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Redeemed by God's Power Through the Blood of Christ

A Scripture-Reading Worship Service

The following worship service took place at the University Church of Christ in Malibu, California. You are invited to use it or modify it to meet the needs of your worshipping community. Accent the reading of the word of God by incorporating three or four oral interpreters. May the Lord bless his people in the reading of the living word. —The Editors

Call to Worship

The purpose of our worship today as a community of faith is to remember our redemption by the power of God through the blood of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Instead of a sermon we will hear the word of the Lord in the reading of Scripture from both the Old and New Testaments. In so doing we will be reminded not only of our deliverance from the power of sin, but that we are also called to a life of holiness that marks us for a future inheritance in Christ. Every aspect of our worship—our songs, prayers, and the celebration of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ in the Lord's Supper—will converge on this theme, the power of God for our redemption. We invite you to worship God. We invite you to let “the word of Christ dwell in you richly.” “May we teach and admonish one another in all wisdom.” With gratitude in our hearts may we “sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God” to the praise of his glory. May we with all sincerity allow our hearts to be filled with the power of the implanted word that can redeem and refresh us in Christ Jesus.

Opening Hymn: “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

MOVEMENT ONE: The Old Testament Speaks

Hear the word of the Lord.

God speaks to Israel through Moses of his plan to set his people free (Exod 6.6–7).

“Say therefore to the Israelites, ‘I am the LORD, and I will free you from the burdens of the Egyptians and deliver you from slavery to them. I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with mighty acts of judgment. I will take you as my people, and I will be your God. You shall know that I am the LORD your God, who has freed you from the burdens of the Egyptians.’”

Moses reminds the people of God's redemption (Deut 7.8).

“It was because the LORD loved you and kept the oath that he swore to your ancestors, that the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh, king of Egypt.”

Moses sings of God's redeeming love (Exod 15.13, 17).

"In your steadfast love you led the people whom you redeemed; you guided them by your strength to your holy abode. You brought them in and planted them on the mountain of your own possession, the place, O LORD, that you made your abode, the sanctuary, O LORD, that your hands have established. The LORD will reign forever and ever."

Israel proclaims its story of redemption (Deut 26.5–9).

"A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, we cried to the LORD, the God of our ancestors; the LORD heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. The LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey."

God's work of redemption is remembered by the psalmist (Ps 77.11–15).

"I will call to mind the deeds of the LORD; I will remember your wonders of old. I will meditate on all your work, and muse on your mighty deeds. Your way, O God, is holy. What god is so great as our God? You are the God who works wonders; you have displayed your might among the prophets, with your strong arm you redeemed your people, the descendants of Jacob and Joseph. When the waters saw you, O God, when the waters saw you, they were afraid; the clouds poured out water; your arrows flashed on every side. The crash of your thunder was in the whirlwind; your lightnings lit up the world; the earth trembled and shook. Your way was through the sea, your path, through the mighty waters; yet your footprints were unseen. You led your people like a flock by the hand of Moses and Aaron."

The prophet Isaiah speaks the good news of God's coming deliverance (Isa 61.1–3).

"The Spirit of the LORD God is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory."

Hymn: "I Know Whom I Have Believed"**Prayer****MOVEMENT TWO: Redeemed by the Blood of Christ**

Hear the word of the Lord.

Paul to the Ephesians (Eph 1.7–8).

"In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace that he lavished on us."

To the church at Corinth (1 Cor 1.30–31).

"He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us, wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, in order that, as it is written, 'Let the one who boasts, boast in the LORD.'"

To the churches of Galatia (Gal 4.3–5).

“So with us; while we were minors, we were enslaved to the elemental spirits of the world. But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, ‘Abba! Father!’ So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.”

To the church at Rome (Rom 3.21–25a).

“But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith.”

— **(Rom 5.10).**

“For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life.”

From Peter to the churches of Asia Minor (1 Pet 1.18–19).

“You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish.”

From the Letter to the Hebrews (Heb 2.14, 15).

“Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were in slavery by the fear of death.”

Hymn: “Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing”**Hymn for the Lord’s Supper: “Fairest Lord Jesus”****Partaking of the Lord’s Supper****Refrain: “Come and fill our hearts”**

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a treble clef and a bass clef. The treble clef part has a melody with lyrics underneath. The bass clef part has a bass line. Above the treble clef, guitar chords are indicated: D, Bm, D Em/D, D, Bm7/D, A. The lyrics for the first system are: "Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You a-lone, O Lord, are ho-ly. Con-fi-te-mi-ni Do-mi-no quo-ni-am bo-nus." The second system also has a treble clef and a bass clef. The treble clef part has a melody with lyrics underneath. The bass clef part has a bass line. Above the treble clef, guitar chords are indicated: Em, C, Em, A, D. The lyrics for the second system are: "Come and fill our hearts with your peace, Al-le-lu-ia! Con-fi-te-mi-ni Do-mi-no, Al-le-lu-ia!"

Chords: D, Bm, D Em/D, D, Bm7/D, A, Em, C, Em, A, D

Lyrics:
 Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You a-lone, O Lord, are ho-ly.
 Con-fi-te-mi-ni Do-mi-no quo-ni-am bo-nus.
 Come and fill our hearts with your peace, Al-le-lu-ia!
 Con-fi-te-mi-ni Do-mi-no, Al-le-lu-ia!

Congregation: Unison or parts
 WORDS: Jacques Berthier (Ps. 137)
 MUSIC: Jacques Berthier
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CONFITEMINI DOMINO
 Irregular

MOVEMENT THREE: Redeemed in Christ to Live in Holiness

Hear the word of the Lord.

To the church in Corinth (1 Cor 1.2).

“To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our LORD Jesus Christ, both their LORD and ours:”

— **(1 Cor 6.11).**

“And this is what some of you used to be. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the LORD Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.”

To the Colossians (Col 1.9–15).

“For this reason, since the day we heard it, we have not ceased praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of God’s will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, that you may lead lives worthy of the LORD, fully pleasing to him, as you bear fruit in every good work as you grow in the knowledge of God. May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.”

To the church at Corinth (1 Cor 6.19–20).

“Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body.”

To the Ephesians (Eph 5.15–17).

“Be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, making the most of the time [“redeeming the time” or “buying up the time”], because the days are evil. So do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the LORD is.”

To the churches of Galatia (Gal 5.1, 13).

“For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery. . . . For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another.”

— **(Gal 5.22–25).**

“By contrast [to the works of the flesh], the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. There is no law against such things. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit.”

To the church at Rome (Rom 16.16).

“Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the churches of Christ greet you.”

We will take a moment to greet one another in the name of Jesus.

MOVEMENT FOUR: Marked by Hope for the Day of Redemption

Hear the word of the Lord.

To the Ephesians (Eph 4.30).

“Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption.”

— **(Eph 1.13–14).**

“In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God’s own people, to the praise of his glory.”

To the church at Rome (Rom 5.1–5).

“Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our LORD Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

To the church at Rome (Rom 8.19–25).

“For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who are the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.”

To the church at Philippi (Phil 3.12–14).

“Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do; forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.”

To the churches of Galatia (Gal 2.19–20).

“For through the law I died to the law, so that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.”

May the Lord bless the reading of his word.

Hymn: “I Will Sing the Wondrous Story”

Shepherd’s Blessing

