



The life of the church mirrors the gospel pattern in the life of a disciple.

*This is demonstrated in our **order of worship** (the bulletin you are holding): Opening moments offer recognition of the greatness and goodness of God that naturally folds into confession, assurance of pardon, songs of thanksgiving, instruction, and a charge to serve God in response to His grace in Christ.*



This “passive” righteousness is a mystery that Christians never completely understand themselves, and thus do not take advantage of it when they are troubled and tempted. So we have to constantly teach it, repeat it, and work it out in practice. For anyone who does not understand this righteousness or cherish it in the heart and conscience, will continually be buffeted by fears and depression. Nothing gives peace like this passive righteousness.

Martin Luther

Order of Worship

December 8, 2019

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

SMPC Music Team

Celebrating His Presence

Preparation for Worship

*We believe everyone **worships** everything and that we will inevitably imitate and serve what we worship.*



Call to Worship

As with Gladness Men of Old

As with gladness men of old did the guiding star behold;
As with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright;
So, most gracious God, may we evermore be led to Thee.

As with joyful steps they sped to that lowly cradle bed,
There to bend the knee before Him whom heav'n and earth adore;
So may we with willing feet ever seek Thy mercy seat.

Holy Jesus, every day keep us in the narrow way;
And when earthly things are past, bring our ransomed souls at last
Where they need no star to guide, where no clouds Thy glory hide.

In the heav'nly country bright need they no created light;
Thou its light, its joy, its crown, Thou its sun which goes not down;
There forever may we sing alleluias to our King.

Invocation

A Gospel Moment

The Prayer of Confession and Repentance

Eternal God, we have sinned against you in thought, word and deed. And when we sin we vainly imagine ourselves to be stronger than we are and promise to change our ways, and yet we are unable to change our hearts, out of which spring all our evil inclinations. But, in the hopelessness of our situation, we turn to You, who have promised to forgive all those who trust in Jesus Christ, Your Son, and our only Redeemer. Our hearts are stone, melt them with Your love. This is our hope—that You are willing to accept us in Christ, and able to change our hearts, so that we may live above the passions of the flesh and evil desires of the mind and serve You with a glad and willing spirit, to the glory and praise of our Savior Jesus Christ.



*The **gospel moment** is a time we use to remind people of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.*

By His obedience we are justified, and by His death we are reconciled to God. As we apprehend this we are ready to confess our sin.



*Since we understand that we are redeemed sinners, we agree with God about our sin to the end that we might be confirmed in the forgiveness and absolution we have in Christ. This pattern of **confession** makes way for affirmation and confirmation of God's covenant promise that He assures every believer of pardon for the sake of Christ's obedience and substitution.*



Assurance of Pardon

People: Thanks be to God!



For assurance of pardon, the man who has faith is the man who is no longer looking at himself and no longer looking to himself. He looks entirely to the Lord Jesus Christ and His finished work, and rests on that alone". –Martyn Lloyd-Jones



God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen

God rest you merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay,
Remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas day,
To save us all from Satan's pow'r when we were gone astray;
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.

'Fear not, then,' said the angel, 'let nothing you affright,
This day is born a Savior of a pure virgin bright,
To free all those who trust in Him from Satan's pow'r and might.'
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.

The Blessing

Minister: The grace of God be with you.

People: And also with you.

Greeting One Another in the Name of the Lord

Experiencing Renewal

Offering

Over the skies of Bethlehem appeared a star
While angels sang to lowly shepherds.
Three wise men seeking truth traveled from afar
Hoping to find the child from heaven.
Falling on their knees, they bowed before the humble Prince of Peace. (*chorus*)

Chorus: I bring an offering of worship to my King.
No one on earth deserves the praises that I sing.
Jesus, may You receive the honor that You're due;
O Lord, I bring an offering to You.

The sun cannot compare to the glory of Your love;
There is no shadow in Your presence.
No mortal man would dare to stand before Your throne,
Before the Holy One of Heaven.
It's only by Your blood, and it's only through Your mercy,
Lord, I come. (*chorus*)

(*repeat chorus*)

How Many Kings?

Follow the star to a place unexpected;
Would you believe after all we've projected—a child in a manger,
Lowly and small, the weakest of all.
Unlikeliest hero, wrapped in His mother's shawl;
Just a child, is this who we've waited for? (*chorus*)

Chorus: How many kings stepped down from their thrones?
How many lords have abandoned their homes?
How many greats have become the least for me?
How many gods have poured out their hearts
To romance a world that has torn all apart?
How many fathers gave up their sons for me?



Now that we have reenacted the story of the gospel as a church community. We now **experience the renewal** merited for us by Jesus Christ. We express this renewal in our singing praises to Jesus for His great mercy towards us.



Bringing our gifts for the newborn Savior,
All that we have whether costly or meek, because we believe.
Gold for His honor and frankincense for His pleasure,
And myrrh for the cross He'll suffer.
Do you believe, is this who we've waited for? (*chorus x2*)

Only one did that for me.

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*Jesus, our shepherd,
prays with us and for us. We pray the pastoral prayer expecting the Holy Spirit to minister Jesus' benefits to us as He prays for us.*

Pastoral Prayer

Song of Preparation to Hear God's Word

While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night

While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
All seated on the ground, the angel of the Lord came down,
And glory shone around, and glory shone around.

“To you, in David's town this day,
Is born of David's line, the Savior, who is Christ, the Lord,
And this shall be the sign, and this shall be the sign:

“The heav'nly Babe you there shall find
To human view displayed, all meanly wrapped in swathing bands,
And in a manger laid, and in a manger laid.

“All glory be to God on high,
And to the earth be peace: good will henceforth from heav'n to men,
Begin and never cease! Begin and never cease!”

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(children 4-6 years are dismissed to Children's Church at this time)
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Receiving of Tithes and Offerings



Receiving of tithes and offerings is not an "add on" to the service. It is part of worship. We demonstrate our trust in God's present provision and hope in our future with Him by supporting the spread of the Gospel.



Song of Response

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;
With th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."

Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the Everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold Him come, offspring of the Virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail th' incarnate Deity,
Pleased as man with men to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings, ris'n with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by, born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King".



The Benediction is a pronouncement of God's favor upon His assembled people.



Celebrating the Lord's Supper

(Please note that the outer ring is juice and the inner rings are wine; the bread is gluten free)

Benediction

