

REFORMED CHURCH CLANWILLIAM : SUNDAY 16 FEBRUARY 2014 HOLY COMMUNION

Sing before: Psalm 128:4

Let us commence this meeting with God by declaring openly to one another and to God:

Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth. Beloved grace and peace be to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, through the mighty working of God the Holy Spirit.

Amen

Psalm of praise: Psalm 68:9

Confession of faith: Nicene

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

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all ages; 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 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 sits on the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again, with glory, to judge 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 worshipped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets.

And we believe one holy universal 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.

After the reading of the Law we confess our guilt and pray for forgiveness and a new life before God with Psalm 67:3

Law

Psalm: 67:3

Prayer:

- **Doxology**
- **Worship**
- **Confession of sins**
- **Forgiveness**
- **Gratitude**
- **Prayer for the need of the congregation of the church, the authorities and the sinful world and appeal to God's promises**
- **General prayer**
- **Enlightenment from the Holy Spirit for the sake of the ministry of the Word.**

Amen

Psalm 72:10

Scripture reading: Matthew 28**Scripture text:** Matthew 28:20**...and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.**

(Matthew 28:20)

When, on that Sunday morning after the crucifixion, the small group of people arrived at the grave to treat the Lord's body with spices, they were greatly dismayed when they found the stone rolled away, and the Lord Jesus' body gone.

- Thereafter Peter at one stage went into the grave. And the Lord was gone.
- The linen in which the Lord had been wrapped lay neatly folded by themselves. But the Lord was not there.
- He triumphed over death and left the grave.

Thereafter the Lord appeared to people on various occasions.

- On one such occasion to more than 500 people at once
- By appearing and disappearing He revealed that He had broken through all boundaries: the boundaries of time and distance.
- He could be where and when He wanted to.

Still later the Lord Jesus was carried up into heaven right before the disciples' eyes.

- Alone and confused the disciples remained standing there until the angel commanded them to go back to Jerusalem to continue with their work.
- And what is now to become of the church? In what relationship is the Lord Jesus to stand to his church henceforth?

Therefore the Lord fortifies us with these words:

- **I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.**
- With his Spirit, his providence and his omnipotence He never forsakes his church.

That is why this morning; the Lord has again gathered us here together as a church.

- By His Holy Spirit He has called us.
- By His Spirit the Lord is present with us – indeed, every worship service is a particular moment of communion between the Lord and us.

With this meal, the Lord allows us to again commemorate his death.

- We are going to sit at table and the Lord is going to address us. He is also going to strengthen our faith again.
- He will again allow us to experience his presence with this Lord's Supper. He is still near us and with us.
- His strength still carries us, and his Spirit still guides us, and teaches us all the time.

With this Lord's Supper He is again going to bring us to the realisation that his kingdom is near, where we will presently live when we leave this life.

- That is why He says: **unto the end of the world**
- The earth's time will run dry – that's the completion.
- Then the time, towards which the Lord's Supper directs us, commences: the hereafter when the Lord will be visibly present with us.

The Lord's Supper thus means that the Lord again reveals to us, that we do not have to doubt his presence with us.

- If we have anxiety, or if there is illness at home, or even death – the Lord is there. In those moments he provides for us.
- The Lord's Supper reminds us that we cannot be forgotten of God.
- The Lord's Supper lets us realise that the presence of the Lord is also the blessing of the Lord.

Let us sit down at the Lord's Table, knowing that the grace obtained for us, by the Lord's death on the cross, remains in force until the Lord's return on the clouds.

Amen.

Prayer

Scripture Versification 1-1:1

Formulary

Psalm 23:1-3

To the table

During Holy Communion Psalm 116
Psalm 118

Closing Psalm: Psalm 31:1, 15

The Lord bless and keep you, the Lord make his face shine on you, the Lord turn His countenance to you and give peace.

Amen

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Scripture: Modern King James Version