



## We embrace Christ our Savior

Psalter Reading (responsive)

Psalms 73 (ESV)

73 Truly God is good to Israel, to those who are pure in heart.

**<sup>2</sup> But as for me, my feet had almost stumbled, my steps had nearly slipped. <sup>3</sup> For I was envious of the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.**

<sup>4</sup> For they have no pangs until death; their bodies are fat and sleek. <sup>5</sup> They are not in trouble as others are; they are not stricken like the rest of mankind.

**<sup>6</sup> Therefore pride is their necklace; violence covers them as a garment.**

<sup>7</sup> Their eyes swell out through fatness; their hearts overflow with follies.

**<sup>8</sup> They scoff and speak with malice; loftily they threaten oppression.**

<sup>9</sup> They set their mouths against the heavens, and their tongue struts through the earth. <sup>10</sup> Therefore his people turn back to them, and find no fault in them.

**<sup>11</sup> And they say, "How can God know? Is there knowledge in the Most High?"**

<sup>12</sup> Behold, these are the wicked; always at ease, they increase in riches.

**<sup>13</sup> All in vain have I kept my heart clean and washed my hands in innocence.**

<sup>14</sup> For all the day long I have been stricken and rebuked every morning. <sup>15</sup> If I had said, "I will speak thus," I would have betrayed the generation of your children.

**<sup>16</sup> But when I thought how to understand this, it seemed to me a wearisome task, <sup>17</sup> until I went into the sanctuary of God; then I discerned their end.**

<sup>18</sup> Truly you set them in slippery places; you make them fall to ruin.

**<sup>19</sup> How they are destroyed in a moment, swept away utterly by terrors!**

<sup>20</sup> Like a dream when one awakes, O Lord, when you rouse yourself, you despise them as phantoms.

**<sup>21</sup> When my soul was embittered, when I was pricked in heart, <sup>22</sup> I was brutish and ignorant; I was like a beast toward you.**

<sup>23</sup> Nevertheless, I am continually with you; you hold my right hand.

**<sup>24</sup> You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will receive me to glory.**

<sup>25</sup> Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you.

**<sup>26</sup> My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.**

<sup>27</sup> For behold, those who are far from you shall perish; you put an end to everyone who is unfaithful to you.

**<sup>28</sup> But for me it is good to be near God; I have made the Lord GOD my refuge, that I may tell of all your works.**

Confession of Faith (unison)

Westminster Confession of Faith, XXXIII.1

**God hath appointed a day, wherein he will judge the world, in righteousness, by Jesus Christ, to whom all power and judgment is given of the Father. In which day, not only the apostate angels shall be judged, but likewise all person that have lived upon earth shall appear before the tribunal of Christ, to give an account of their thoughts, words, and deeds; and to receive according to what they have done in the body, whether good or evil.**

Assurance of Pardon

1 John 2:15-17 (ESV)

Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and the pride in

possessions—is not from the Father but is from the world. And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

Hymn No. 700

*Come, We That Love the Lord*

St. Thomas

Come, we that love the Lord, and let our joys be known;  
Join in a song with sweet accord, and thus surround the throne.

Let those refuse to sing that never knew our God;  
But children of the heav'nly King may speak their joys abroad.

The men of grace have found glory begun below;  
Celestial fruits on earthly ground from faith and hope may grow.

The hill of Zion yields a thousand sacred sweets,  
Before we reach the heav'nly fields or walk the golden streets.

Then let our songs abound, and ev'ry tear be dry;  
We're marching through Immanuel's ground to fairer worlds on high.

The Prayers of God's People and the Lord's Prayer (**in unison**)

**We respond in gratitude for God's blessing**

*The Doxology (Hymnal, pg. 731)* and Prayer of Dedication

Offertory

*I Asked the Lord*

Duncan

**We hear God speak**

Scripture Reading

Psalm 36 (ESV)

**36** Transgression speaks to the wicked deep in his heart; there is no fear of God before his eyes.

<sup>2</sup> For he flatters himself in his own eyes that his iniquity cannot be found out and hated.

<sup>3</sup> The words of his mouth are trouble and deceit; he has ceased to act wisely and do good.

<sup>4</sup> He plots trouble while on his bed; he sets himself in a way that is not good; he does not reject evil.

<sup>5</sup> Your steadfast love, O LORD, extends to the heavens, your faithfulness to the clouds.

<sup>6</sup> Your righteousness is like the mountains of God; your judgments are like the great deep; man and beast you save, O LORD.

<sup>7</sup> How precious is your steadfast love, O God! The children of mankind take refuge in the shadow of your wings.

<sup>8</sup> They feast on the abundance of your house, and you give them drink from the river of your delights.

<sup>9</sup> For with you is the fountain of life; in your light do we see light.

<sup>10</sup> Oh, continue your steadfast love to those who know you, and your righteousness to the upright of heart!

<sup>11</sup> Let not the foot of arrogance come upon me, nor the hand of the wicked drive me away.

<sup>12</sup> There the evildoers lie fallen; they are thrust down, unable to rise.

Sermon

“God’s Steadfast Love”

Pastor Bell

**We respond to God’s grace**

Hymn No. 703

*Loved with Everlasting Love*

Mountain

Loved with everlasting love, drawn by grace that love to know,  
Spirit sent from Christ above, thou dost witness it is so,  
O this full and precious peace from his presence all divine;  
In a love that cannot cease, I am his and he is mine. (2X)

Heav’n above is deeper blue, earth around is sweeter green,  
That which glows in every hue Christless eyes have never seen.  
Birds in song his glories show, flow’rs with richer beauties shine  
Since I know, as now I know, I am his and he is mine. (2X)

Taste the goodness of the Lord: welcomed home to his embrace,  
All his love as blood outpoured seals the pardon of his grace.  
Can I doubt his love for me, when I trace that love’s design?  
By the cross of Calvary I am his and he is mine. (2X)

His forever, only his—who the Lord and me shall part?  
Ah, with what a rest of bliss Christ can fill the loving heart.  
Heav’n and earth may fade and flee, firstborn light in gloom decline,  
But while God and I shall be, I am his and he is mine. (2X)

Benediction and Three-Fold Amen (**Hymnal, pg 740**)

Danish

Postlude

*Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life*

Germany

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**A NEW Photo-Directory** is coming. Pastor Ceselsky will be reviewing information and taking family pictures for the directory. We would really like to have 100% participation.