE LORD'S PRAYER

- P. Together let us pray as our Lord Jesus taught us...
- C. 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 and ever. Amen

BENEDICTION

- P. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ + and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C. Amen.

(Please sit)

CLOSING SONG "Beautiful Savior" LSB 537 (sts. 1-4)

- P. Go in peace and serve the Lord!
- C. Thanks be to God!

* * * TO GOD BE THE GLORY * * *

Pastor The Rev. Peter Gueldner

Music Lisa Olson Elder Mark Prieve

Worship Assistant Bill Kirkpatrick

Lector Vivian Hagre **Soundboard** Noah Negaard

Greeters Carl & Sharon Vollbrecht,

Larry & Vivian Hagre

Ushers Wayne Nelson, Bob Reichert

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THE CONNECTION

July 28, 2024 10:30am



PRELUDE / WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS (please fill out Friendship Pads)

WORSHIP SONG "Thy Loving Kindness" (sts. 1-4)

1 Thy loving kindness is better than life.

Thy loving kindness is better than life.

My lips shall praise Thee.

Thus will I bless Thee.

I will lift up my hands unto the Lord.

2 I lift my hands Lord unto the Lord.

I lift my hands Lord unto the Lord.

My lips shall praise Thee.

Thus will I bless Thee.

I will lift up my hands unto the Lord.

3 I lift my voice up unto the Lord.

I lift my voice up unto the Lord.

My lips shall praise Thee.

Thus will I bless Thee.

I will lift up my hands unto the Lord.

4 I lift my heart up unto the Lord.

I lift my heart up unto the Lord.

My lips shall praise Thee.

Thus will I bless Thee.

I will lift up my hands unto the Lord.

© Words: 1956 New Spring; Music: 1956 New Spring, CCLI #918029

(Please stand)

INVOCATION

- P. In the name of the Father, and of the

 → Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- C. Amen

CONFESSION OF SINS AND FORGIVENESS

- P. Almighty God, have mercy on us for Christ's sake.
- C. Almighty God, I am unworthy of You and Your grace and mercy. I have sinned against You in thought, word and deed. And I cannot free myself from this condition. Therefore, I take refuge in Your loving-kindness; and I ask for Your forgiveness. We ask for Your forgiveness.
- P. Almighty God, in His mercy, has given His Son to die for you and for His sake He forgives you. As a called and ordained servant of the Lord, and on His behalf, I say to you, "You are forgiven." In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C. Amen.

(Please sit)

FIRST READING Genesis 9:8-17

⁸God said to Noah and to his sons with him, ⁹"Behold, I establish my covenant with you and your offspring after you, ¹⁰and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the livestock, and every beast of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark; it is for every beast of the earth. ¹¹I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth."

¹²And God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: ¹³I have set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, ¹⁵I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh. And the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. ¹⁶When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth." ¹⁷God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth."

L. Here ends the first reading.

SECOND READING Ephesians 3:14-21

¹⁴For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, ¹⁵from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, ¹⁶that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

²⁰Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, ²¹to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

L. Here ends the second reading.

(Please stand)

GOSPEL READING Mark 6:45-56

⁴⁵Immediately [Jesus] made his disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, to Bethsaida, while he dismissed the crowd. ⁴⁶And after he had taken leave of them, he went up on the mountain to pray. ⁴⁷And when evening came, the boat was out on the sea, and he was alone on the land. ⁴⁸And he saw that they were making headway painfully, for the wind was against them. And about the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea. He meant to pass by them, ⁴⁹but when they saw him walking on the sea they thought it was a ghost, and cried out, ⁵⁰for they all saw him and were terrified. But immediately he spoke to them and said, "Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid." ⁵¹And he got into the boat with them, and the wind ceased. And they were utterly astounded, ⁵²for they did not understand about the loaves, but their hearts were hardened.

⁵³When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret and moored to the shore. ⁵⁴And when they got out of the boat, the people immediately recognized him ⁵⁵and ran about the whole region and began to bring the sick people on their beds to wherever they heard he was. ⁵⁶And wherever he came, in villages, cities, or countryside, they laid the sick in the marketplaces and implored him that they might touch even the fringe of his garment. And as many as touched it were made well.

P. Here ends the reading of the Gospel.

(Please sit)

PARTS OF LITURGY - CREED

P. In the course of His earthly ministry, Jesus put this hard question to His disciples, "Who do you say that I am?" He wasn't asking for the opinions of the crowds. He wanted a confession of faith.

In reality, this confession is no different than the confession of sins. In both, we acknowledge that what God has said is true. When we confess our sins, we acknowledge the truth that God speaks about us — that we are sinners. When we confess the faith of the church in the creed, our confession speaks about God — who He is and what He has done.

In every age, the same question is put to the church: who do you say that I am? As we open our mouths and begin, "I believe in God, the Father Almighty ...," we confess a profound truth that has passed over the lips of Christians in every generation.

This confession of the Triune God is the property of no single individual, but of the whole church, including the whole company of heaven. There are more than a few saints and martyrs who put their lives on the line as they defended the truths that we confess in the creeds.

Think of Athanasius, that faithful fourth-century pastor and confessor, who was exiled numerous times for his defense of the truth against the false teachers of his day. Or Luther, who stood firm against the combined might of the Roman Church and the Holy Roman Empire.

In our own day, there are faithful Christians who risk their lives — and sometimes die — to confess these truths.

In the same way, as we stand on holy ground where Jesus comes in His Word and Sacraments, we join that noble company of saints and martyrs, confessing these holy truths concerning the Triune God.