

The Miracle of Being Twice Born

Order of Service

PRE-SERVICE MEDITATION: Psalm 139

(The Lutheran Hymnal pages 154-155.)

OPENING HYMN: TLH 20

INVOCATION

P: We worship in the name of the Father

C: Who gave us our life through His almighty power,

P: And in the name of the Son

C: Who redeemed our life with His precious blood,

P: And in the name of the Holy Spirit

C: Who gave us eternal life through faith in Christ Jesus.

All sing: Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow (TLH 644)

CONFESSION OF SINS (Psalm 51:1-12)

P: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love;

C: According to your great compassion blot out my transgressions.

P: Wash away all my iniquity

C: And cleanse me from my sin.

P: For I know my transgressions,

C: And my sin is always before me.

P: Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight,

C: So that you are proved right when you speak and justified when you judge.

P: Surely I have been a sinner from birth,

C: Sinful from the time my mother conceived me

P: Surely you desire truth in the inner parts;

C: You teach me wisdom in the inmost place.

P: Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean

C: Wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.

P: Let me hear joy and gladness;

C: Let the bones you have crushed rejoice.

P: Hide your face from my sins

C: And blot out all my iniquity.

P: Create in me a pure heart, O God,

C: And renew a steadfast spirit within me.

P: Do not cast me from your presence

C: Or take your Holy Spirit from me.

P: Restore to me the joy of your salvation

C: And grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

ABSOLUTION

P: According to the Lord's promise "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness," I forgive you all of your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost.

Congregation sings: Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE: TLH 360

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Genesis 9:5-6

EPISTLE READING: I John 3:11-20

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 25-34-36

SERMON HYMN: TLH 302

SERMON: John 3:3-5 (The Miracle of Being Twice Born)

HYMN (sung to the tune of TLH 346)

Lord, You saw me before my birth.
Your Spirit gave my life to me.
I praise You for Your deep concern;
Your skill was wrought most wonderfully.

You formed me in your image, Lord,
Creation of such priceless worth.

No price on earth could e'er afford,
Or be affixed before my birth.

But life is cheapened in our land,
And millions die before their birth.
Ignoring Scriptures clear command,
Our nation grants to life no worth.

Yes, still we see Your glory spurned,
Your patience tested ev'ry day.
Teach us to share the things we've learned,
And for ourselves and our land pray.

COLLECTION OF THANK OFFERINGS

PRAYER

(The Holy Communion Service may be added at this time.)

LORD'S PRAYER BENEDICTION

Congregation sings: Amen. Amen. Amen.

HYMN OF COMMITMENT: TLH 412