

Welcome to Worship
April 21st, 2024

Prelude *Brother James' Air* ~ M. Searle Wright

Gathering Hymn *All Creatures, Worship God Most High!* ~ ELW 835

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, who created all things with wisdom and who watches over and guides them by your all-powerful hand, grant well being that all creation may prosper and remain unharmed by hostile elements. For you spoke and they came into being, and they receive life from your Spirit. May we care for the world you love; in Jesus' name. Amen.

First Reading Genesis 1

Word of God. Word of life
Thanks be to God

Psalm 19



The stat - utes of the Lord are just and re - joice the heart;
the com - mand - ment of the Lord is clear and gives light to the eyes.

Refrain sung by Cantor

Refrain sung by All

The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky proclaims its maker's handiwork.

One day tells its tale to another, and one night imparts knowledge to another.

Although they have no words or language, and their voices are not heard,

*their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message to the ends of the world,
where God has pitched a tent for the sun.*

It comes forth like a bridegroom out of this chamber;

it rejoices like a champion to run its course.

It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs about to the end of it again;

nothing is hidden from its burning heat.

Refrain

The teaching of the Lord is perfect and revives the soul,

the testimony of the Lord is sure and gives wisdom to the simple.

The statutes of the Lord are just and rejoice the heart;

*the commandment of the Lord is clear and gives light to the eyes.
The fear of the Lord is clean and endures forever;
the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.
More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold,
sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.*

Refrain

*By them also is your servant enlightened, and in keeping them there is great reward.
Who can detect one's own offenses? Cleanse me from my secret faults.
Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion over me;
then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense.
Let the words of my heart and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight,
O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer.*

Refrain

Gospel John 10:11-18

In language that recalls the twenty-third psalm, Jesus describes himself as the shepherd who cares for his sheep. He is willing to die for them, and he is able to overcome death for them.

[Jesus said:] "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.

Hymn of the Day *Earth is Full of Wit and Wisdom* ~ ACS 1064

Prayers

After each petition the congregation's response is:

The earth is yours, and everything in it, the world and all who live in it

<u>Musical Offering</u>	<i>For the Beauty of the Earth</i> ~ arr. Catherine McMichael Hallelujah Ringers
<u>Offertory Hymn</u>	<i>We Eat the Bread of Teaching</i> ~ ELW 518 (refrain only)
<u>Communion Hymn</u>	<i>For the Beauty of the Earth</i> ~ ELW 879
<u>Sending Hymn</u>	<i>Let All Things Now Living</i> ~ ELW 881
<u>Postlude</u>	<i>Nun Danket Alle Gott</i> ~ Marcel Dupré