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(414) 534-7279 (863) 967-5145 ¹ Praise the LORD! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation. ² Great are the works of the LORD, studied by all who delight in them. ³ Full of splendor and majesty is his work, and his righteousness endures forever. ⁴ He has caused his wondrous works to be remembered; the LORD is gracious and merciful. ⁵ He provides food for those who fear him; he remembers his covenant forever. ⁶ He has shown his people the power of his works, in giving them the inheritance of the nations. ⁷ The works of his hands are faithful and just; all his precepts are trustworthy; ⁸ they are established forever and ever, to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness. ⁹ He sent redemption to his people; he has commanded his covenant forever. Holy and awesome is his name! ¹⁰ The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever!

OPENING PRAYER

HYMN: TLH #106:1-5

"The People That in Darkness Sat"

- P In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION:

P Pastor

C Congregation

We come before God recognizing that we are sinful and daily need His forgiveness.

- P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God, our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness. Our help is in the name of the Lord.
- J Who made heaven and earth.
- P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord.
- And Thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin.
- P Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- O most merciful God, who hast given Thine only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission

of all our sins; and by Thy Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of Thee and of Thy will and true obedience to Thy Word, to the end that by Thy grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

- P Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in His name He gives power to become the sons of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He who believes and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

INTROIT

Ps. 98:1-4; Is. 53:10

A collection of passages that set the tone for the service.

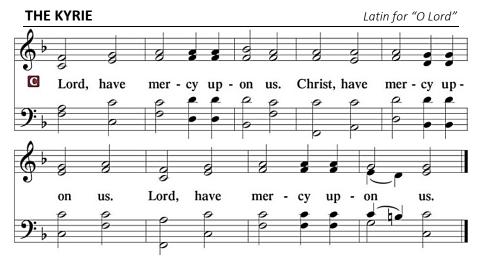
- The LORD has bared His holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.
- Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for He has done marvelous things! His right hand and His holy arm have worked salvation for Him.
- The LORD has made known His salvation; He has revealed His righteousness in the sight of the nations.
- He has remembered His steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.
- P Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises!

GLORIA PATRI

Latin for "Glory be to the Father"



P Alleluia. My eyes have seen Your salvation; a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to Your people Israel. Alleluia.



GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST

TLH #237:1

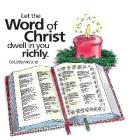
- All glory be to God on high, Who hath our race befriended! To us no harm shall now come nigh, The strife at last is ended. God showeth His good will to men, And peace shall reign on earth again; O thank Him for His goodness!
- P Let us pray. . . . with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

OLD TESTAMENT READING – Exodus 13:1-3a; 11-15 The LORD said to Moses, ² "Consecrate to me all the firstborn. Whatever is the first to open the womb among the people of Israel, both of man and of beast, is mine." ³ Then Moses said to the people, "Remember this day in which you came out from Egypt, out of the house of slavery, for by a strong hand the LORD brought you out from this place. . . . "When the LORD brings you into the land of the Canaanites, as he swore to you and your fathers, and shall give it to you, ¹² you shall set apart to the LORD all that first opens the womb. All the firstborn of your animals that are males shall be the LORD's. ¹³ Every firstborn of a donkey you shall redeem with a lamb, or if you will not redeem it you shall break its neck. Every firstborn of man

among your sons you shall redeem. ¹⁴ And when in time to come your son asks you, 'What does this mean?' you shall say to him, 'By a strong hand the LORD brought us out of Egypt, from the house of slavery. ¹⁵ For when Pharaoh stubbornly refused to let us go, the LORD killed all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both the firstborn of man and the firstborn of animals. Therefore I sacrifice to the LORD all the males that first open the womb, but all the firstborn of my sons I redeem.'

OLD TESTAMENT READING – Colossians 3:12-17 Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, ¹³ bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴ And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵ And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts,

to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.



CONFESSION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

The Apostles' Creed is a summary of Christian faith as taught by the Apostles.

- I believe in God the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.
- I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.
- I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

HYMN: TLH #90:1-3,6-7 "Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising"

SERMON - Luke 2:22-35 And when the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³ (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord") 24 and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons." ²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. ²⁶ And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. 27 And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, ²⁸ he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said, ²⁹ "Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; 30 for my eyes have seen your salvation 31 that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, ³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel." 33 And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. 34 And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed 35 (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed."

Redefining Our Christmas Joy

I. Because of Christmas we have been given our purpose to live II. Because of Christmas we have been given our peace to die

OFFERTORY

In this prayer we OFFER God our hearts, asking Him for that best of all gifts, the Holy Spirit.

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

HYMN: TLH #139 "In His Temple Now Behold Him"

OFFERING OF THANKFUL HEARTS —

Followed immediately by the Offering Hymn printed below:

OFFERING HYMN: TLH #441:1 "We Give Thee But Thine Own"

- We give Thee but Thine own, Whate'er the gift may be; All that we have is Thine alone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee.
 - PRAYER, LORD'S PRAYER, and BENEDICTION
- The LORD bless you and keep you; The LORD make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you; The LORD lift up His countenance upon you and give you His peace.
- C Amen, amen, a men.

HYMN: Bulletin

"Another Year of Grace, My Friends"

♣ Announcements **♣**

Thank you to everyone who helped out with the wiffle ball tournament yesterday! It was a huge success!

Shut-in/Encouragement

<u>List</u> Emily Kuehne suffers from total blindness and severe knee

Looking Ahead...

- → Jan. 5: Bible Class/SS Resumes

- ☆ Jan. 12: Orlando Service 8 am

pain when standing or walking. **Patti Meno** continues to receive treatment for her kidney condition and is awaiting a transplant. **Bill Issitt III** remains mostly housebound while recovering from several health problems. **Johanna Jaehnigen** remains mostly housebound. **Crystal Shaw** has recently received a positive diagnosis and is awaiting more doctor analysis. **Bill Hartmann's** health is deteriorating. **Bill Issitt Sr.** is progressing very well. **Loye Issitt** is receiving regular dialysis. **Delores Seger** is at Winter Haven hospital after her lung recently collapsed.

<u>Last Week</u> (12/22&24) WH - 24 Orlando - 14 Christmas Eve - 96 General = \$2,271 | ILC Scholarship = \$50

Total Offering = \$2,321

December Usher: Steve Goodwin | Cleaning (1/4): Goodwin | Acolyte (1/5): Grant B.

Another Year of Grace, My Friends

(Should All God's Blessings Be Forgot)

Chad M. Seybt, 2016

Traditional Scottish



- 3. The Lamb of God my Shepherd is, His life He lived for mine.

 His blood was spilled; His body killed To be our sacrifice.

 The living LORD my Shepherd is. Though He was crucified,

 His body rose in three days time And now stands glorified. Refrain
- 4. Surely His mercy and His grace Shall follow all life long.

 And I will dwell within His house to praise Him with this song:

 All glory be to You, O Christ, Who cam e to set me free,

 With Father, Spirit, ever One, Through all eternity. Refrain