

MANY CULTURES, ONE LORD



January 15, 2018

Seminary Chapel

ORDER OF SERVICE

HYMN

In Christ There Is No East or West
CW 539

Stand to sing the hymn.

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

DIALOGUE

M: The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.

C: **Their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world.**

M: Darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the people, for every inclination of the thoughts of the heart is only evil all the time.

C: **And the soul that sins shall die.**

M: The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.

C: **On those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.**

M: The Lord has made his salvation known and revealed his righteousness to the nations.

C: **He has remembered his love and his faithfulness to the house of Israel; all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.**

M: Now in Christ Jesus we who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ. He came and preached peace to us who were far away and peace to those who were near. For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.

C: **For we are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of us who were baptized into Christ have clothed ourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for we are all one in Christ Jesus.**

M: He was slain, and with his blood he purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation.

C: **He made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and we will reign on the earth.**

M: I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit--just as you were called to one hope when you were called--one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

C: **In Christ we are built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.**

M: Ascribe to the Lord, O families of nations, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength. He rules from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth. The desert tribes bow down before him, and his enemies lick the dust. All kings bow down to him and all nations serve him.

C: **To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power for ever and ever!**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Eternal God, with the power of the eternal gospel you have gathered into the family of believers people from every nation, tribe, language, and people. Enrich us with the gifts of your grace that we may grow in love for all your children, stand with them in the ministry of reconciliation, and rejoice with them in the fellowship we share as members of your holy Church; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.** *(spoken)*

Be seated.

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 16:19-21

All the nations will know the Lord.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING

Romans 3:21-26

All are sinners; all are saved.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Stand for the Gospel.

GOSPEL

John 10:14-16
Jesus and the other sheep.

M: The Gospel of the Lord.
C: Praise be to you, O Christ.

Be seated.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Rise, Shine, You People
CW 556

SERMON

Romans 3:22b-24

There Is No Difference

All stand and sing:

Thy strong Word bespeaks us righteous; bright with thine own holiness,
Glorious now, we press toward glory, and our lives our hope confess.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise to thee who light dost send!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia without end!

Give us lips to sing thy glory, tongues thy mercy to proclaim,
Throats to shout the hope that fills us, mouths to speak thy holy name.
Alleluia! Alleluia! May the light which thou dost send
Fill our songs with alleluias, Alleluias without end!

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Stand.

M: Father in heaven, you create human beings to be the crown of your universe. We are all your children, but we are all unique. You form us by your power, but in your wisdom you make us different from one another. You give us our bodies; you bestow our intelligence; you provide our family and home; you place us in your world according to your wisdom and will.

C: We thank you, Lord, that you have made us what we are and put us where we live.

M: As we share the bond of humanity, Lord, so we share the curse of sin. We confess that we are not better than our ancestors or our fellows. Our iniquities are not less than theirs, and their fate is rightly ours. We deserve the common grave of hell in payment for the sin we inherit and the sins we commit.

C: **We implore you, Lord, to put aside your anger and free us from the punishment we deserve.**

M: You sent the Son you loved. He came in a body like ours. He ate as we eat, slept as we sleep, wept as we weep, and died as we die. But he did not sin as we sin. You accepted his perfect life and innocent death as the atoning sacrifice for our sins and, when he died, you raised him to life as the guarantee that you have justified us forever.

C: **We adore you, Lord! You have forgiven our sins and restored us as your children.**

M: We are all members of your human family, O Father, but now, by the power of the gospel and the working of your Spirit, you have made us members of your spiritual family. We who are different are now one in Christ. We who come from many nations and many cultures are joined in one fellowship, one communion, one holy Church.

C: **We rejoice, O Lord, in the Savior we share, in the culture of the Church, and in the hope of eternal life.**

M: On this day, Father, help us face the truth that we do not always rejoice in our unity as we know we should. Too often we are unwilling to walk on the path our brothers and sisters walk. We are impatient with their perspectives, taken up with our own traditions, and insensitive to their dreams and their fears. Sometimes unwittingly, but sometimes willingly, we think, speak, and act from bigotry and prejudice.

C: **Forgive us, Lord, for our supposed superiority, our insensitivity, and our failure to love all your children.**

M: We remember, O Father, all those who dreamed and labored and died to achieve equality for all. Empower us that we may dream and labor, too, and that we may do it reflecting your love. As servants of Christ, lead us to proclaim the truth that sets all people free from the guilt and control of sin. As citizens of this nation, lead us to live the principle that all people are free under our nation's laws. Help us to be lights for the gospel, but also make us lights that expose racism and show the way to compassion and tolerance.

C: **Give power to your gospel, Lord, and give freedom to our land.**

M: We walk together on one road, eternal Father, the road that leads to life with your Son. Let him walk with us now, we pray. Give us his life to imitate, his love to share, his passion to feel, and his power to succeed. When this life ends, bring us to the place where we will be free at last and sing his praises in the eternal language of heaven.

C: May all the peoples praise you, O God; may all the peoples praise you!

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

BLESSING

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen, amen, amen. (*sung*)

POSTLUDE

Scheduled classes begin five minutes after the end of the service.