

2 CORINTHIANS 4:5

Second Sunday of Christmas January 2, 2022



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# WORSHIPING THE GOD OF GRAND FORGIVENESS

Liturgist: Rev. Dr. Chris Polski Scripture Reader: Lyn Moffitt

# WE READY OURSELVES FOR WORSHIP

The Crisis and Process of Forgiving- Scotty Smith

Then Peter came up and said to him [Jesus], "Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven." Matt. 18:21-22

Lord Jesus, both joy and knots shape my communion with you this morning. The joy is about the exhaustive forgiveness we have in you; the knots come from the costly implications of that same forgiveness. As I pray for myself, I pray for others with the same calling to love well in messy relationships.

Hearing the name of someone, with whom I've shared a lot of life and hurts, was enough to turn my stomach. That run-in was like hitting my already sore knee on the corner of a coffee table. I winced with pain, and (briefly) wished him harm in my heart.

Jesus, I thought I'd already forgiven from my heart. I thought I was already over it. I thought I'd dealt with this thing a long time ago. Out of sight might be out of mind, but betrayal creates a memory of its own.

So, I come to you today for seventy-times-seven grace. I'm being held hostage by my own unforgiveness. I humble myself before you, Jesus. Some relationships may never lead to reconciliation, but there's no justification for tying our repentance to anybody else's.

We're to forgive as you've forgiven us. It's as simple and as costly as that. We're not doormats, but the gospel does call us to be the doorway to stories of redemption. Jesus, you've promised us all the wisdom and grace we need. Low- sitting coffee tables can morph into coiled rattlesnakes in time, and the venom of unforgiveness is just too toxic to store on the shelf of our hearts. Untie our heart- knots with your mighty and merciful hands. So very Amen we pray in your liberating and healing name.

### **Prelude**

### Welcome and Announcements

# **Song of Preparation**

Amazing Grace! Trinity Hymnal #460 (vv. 1, 2, 4)

# Call to Worship—Psalm 147 (selected)

Leader: Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem! Praise your God, O Zion!

People: He strengthens the bars of your gates;

Leader: He blesses your children within you.

People: He makes peace in your borders;

Leader: He declares his word to Jacob, his statutes and rules

to Israel!

All: Praise the Lord!

# WE DECLARE THE ETERNAL WORTHINESS OF GOD

\*Songs of Adoration

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise Trinity Hymnal #38 (vv. 1, 2, 4)

"Worship is the highest function of the human soul." - Geoffrey King

### How Great Is Our God

Words and Music by Chris Tomlin, Jesse Reeves, and Ed Cash



# \*Prayer of Adoration

# WE HEAR FROM GOD'S WORD

# New Testament Reading—Ephesians 1:3-14

The Spiritual Blessings that are Ours in Christ

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

Reader: The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of

the Lord stands forever!

People: Thanks be to God!

### WE CONFESS OUR UTTER UNWORTHINESS BEFORE GOD

### Call to Confession—Hebrews 10:32-35

But recall the former days when, after you were enlightened, you endured a hard struggle with sufferings, sometimes being publicly exposed to reproach and affliction, and sometimes being partners with those so treated. For you had compassion on those in prison, and you joyfully accepted the plundering of your property, since you knew that you yourselves had a better possession and an abiding one. Therefore do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward.

#### Silent Confession and Lament

# WE ENCOUNTER AND REJOICE IN THE AMAZING GRACE OF GOD Assurance of Pardon and Passing of the Peace—Isaiah 43:1

But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.

Leader: People of God, give thanks to God for His Redeeming

Love!

People: Thanks be to God!

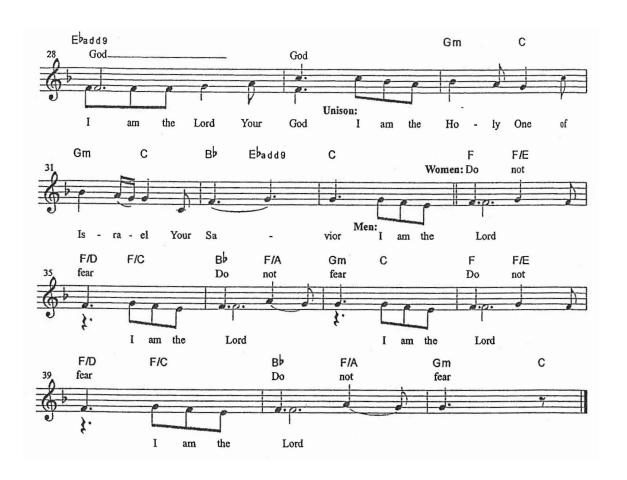
Leader: Now may the peace of Christ be with you all!

People: And also with you!

<sup>&</sup>quot;Peace is not real peace until it has been tested in the storm." - Eric Hayman

Composer Unknown





# WE HUMBLE OURSELVES BEFORE THE LORD

# **Pastoral Prayer**

# **Tithes and Offerings**

(Children ages 4yr to 2nd grade may be excused for Children's Church)

### Offertory Song (Ensemble)

O Come to the Alter

Music and Words by Steven Furtrick, Chris Brown, Wade Joye, and Mack Brock

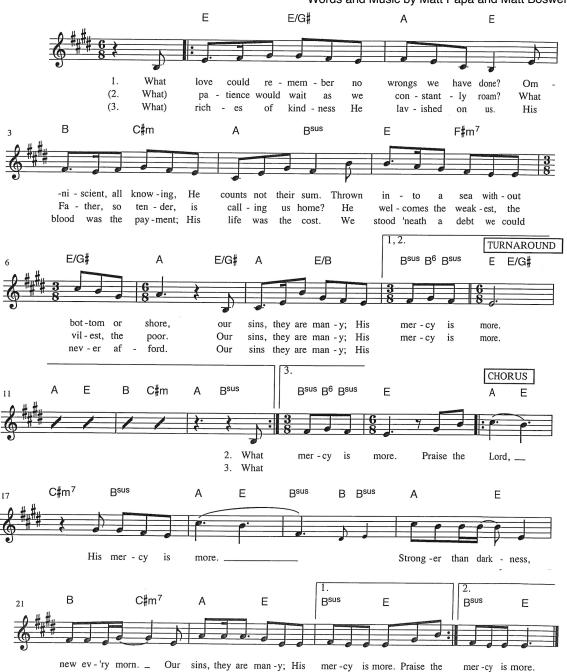
#### Sermon

"Forgiveness" Genesis 33 Rev. Dr. Chris Polski

# \*Song of Response

# His Mercy Is More

Words and Music by Matt Papa and Matt Boswell



# SERVICE OF ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION TO THE OFFICE OF DEACON & FLDER

"God does not ask about our ability or our inability, but our availability." — Anon.

Chris Freeman\* (RE), Caleb Moen (D), Will Mattingly (D), Doug Standerfer (D), Kyle Kocher (D), Scott Mitchell\* (D), Glynn Schlitt\* (D)

(\* Men who are previously ordained, but are being re-installed)

The Warrant and Nature of the Offices of Elder and Deacon

The Questions of Ordination and Installation

The Prayer of Ordination

The Right Hand of Fellowship

The Pronouncement of Ordination and Installation

The Charge

\*Sending Song

Doxology Trinity Hymnal #732

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Sunday school classes** will resume on Jan. 9th.

Men's Bible Study will resume on Jan. 12th and 14th.

Women's Bible Studies: We offer two options- Two Tues. a month a group meets at Melissa Jorgensen's home at 7pm to discuss the Sermon on the Mount. The Wednesday studies will resume on Jan. 12 with a look at the Book of Daniel.

**ACTION** bible studies and children's ministries will resume on Jan. 12.

Join a Small Group! Sign up on Church Center.

Men's Night this Wed. at 7:30pm at Chris Freeman's.

# CALLED TO WORSHIP

#### **Exploring Worship at Trinity Church**

Have you ever wondered about why we worship the way we do or how worship gets planned or how we sort out which songs to sing and when? Join Pastor Polski and his wife Katie, Trinity's Music Director, for this eight-week exploration of worship beginning on Sun., Jan. 9. We will review the biblical parameters of worship, delve deeply into the way that worship is formed and walk through some of the controversial issues surrounding worship. (Fireplace Room).

If you do not receive our **weekly email updates** on Tuesday mornings, please send your email address to amymitchell@trinitystlouis.org.

There are several easy ways to serve at Trinity. Feel free to reach out to these ministry coordinators to get involved: Ushers: Paul Schaffer (PaulSchaffer1012@gmail.com), Children's Church: Melissa Kocher (medcalf.melissa@gmail.com), Greeters: Elisa Tharp (elisa.f.tharp@gmail.com), Nursery: Sarah Oehlerking, Deborah Moen, Alyssa Hall, and Ruth Harlow (nursery@trinitystlouis.org).

Did you know you can use the **Church Center app** for online giving, church directory, to sign up for events, connect with your small groups, bible studies, etc? Contact the church office for assistance.

You can **sign up for all upcoming events** by scanning
your phone camera over the QR
code and then <u>following the link</u>:



Trinity's ministries are organized around the core values in our purpose statement which reads: Trinity Church exists to exalt God's name, establish God's people, equip God's church and engage God's world, in the power of the Holy Spirit and for the sake of the Risen King, Jesus Christ.