

ORDER OF WORSHIP

ALL SAINTS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

February 7, 2010

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

For Reflection and Preparation

He took the gold from them, formed it in a mold, and cast an image of a calf; and they said, "These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!"

Ex 32:4

The life of faith involves a lot of waiting, a lot of not seeing. Impatiently and faithlessly we fashion a substitute religion that reassures us with its accessible visibility, that caters to our wish for a god who will show us what's next. The calf looked like one of the gods that was popular in Egypt: now the people were on familiar ground, now they were in touch with reality. The demand for a faith that works right now is subversive to a faith that waits for God to reveal his will.

Lord God, you know how attractive this "molten calf" religion is to us. It promises such immediate results; it always seems so exactly suited to our demands. We forget that it is made up entirely of "rings of gold" and has nothing at all to do with you. Protect us from its illusions in the strong name of Jesus. Amen.

Call to Worship

Rev 7:8

Elder: Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever!

All: **Amen.**

Opening Hymn

from *Katholisches Gesangbuch*, 1744

MAY JESUS CHRIST BE PRAISED

1. When morn - ing gilds the skies, — my heart a - wak - ing cries:
2. Does sad - ness fill my mind? — A sol - ace here I find:
3. In heav'n's e - ter - nal bliss — the love - liest strain is this:
4. Be this, while life is mine, — my can - ti - cle di - vine:

may Je - sus Christ be praised. A - like at work and prayer
may Je - sus Christ be praised. Or fades my earth - ly bliss?
may Je - sus Christ be praised. The pow'rs of dark - ness fear,
may Je - sus Christ be praised. Be this th'e - ter - nal song.

to Je - sus I re - pair: may Je - sus Christ be praised.
My com - fort still is this: may Je - sus Christ be praised.
when this sweet chant they hear: may Je - sus Christ be praised.
through all the a - ges on: may Je - sus Christ be praised.

Prayers of Adoration

Psalm 19

vv. 1-6

The heavens declare the glory of God,
and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.
Day to day pours out speech,
and night to night reveals knowledge.
There is no speech, nor are there words,
whose voice is not heard.
Their measuring line goes out through all the earth,
and their words to the end of the world.
In them he has set a tent for the sun,
which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his chamber,
and, like a strong man, runs its course with joy.
Its rising is from the end of the heavens,
and its circuit to the end of them,
and there is nothing hidden from its heat.

Hymn of Praise

Keith Getty & Stuart Townend, 2005

LET THE EARTH RESOUND



1. Let the earth re-sound with songs of praise to the Fa-ther's pow'r and love;
2. Let the earth be stilled be - fore the sight of a Fa-ther's sac - ri - fice
3. Let the earth re-sound with songs of faith at the won - der yet to come,



for the One who set each star in place chose to set His heart on us.
that re - vealed the depths of love di - vine in the face of Je - sus Christ.
when all sin and pain are put to death and the Church and Christ are one.



To the One whose might gives vic-to-ry, yet whose mer - cies nev - er cease;
Through a life of full o - bed-i-ence and a death in a - gon - y,
When we stand as God's great fam-i - ly and we meet the Fa-ther's gaze,



as the tap - es - try of his - to - ry tells the sto - ry of His grace.
He re - moved the re - bel's pun-ish-ment and He set the pris - 'ner free.
and we share in His e - ter - nal joy as we join in cease - less praise.

King Im - mor - tal, Faith - ful God; crowned with splen - dor, rich in love.

Let the heav - ens and the earth re-sound with songs of praise to You.

Affirmation of Faith

Heidelberg Catechism, Q 32

Elder: Why are you called by the name Christian?

People: I am called Christian
because by faith I am a member of Christ¹
and so I share in his life.²

I am appointed
to confess his name,³
to present myself to him as a living sacrifice of thanks,⁴
to strive with a good conscience against sin and the devil
in this life,⁵
and afterward to reign with Christ
over all creation
for all eternity.⁶

Confession of Sin

All: Lord God, we have sinned against you;
we have done evil in your sight.
We are sorry and repent.
Have mercy on us according to your love.
Wash away our wrongdoing and cleanse us
from our sin.
Renew a right spirit within us
and restore us to the joy of your salvation,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Silent Confession and Meditation

¹ 1 Cor. 12:12-27

² Acts 2:17 (Joel 2:28); 1 John 2:27

³ Matt. 10:32; Rom. 10:9-10; Heb. 13:15

⁴ Rom. 12:1; 1 Pet. 2:5, 9

⁵ Gal. 5:16-17; Eph. 6:11; 1 Tim. 1:18-19

⁶ Matt. 25:34; 2 Tim. 2:12

Song of Faith

Keith & Kristyn Getty, Stuart Townend, 2006

MERCIFUL GOD



Solo 1. Mer - ci - ful God, O a - bound - ing in love, faith - ful to
All 2. Mer - ci - ful God, O a - bound - ing in love, faith - ful through
All 3. Mer - ci - ful God, O a - bound - ing in love, faith - ful to



all who draw near you; hear - ing the cries of the hum - ble in heart,
times we have failed you; self - ish in thought and un - car - ing in deed,
keep us from fall - ing; guid - ing our ways with your fa - ther - ly heart,



show - ing the cross they may cling to. Bro - ken I come,
fool - ish in word and un - grate - ful. Spir - it of God,
grow - ing our faith with each test - ing. God speed the day



help - less in sin, found at the feet of your mer - cy.
con - quer our hearts with love that flows from for - give - ness;
strug - gles will end, fault - less we'll gaze on your glo - ry.



Fa - ther, for - give may my sin be re - mem - bered no more.
cause us to yield and re - turn to the mer - cy of God.
then we will stand o - ver - whelmed by the mer - cy of God.

Pardoning Grace, Challenging Grace

Eph 4:31-32

Elder: Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

Prayers for the Church and World

Leader: We pray for the church, your forgiven people:
may we extend your saving welcome to all people,
knowing that we ourselves required your healing.
Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth,

All: Extend your kingdom in our midst.

Leader: We pray for this community of faith: may we increasingly become faithful givers
telling the story of your victory through our words and deeds. Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,

All: Extend your kingdom in our midst.

Leader: We pray for those who suffer from illness or distress,
whether in mind or body or situation:
may they know your power to renew and heal.
Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth,

All: Extend your kingdom in our midst.

Collection of Tithes and Offerings

1 Cor 15:55-57

Where, O death, is your victory?
Where, O death, is your sting?"
The sting of death is sin,
and the power of sin is the law.
But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory
through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Reading of Scripture

Ex 32:1-35

When the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people gathered themselves together to Aaron and said to him, "Up, make us gods who shall go before us. As for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him." 2 So Aaron said to them, "Take off the rings of gold that are in the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me." 3 So all the people took off the rings of gold that were in their ears and brought them to Aaron. 4 And he received the gold from their hand and fashioned it with a graving tool and made a golden calf. And they said, "These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!" 5 When Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it. And Aaron made proclamation and said, "Tomorrow shall be a feast to the LORD." 6 And they rose up early the next day and offered burnt offerings and brought peace offerings. And the people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play.

7 And the LORD said to Moses, "Go down, for your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have corrupted themselves. 8 They have turned aside quickly out of the way that I commanded them. They have made for themselves a golden calf and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it and said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!'" 9 And the LORD said to Moses, "I have seen this people, and behold, it is a stiff-necked people. 10 Now therefore let me alone, that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them, in order that I may make a great nation of you."

11 But Moses implored the LORD his God and said, "O LORD, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you have brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? 12 Why should the Egyptians say, 'With evil intent did he bring them out, to kill them in the mountains and to consume them from the face of the earth'? Turn from your burning anger and relent from this disaster against your people. 13 Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, to whom you swore by your own self, and said to them, 'I will multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your offspring, and they shall inherit it forever.'" 14 And the LORD relented from the disaster that he had spoken of bringing on his people.

15 Then Moses turned and went down from the mountain with the two tablets of the testimony in his hand, tablets that were written on both sides; on the front and on the back they were written. 16 The tablets were the work of God, and the writing was the writing of God, engraved on the tablets. 17 When Joshua heard the noise of the people as they shouted, he said to Moses, "There is a noise of war in the camp." 18 But he said, "It is not the sound of shouting for victory, or the sound of the cry of defeat, but the sound of singing that I hear." 19 And as soon as he came near the camp and saw the calf and the dancing, Moses' anger burned hot, and he threw the tablets out of his hands and broke them at the foot of the mountain. 20 He took the calf that they had made and burned it with fire and ground it to powder and scattered it on the water and made the people of Israel drink it.

21 And Moses said to Aaron, "What did this people do to you that you have brought such a great sin upon them?" 22 And Aaron said, "Let not the anger of my lord burn hot. You know the people, that they are set on evil. 23 For they said to me, 'Make us gods who shall go before us. As for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.' 24 So I said to them, 'Let any who have gold take it off.' So they gave it to me, and I threw it into the fire, and out came this calf."

25 And when Moses saw that the people had broken loose (for Aaron had let them break loose, to the derision of their enemies), 26 then Moses stood in the gate of the camp and said, "Who is on the LORD's side? Come to me." And all the sons of Levi gathered around him. 27 And he said to them, "Thus says the LORD God of Israel, 'Put your sword on your side each of you, and go to and fro from gate to gate throughout the camp, and each of you kill his brother and his companion and his neighbor.'" 28 And the sons of Levi did according to the word of Moses. And that day about three thousand men of the people fell. 29 And Moses said, "Today you have been ordained for the service of the LORD, each one at the cost of his son and of his brother, so that he might bestow a blessing upon you this day."

30 The next day Moses said to the people, "You have sinned a great sin. And now I will go up to the LORD; perhaps I can make atonement for your sin." 31 So Moses returned to the LORD and said, "Alas, this people have sinned a great sin. They have made for themselves gods of gold. 32 But now, if you will forgive their sin- but if not, please blot me out of your book that you have written." 33 But the LORD said to Moses, "Whoever has sinned against me, I will blot out of my book. 34 But now go, lead the people to the place about which I have spoken to you; behold, my angel shall go before you. Nevertheless, in the day when I visit, I will visit their sin upon them."

35 Then the LORD sent a plague on the people, because they made the calf, the one that Aaron made.

Sermon

“Idolatry”

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Visiting With Us? If you are a baptized, believing Christian, and a faithful member of this or some other Christian congregation, you are invited to participate. If you are not a Christian, or if you choose not to share in this meal, we are glad that you are here and hope that you will use this time to reflect more deeply on Jesus Christ.

Hymn of Communion

Elvina M. Hall, 1865

JESUS PAID IT ALL



1. I ___ hear the Sav - ior ___ say, "Your
2. Lord ___ now in - deed I ___ find Your
3. For ___ no - thing good have ___ I where -
4. And ___ when be - fore the ___ throne I



strength in - deed is ___ small! Child of weak - ness, watch and ___
pow'r, and You a - lone, can ___ change the lep - er's ___
by Your grace to ___ claim; I'll ___ wash my gar - ments ___
stand in Him com - plete "Je - sus died my soul to ___



pray, find in Me your all in all."
spots and ___ melt the heart of stone.
white in the blood of Cal - v'ry's Lamb.
save," my ___ lips shall still re - peat.

Refrain



Je - sus paid it all, all to Him I ___ owe;



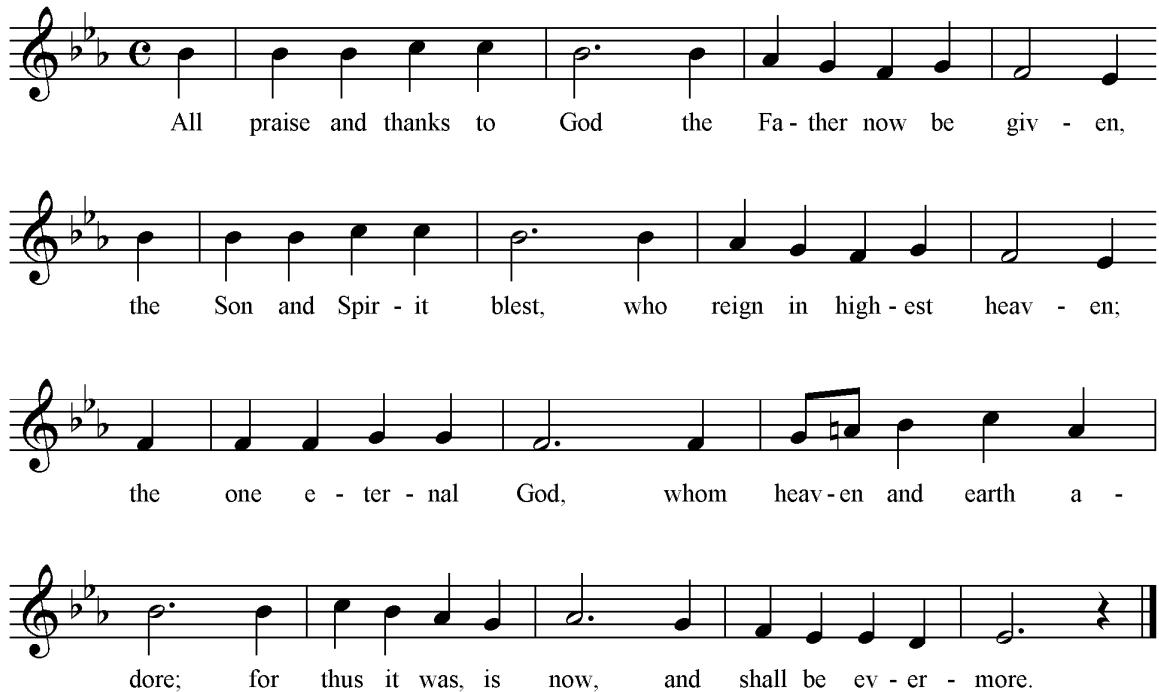
Sin had left a crim - son stain, He washed it white as ___ snow. *Interlude, v. 3*

The Distribution of the Elements

We use wine in the Lord's Supper. Wine is available in the inner two circles for those who desire it; grape juice is available in the outer ring.

Doxology

Martin Rinkart, 1636



All praise and thanks to God the Fa - ther now be giv - en,
the Son and Spir - it blest, who reign in high - est heav - en;
the one e - ter - nal God, whom heav - en and earth a -
dore; for thus it was, is now, and shall be ev - er - more.

Benediction

Num 6:24-26

Minister: The LORD bless you and keep you;
the LORD make His face to shine upon you
and be gracious to you;
the LORD turn His face toward you
and give you peace.