

ORDER FOR THE PUBLIC WORSHIP OF GOD

"Your way was through the sea, Your path through the great waters, and yet Your footprints were unseen."

– Psalm 77:19

April 11, 2021

Morning Worship

10:40 a.m.

"Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you."

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship

* Responsive Praise

Psalm 34:1-3

I will bless the LORD at all times;
His praise shall continually be in my mouth.
My soul makes its boast in the LORD;
Let the humble hear and be glad.
Oh, magnify the LORD with me,
And let us exalt His name together!

* Hymn of Praise

When Morning Gilds the Skies

LAUDES DOMINI

**When morning gilds the skies, my heart awaking cries:
May Jesus Christ be praised.
Alike at work and prayer to Jesus I repair;
May Jesus Christ be praised.**

**Does sadness fill my mind? A solace here I find:
May Jesus Christ be praised.
Or fades my earthly bliss? My comfort still is this:
May Jesus Christ be praised.**

**In heav'n's eternal bliss the loveliest strain is this:
May Jesus Christ be praised.
The pow'rs of darkness fear, when this sweet chant they hear:
May Jesus Christ be praised.**

**Let earth's wide circle round in joyful notes resound:
May Jesus Christ be praised.
Let air and sea and sky, from depth to height, reply:
May Jesus Christ be praised.**

* Affirmation of Faith

The Apostle's 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.

Congregational Response

LAUDES DOMINI

**Be this, while life is mine, my canticle divine:
May Jesus Christ be praised.
Be this th'eternal song, through all the ages on:
May Jesus Christ be praised.**

* Prayer of Adoration

"I, I am the LORD, and besides me there is no Savior."

New Testament Lesson

Colossians 1:15-23

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

General Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, our Heavenly Father, whose Son is Your very image and the firstborn over all creation, have mercy upon us. We have broken Your law, grieved Your Spirit, and injured our fellow man far too often. Forgive us of our many sins and grant us Your grace to remain stable and steadfast throughout our lives, to the end that we may be holy and blameless and above reproach before You, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Silent Prayers of Confession

Assurance of Forgiveness

Pastor Heath Cross

* Hymn

Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery

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**Come, behold the wondrous myst'ry in the dawning of the King.
He, the theme of heaven's praises, robed in frail humanity.
In our longing, in our darkness, now the light of life has come.
Look to Christ, who condescended, took on flesh to ransom us.**

**Come, behold the wondrous myst'ry, He, the perfect Son of Man.
In His living, in His suff'ring, never trace nor stain of sin.
See the true and better Adam, come to save the hell-bound man.
Christ, the great and sure fulfillment of the law, in Him we stand.**

**Come, behold the wondrous myst'ry, Christ, the Lord upon the tree.
In the stead of ruined sinners, hangs the Lamb in victory.
See the price of our redemption, see the Father's plan unfold.
Bringing many sons to glory, grace unmeasured, love untold**

**Come, behold the wondrous myst'ry, slain by death the God of life.
But no grave could e'er restrain Him, praise the Lord; He is alive!
What a foretaste of deliv'rance, how unwavering our hope.
Christ in power resurrected as we will be when He comes.**

**"You shall eat the wealth of the nations,
and in their glory you shall boast."**

God's Tithe and Our Offerings

Anthem

E'en So Lord Jesus

Manz

Stephens Valley Church Choir

Peace be to you and grace from Him, who freed us from our sins, who loved us all and shed His blood that we might saved be. Sing holy, holy to our Lord,

Almighty God, who was and is and is to come. Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell therein. Rejoice on earth, ye saints below, for Christ is coming soon and night shall be no more. They need no light, no lamp, nor sun for Christ will be their All.

* Presentation of Gifts

NATIONAL HYMN

**Lord of all good, we bring our gifts to You,
Pledges of love and off'rings of our skill;
Through them fulfill Your purpose ever true
As our whole life is offered to Your will.**

"Listen diligently to Me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food."

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Lesson

Esther 1:1-22

All flesh is grass, and all its loveliness is like the flower of the field.
The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God stands forever.

Sermon

The Empire Fights Back

Pastor Jim Bachmann

Prayer of Supplication

**"Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters;
and he who has no money, come buy and eat!"**

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Words of Institution

Breaking the Bread

Sharing the Cup

* Hymn

In Christ Alone

Getty & Townend

**In Christ alone my hope is found, He is my light, my strength, my song;
This cornerstone, this solid ground, firm through the fiercest drought
and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace, when fears are stilled, when
strivings cease
My Comforter, my All in all, here in the love of Christ I stand.**

**In Christ alone, Who took on flesh, fullness of God in helpless Babe,
This gift of love and righteousness scorned by the ones He came to save;
'Til on that cross as Jesus died the wrath of God was satisfied,
For every sin on Him was laid, here in the death of Christ I live.**

**There in the ground His body lay, Light of the world by darkness slain.
Then, bursting forth in glorious day, up from the grave He rose again.
And as He stands in victory, sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
For I am His and He is mine, bought with the precious blood of Christ.**

**No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the power of Christ in me.
From life's first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny.
No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man can ever pluck me from His hand,
'Til He returns or calls me home, here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.**

