

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

PRELUDE *Come, Christians, Join to Sing* MADRID; Spanish Melody

CALL TO WORSHIP Based on Psalm 103:8-12

One: Let us worship the Lord,

All: who is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

One: Let us worship our God,

All: who does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities.

One: Let us worship Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*Unison*)

O God, we know we are not perfect, that we do not always act in the way you call us to be. We should forgive people, but instead we ignore them—the difficult ones, the needy ones, the ones that are hard to spend time with, the ones who confront us. Forgive us for our sin. Help us to be better, and to see more clearly, and to forgive more readily. In Christ we pray. Amen. (*Silent Confession*)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON Romans 5:8

One: The proof of God's amazing love is this: While we were sinners Christ died for us.

All: Thanks be to God.

GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father, And to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be: World without end. Amen. Amen.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING Nehemiah 9:9-10, 16-17 NRSV

Nehemiah said: "[Lord] you saw the distress of our ancestors in Egypt and heard their cry at the Red Sea. You performed signs and wonders against Pharaoh and all his servants and all the people of his land, for you knew that they acted insolently against our ancestors. You made a name for yourself, which remains to this day. . . . [But o]ur ancestors acted presumptuously and stiffened their necks and did not obey your commandments; they refused to obey, and were not mindful of the wonders that you performed among them; they stiffened their necks and determined to return to their slavery in Egypt. But you are a God ready to forgive, gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and you did not forsake them."

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 18:21-35 NRSV

Then Peter came and said to Jesus, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a lord who wished to settle

accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, the lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, “have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.” And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, “Pay what you owe.” But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then the lord summoned him and said to him, “You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?” And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Forgiving

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Apostle’s Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

MUSICAL OFFERING

There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy

IN BABILONE; Dutch Melody

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen

BENEDICTION

RESPONSE

Seek Ye First

POSTLUDE *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee* HYMN TO JOY; 1824 (Beethoven)