

Choral Prelude

Lord Jesus, You're More Excellent
Songbook pp.20-21

Apostolic Greeting

* **God's Call to Worship**

Psalm 95:1-2

Oh come, let us sing to the LORD;
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!
Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;
let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

* **Hymn of Praise #660**

O God beyond All Praising

* **Prayer of Adoration**

* **Affirmation of Faith** – Nicene Creed

Trinity Hymnal p.846

We believe in one God, the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of his Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father;
by whom all things were made;
who for us and for our salvation
came down from heaven,
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary,
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered and was buried;
and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures,
and ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father;
and he shall come again, with glory,
to judge both the living and the dead;
whose kingdom shall have no end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son;

who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified;
who spoke by the prophets;
and we believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church;
we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins;
and we look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

*** Confession of Sin**

Holy Lord, I have sinned times without number, and been guilty of pride and unbelief, of failure to find your mind in your Word, of neglect to seek you in my daily life. My transgressions and shortcomings present me with a list of accusations, but I bless you that they will not stand against me, for all have been laid on Christ. Subdue my corruptions, and grant me grace to live above them. Let not the passions of the flesh nor lusts of the mind bring my spirit into subjection, but you, O Lord, rule over me in liberty and power.

I give you thanks that many of my prayers have been refused. I have asked amiss and do not have. I have prayed from lusts and been rejected. I have longed for Egypt and been given a wilderness. Continue your patient work in me, answering “no” to my wrongful prayers, and fitting me to accept it. Purge me from every false desire, every base aspiration, everything contrary to your rule. I thank you for your wisdom and your love, for all the acts of discipline to which I am subject, for sometimes putting me into the furnace to refine my gold and remove my dross.

No trial is so hard to bear as a sense of sin. If you should give me a choice to live in pleasure and keep my sins, or to have them burned away with trial, give me sanctified affliction. Deliver me from every evil habit, every addition of former sins, everything that dims the brightness of your grace in me, everything that prevents me taking delight in you. Then I shall bless you, God of Jeshurun, for helping me to be upright. Amen.¹

*** Assurance of Pardon**

Hosea 1:10-2:1

¹⁰ Yet the number of the children of Israel shall be like the sand of the sea, which cannot be measured or numbered. And in the place where it was said to them, “You are not my people,” it shall be said to them, “Children of the living God.” ¹¹ And the children of Judah and the children of Israel shall be gathered together, and they shall appoint for themselves one head. And they shall go up from the land, for great shall be the day of Jezreel.

*** Hymn of Thanks**

Before the Throne of God Above
Songbook p.33

Reading of God's Word

Matthew 16:13-20, Bible p.822

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession

* **Hymn of Preparation #341**

O Breath of Life, Come Sweeping through Us

Prayer for Illumination

Reading of God's Word

1 Corinthians 3:1-17, Bible p.953

Preaching of God's Word

Pastor Matossian
"Fields, Farmhands, and Foundations"

Prayer of Commitment and Dedication

Offering and Hymn of Response

Mighty Lord, Extend Your Kingdom
Songbook p.22

* **God's Commission and Blessing**

* **Closing Response of Praise #11, verses 1-2**

Now Blessed Be the Lord Our God

Postlude

*Congregation, please stand as you are able.

¹ ("Confession and Petition" from *Valley of Vision, A Collection of Puritan Prayers and Devotions* p. 77, modified).