

Divine Worship

Philippians 2.1-13
“At Work in You”

Preparation: Ephesians 3.14-19

For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what *is* the width and length and depth and height— to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Silent Meditation

Call to Worship

Leader:

I was glad when they said to me,
“Let us go into the house of the LORD.”

Psalm 122.1, 2

People:

Our feet have been standing
Within your gates, O Jerusalem!

Hymn of Praise

(Nettleton: *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*)

I was glad when they said to me, “To the Lord’s house let us go!”
Holy City, let our feet be firmly planted in your soil.
Jesus builds His Church forever, where His people sing His praise!
As Your Word decrees forever, we will thank You all our days.

On the throne of David, Jesus sits to judge the nations all.
As our holy peace increases we are safe who on You call.
Grant us peace, Lord, by Your favor; for Your people’s sake we pray.
For the Church’s sake, O Savior, we will seek Your good today.

Psalm 122

Invocation and Call to Confession

Leader:

We come to You, Lord Jesus, high and lifted up, seated in splendor, radiant in glory, and robed in majesty. You call us to Yourself, that we might worship in Spirit and in truth, and increase in holiness and love. Receive us, Lord, and grant us Your Spirit, that we may know and love and serve You as we ought. Search us as we come, O Lord, and cleanse us of everything that might keep us from You and Your glory. We bring our silent confessions to You now, and ask You to **hear us, Lord.**

Silent Confession

All

Word of Assurance

Leader:

Philippians 3.20, 21

For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.

People:
Thanks be to God!

Hymn of Assurance

Psalm 23.4-6

(The Gift of Love: *Though I May Speak with Bravest Fire*)

The Lord is ever by my side; His rod and staff with me abide.
A table rich for me He spreads; with oil my Lord anoints my head.

Goodness and mercy, full and free, shall ever after follow me,
And in the house of God, my Lord, shall I abide forevermore!

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving (adapted)

Psalm 105.7, 8, 42-45

All may offer prayers of praise and thanksgiving to the Lord. **The Leader shall close by leading the people in this prayer of thanksgiving from Psalm 105: “Let us join our voices together as we pray...”**

All:
He *is* the LORD our God;
His judgments are in all the earth.
He remembers His covenant forever,
The word *which* He commanded, for a thousand generations...
For He remembered His holy promise,
And Abraham His servant.
He brought out His people with joy,
His chosen ones with gladness.
He gave them the lands of the Gentiles,
And they inherited the labor of the nations,
That they might observe His statutes
And keep His laws.
Praise the LORD!

Offerings to the Lord

Leader:

Let us now bring our offerings to honor the Lord and edify one another by His Word: a passage of Scripture which has been particularly helpful; a brief word of praise for some grace of God bestowed; an observation from creation which revealed the glory of the Lord; a word of appreciation for some aspect of the beauty, goodness, or truth of the Lord.

When as many as like have shared, the **Leader shall pray:**

We give You thanks and praise, O Lord, and offer our confession of faith together (**all together, saying 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 Ghost,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again 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 Ghost,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Doxology

All

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow!
Praise Him, all creatures, here below!
Praise Him above, ye heavenly hosts!
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!
Amen!

Prayers of the People

All may offer prayers of intercession or supplication, seeking mercy and grace to help in our time of need. **At the end, let the Leader lead the people in praying the Lord's Prayer.**

The Ministry of the Word

Philippians 2.1-13

The Leader will read the passage for today, or ask another to read it.

As followers of Jesus Christ, we have received the gift of salvation, which He purchased through His suffering, and has given to us by grace through faith, and through the power of His Word and Spirit. Jesus has sent His Spirit to live in the soul of all who believe in Him, that He might be our Comforter and Encourager, and that by His grace we may work out our salvation into ever fuller and more satisfying experiences of the indwelling Christ.

1. Paul says that we must work *out* our salvation, not *for* it. What's the difference?

We need to have a clear vision of what that will look like, of how our salvation grows and increases as we work to realize more of it. Paul helps us by pointing to Jesus – He is the Author and Finisher of our salvation (Heb. 12.1, 2). Philippians 2.1-11 helps us in gaining a vision of the salvation which we must work out in our own lives.

2. What seems to be the focus of that great salvation in verses 1-4?
3. What example has Jesus set for us, as Paul indicates in verses 5-11?

4. How would you explain what it means to be saved through faith in Jesus Christ?

Paul shows us what it means to work out our salvation – to become more like Jesus! But this does not happen automatically, or with the mere passage of time as a believer. We have to *work out* this great salvation, using the time and resources the Lord has provided.

5. We are commanded to *work out* our salvation, to invest our time and strength in becoming more like Jesus. What tools do we have to help us in this work? How can we help one another in this great work?
6. We're not alone in this. The Spirit of God works in us. To what ends? What is He working to accomplish in us (v. 13)? How does He do this?

How would you explain to a new believer what is involved in working out our salvation in fear and trembling? What's the most important lesson you have learned for working out your salvation?

Hymn of Commitment

Psalm 25.1-5, 21, 22

(Festal Song: *Revive Thy Work, O Lord*)

I lift my soul to You; O Lord, in You I trust.
Let me not come to shame, nor let my foes o'er me exult.

All they who wait on You shall never come to shame;
yet they to shame shall come who stand against Your holy Name.

Make me to know Your ways, teach me Your paths, O Lord!
My Savior, all day long I wait and seek You in Your Word.

Preserve me in Your way, redeem Your people, Lord!
We wait for You and refuge seek in Your own faithful Word.

Benediction

Philippians 2.14-16

Leader:

Do all things without complaining and disputing, that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast the word of life...

All:

Amen.

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