

*Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore Him!
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before Him!
Let the Amen sound from His people again;
Gladly for aye we adore Him.*

Postlude: "Processional"

R. Frey

Ordinary Time

September 22, 2024



Worship Participants

Pastor: Dr. Joel Kok ✦ Organ/Piano: Lois Vander Zee
Dordt University Concert Choir, Directed by Dr. Ryan Smit
Sound: Andy Landman ✦ Video: John Stevenson ✦ CCLI #493458 ✦ OneLicense #A-721171

Hearing Assistance

A telecoil hearing-loop system sends a signal into the sanctuary. If your hearing aid is t-coil equipped, try switching to the t-coil receiver. An FM hearing assistance system is also available for ears without hearing aids. Consult the sound operator for assistance.



James 2:12-13

Speak and act as those who are going to be judged by the law that gives freedom, because judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

†Ordinary time refers to the Sundays between Pentecost and Advent, a season in the liturgical year of growth in the life of the church.

Gathering

Prelude: "All Glory Be to God"
"When In Our Music God Is Glorified"

A. Leupold
M. Burkhardt

Welcome

Call to Worship: Psalm 81:1-4

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Choral Introit: "Exultate Deo" Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina
*Sing for joy to God our strength;
shout aloud to the God of Jacob!
Begin the music, strike the timbrel,
play the melodious harp and lyre.
Sound the ram's horn at the New Moon,
and when the moon is full, on the day of our festival;
this is a decree for Israel,
an ordinance of the God of Jacob.*

*Song: "Let All Things Now Living" LUYH 5

*God Greet Us, We Greet One Another

*Song: "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee" LUYH 581

Renewal

Prayer for Renewal

We cannot merely pray to You, O God, to end war;
for we know that You have made the world in a way
so that all of us must find our own path to peace,
within ourselves and with our neighbors.

Lord, have mercy.

We cannot merely pray to You, O God, to end starvation;
for You have already given us the resources with which to feed the entire world,
if we would only use them wisely.

Christ, have mercy.

We cannot merely pray to You, O God, to root out our prejudice;
for You have already given us eyes with which to see the good in all people,
if we would only use them rightly.

Lord, have mercy.

Communion Song: "Cornerstone"

Shawn Kirchner

*O the stone that the builders rejected
became the cornerstone of a whole new world.*

*A grain of wheat may be knocked to the ground
And suffer through the winter's cold
Only to rise right up again
And bear its seed a thousandfold.*

*Never shall our journey fail;
A little child shall lead the way
Whose eyes are filled with a shining light,
To whom the night is bright as day.*

*The love that rolls the stone away
Gives us life that we may sing
"Grave, where is thy victory?
Death, O death, where is thy sting?"*

Communion Song: "Rejoice, the Lord Is King"

LUYH 224

*The Thanksgiving: Psalm 103:1-4

p.939

**Praise the Lord, O my soul;
all my inmost being, praise his holy name.
Praise the Lord, O my soul and forget not all his benefits—
who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases,
who redeems your life from the pit
and crowns you with love and compassion.**

Sending

*Benediction

*Closing Song: "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" arr. F. Melius Christiansen

*Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy health and salvation!
All ye who hear, now to his temple draw near,
Join me in glad adoration.*

*Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee;
Surely His goodness and mercy here daily attend thee;
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do
If with His love He befriend thee.*

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading: James 2:1-13

p.1881

Message: "Judge Mercy"

Pastor Joel Kok

*Song of Response: "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"

LUYH 689

Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right for us to give thanks and praise.

Song: "Holy, Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty"

LUYH 538:1

The Institution: 1 Corinthians 11

Memorial Acclamation

Let us proclaim the mystery of our faith:

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Dying he destroyed our death. Rising he restored our life.

Lord Jesus, come in glory.

Prayer of Consecration, concluding with the Lord's Prayer

**Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.**

**Thy kingdom come; thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

Give us this day our daily bread,

and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

**For thine is the kingdom and the power
and the glory forever. Amen.**

The Invitation

We invite you to come down the center aisle to the communion table at the front of the sanctuary. You may partake at the table or take it back to your seats to partake there.

Gluten-free bread is available on the table.

We cannot merely pray to You, O God, to end despair;
for you have already given us the power to clear away slums and to give hope,
if only we would use our power justly.

Christ, have mercy.

We cannot merely pray to You, O God, to end disease;
for you have already given us great minds
with which to search out cures and healing,
if we could only use them constructively.

Lord, have mercy.

Therefore, we pray to You instead, O God,
for strength, determination, and courage,
to do instead of just pray, to become instead of merely to wish.
Praised are You, O God, You bless your people Israel, and all peoples with peace.
Amen.

Choral Song: "A Prayer of the Middle Ages"

Howard Hanson

*We declare unto all the ages as the greatest marvel,
ere there were hills and trees or the mighty ocean,
ere the sunlight shone forth or the moon cast its beams,
when naught was, from end to end,
there wert Thou, O God, Thou almighty God,
from time unknown to time unknown, Eternal God,
Thou who madest heaven and earth,
give to us wisdom, prudence and strength,
give through Thy holy blessing faith unending
that Thy will we may do.
Amen.*

Words of Hope: Romans 8:1-2; II Corinthians 5:17

p.1757, 1799

Invitation to Giving

*Offering our gifts is an important part of our response to God—connecting our worship
with a life of discipleship—and is a way to participate in the ministry of Covenant CRC
here in this building and around the world. Offering boxes are available, or check your
bulletin announcements for more ways to give.*

Prayers for the Church and World

Word

Children In Worship Dismissal: "Listen, God Is Calling"

LUYH 753

*Children ages 3 years old through kindergarten are invited to a time of worship designed
especially for young children and can gather in the fellowship hall with the helpers. Our
young guests are welcome to participate in this service.*