

We Meet God in Worship

July 18, 2021

Welcome

*Call to Worship:

Leader: How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word, O Lord.

ALL: I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands. I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.

Leader: Praise be to you, O LORD; teach us your decrees.

ALL: With my lips I recount all the laws that come from your mouth.

Leader: We rejoice in following your statutes as one rejoices in great riches. We meditate on your precepts and consider your ways. We delight in your decrees; We will not neglect your word.

ALL: Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.

Leader: Accept, O LORD, the willing praise of our mouths, and teach us your laws.

ALL: I will bow down to you and will praise your name for your love and your faithfulness, for you have exalted above all things your name and your word.

[adapted from: Psalm 119:9-16, 105, 108; Psalm 138:12(NIV)]

*Opening Prayer:

*God's Greeting

*Time of Worship: *led by the Maranatha Fellowship Praise Team*

God's Will for Our Lives:

Leader: As we prepare to celebrate holy communion next Sunday, let us remember that Scripture calls us to examine ourselves before God. We are taught that eating and drinking unworthily brings judgment upon ourselves (1 Cor. 11:28-29). Let us therefore ask God for the proper spirit in which to celebrate the sacrament.

ALL: We thank you, heavenly Father, for the atoning power of our Savior's death and for our share in his victory over sin. Open our hearts as we prepare for this celebration, that it may strengthen us in our faith, establish us in our hope, and confirm us in our love. In his name, Amen.

Leader: Brothers and sisters, let us first examine our faith. We all confess the truth of God as taught by Scripture and summarized in the creeds of the church. By this faith we take to ourselves Christ and all his benefits, so that for us to live is Christ.

All: Lord God, author and finisher of all true believing, confirm our faith as we prepare for the holy sacrament.

Leader: Let us, further, examine our hope. All Christian hope rests upon the finished work of Christ as Savior. The holy gospel teaches that all our righteousness is in him alone. God's children rely wholly upon the merits of Christ, find in him their strength and victory, and confidently expect his return in glory. They look forward to celebrating this holy supper anew with him in the kingdom. They will surely be received by God at his table.

All: Most merciful Father, fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit we may abound in hope.

Leader: Let us also examine our love, both for God and our neighbors. Remember the great and first commandment to love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. Let us consciously determine to live a life of loving service to him, through Christ our Lord. Let us also search ourselves to determine whether we love our neighbors as Christ commands. Do we unselfishly live for the welfare of others? Do our lives reflect the godly virtues of obedience, fidelity, integrity, justice, humility, and contentment? Do we seek reconciliation with our neighbors in all cases of offense?

All: Dear Father, daily increase in us the greatest gift of all, our Christian love.

Leader: If these marks of spiritual life are not evident in us, we may not presume to approach his table. Those, therefore, who live in self-righteousness, who hope in works or virtues of their own, and who do not show love to God and neighbor, have no true place at the Lord's supper. Yet we should not be deterred by any sin lingering within against our will. As we find faith, hope, and love within us, we ought gladly to obey our Lord's command and come with full expectation to God's open house of mercy.

All: Gracious God, we love and adore you in Christ our Lord. We thank you for reconciling us to yourself in him. We rejoice in being received as your children. Prepare us by your Holy Spirit for the sacrament. Help us to come in the assurance that by it we shall be spiritually revived, and strengthened in faith, hope, and love, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

[Preparatory Exhortation for the Lord's Supper approved by Synod, CRCNA, 1981]

***Navajo Hymn**

Offertory Prayer and Offering:

***Scripture:** 2 Timothy 3: 10- 4: 5, text 2 Timothy 4:2

Prayer for Application

Message: *WHAT WE NEED FROM OUR CHURCH: TRUE PREACHING*

Prayer of Response

***Benediction**

***Final Song:** Praise Team

*Please rise, as you are able