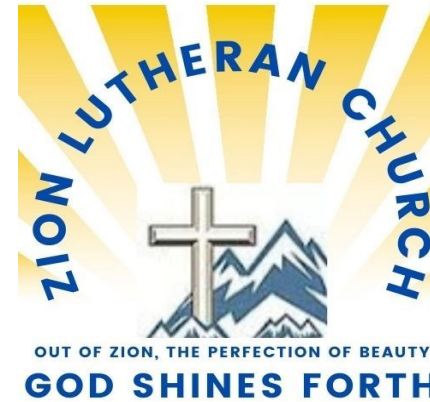


THE BENEDICTION

*P: The Lord bless you and keep you;
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you;
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.*

Cong: Amen. Amen. Amen.



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The Order of Worship

OPENING PRAYER: *We ask the Lord's blessings on our worship.*

HYMN.....“*Approach, My Soul, the Mercy Seat*”

Approach, my soul, the mercy seat
Where Jesus answers prayer.
There humbly fall before His feet,
For none can perish there.

Bowed down beneath a load of sin,
By Satan sorely pressed,
By wars without and fears within,
I come to Him for rest.

He is my shield and hiding place,
And, sheltered near His side,
I may my fierce accuser face
And tell him Jesus died.

O wondrous love, to bleed and die,
To bear the cross and shame,
That guilty sinners such as I,
Might plead His gracious name.

INVOCATION

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Cong: Amen.

THE PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER: *We offer our petitions to the Lord and join in the prayer our Lord taught us.*

HYMN.....“*What a Friend We Have in Jesus*”

What a Friend we have in Jesus,
All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
Ev'rything to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit,
Oh, what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry
Ev'rything to God in prayer!

Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged,
Take it to the Lord in prayer!
Can we find a Friend so faithful
Who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness--
Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Are we weak and heavy laden,
Cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our Refuge--
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?
Take it to the Lord in prayer;
In His arms He'll take and shield thee,
Thou wilt find a solace there.

HYMN.....“*Be Strong in the Lord*”

Be strong in the Lord in armor of light!
With helmet and sword, with shield for the fight;
On prayer be dependent, be belted and shod,
In breast-plate resplendent—the armor of God.

Though Satan presume to test you and try,
In helmet and plume your shield hold high;
Beset by temptation be true to your Lord,
Your helmet salvation and His Word your sword.

So wield well your blade, rejoice in its powers!
Fight on undismayed for Jesus is yours!
Then in Him victorious your armor lay down
To praise, ever glorious, His cross and His crown.

THE SERMON: John 16:23-28

(ESV) In that day you will ask nothing of me. Truly, truly, I say to you, whatever you ask of the Father in my name, he will give it to you. (24) Until now you have asked nothing in my name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full. (25) "I have said these things to you in figures of speech. The hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figures of speech but will tell you plainly about the Father. (26) In that day you will ask in my name, and I do not say to you that I will ask the Father on your behalf; (27) for the Father himself loves you, because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God. (28) I came from the Father and have come into the world, and now I am leaving the world and going to the Father."

The True Importance of Prayer

CONFESSION OF SINS & ABSOLUTION

P: God is love, and has loved us all with an everlasting love. It is His desire that all might know the truth and come to repentance. So let us come with sincere hearts to confess our sins to Him and seek His forgiveness for Jesus' sake.

ALL: Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we confess to You that we are sinful by nature and have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions. We have not loved You above all things. We have not loved our neighbor as ourselves. We pray: Have mercy on us, and for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ, forgive our sin.

P: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given His only-begotten Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. To those who believe in His name, He gives the right to be called children of God.

Cong: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Merciful Lord God, from whom all good things come and who is always more ready to give than we are to ask, give to us, Your humble servants, the mind of our Savior that we may think rightly about Your will and commandments and by the Holy Spirit's guidance and power do that which please You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son our Lord, who

lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit—one God, forever and ever.

Cong: Amen.

TODAY'S PSALM: Psalm 6

(ESV) O LORD, rebuke me not in your anger, nor discipline me in your wrath. (2) Be gracious to me, O LORD, for I am languishing; heal me, O LORD, for my bones are troubled. (3) My soul also is greatly troubled. But you, O LORD--how long? (4) Turn, O LORD, deliver my life; save me for the sake of your steadfast love. (5) For in death there is no remembrance of you; in Sheol who will give you praise? (6) I am weary with my moaning; every night I flood my bed with tears; I drench my couch with my weeping. (7) My eye wastes away because of grief; it grows weak because of all my foes. (8) Depart from me, all you workers of evil, for the LORD has heard the sound of my weeping. (9) The LORD has heard my plea; the LORD accepts my prayer. (10) All my enemies shall be ashamed and greatly troubled; they shall turn back and be put to shame in a moment.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Ephesians 6:10-18

(ESV) Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. (11) Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. (12) For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. (13) Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. (14) Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate

of righteousness, (15) and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. (16) In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; (17) and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, (18) praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

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.