

PREPARATION AND PRAISE

PRELUDE

O Holy Night

WELCOME!

Larry Clagett

Pew pads are located along the inside aisle. Please take a moment to let us know that you were with us this morning and to tell us how we can help you today.

OUR HISTORIC FAITH Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 49

Q124. What does the third request mean?

A. "Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven" means, Help us and all people to reject our own wills and to obey your will without any back talk. Your will alone is good. Help us one and all to carry out the work we are called to, as willingly and faithfully as the angels in heaven. Matt. 7:21; 16:24-26; Luke 22:42; Rom. 12:1-2; Tit. 2:11-12; 1 Cor. 7:17-24; Eph. 6:5-9; Ps. 103:20-21

CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 24

WORSHIP IN SONG

Thou Who Wast Rich

Prince of Peace

CONFESSION OF SIN (by a member of Grace)

Jesus, we come before you admitting we are people who wish to do our own will rather than allow you to work in our life for your good pleasure. Though we recognize you have a divine purpose for us, we fail to completely live likewise. We acknowledge that you have asked of us to glorify you in obedience, but instead we often deliberately do not pursue that end. We see our ideals and goals as more important than what you have established for us and are not willing to submit to the work of your kingdom. We ask you to forgive us for not doing what is pleasing and acceptable in your sight. Father, heal our wayward hearts so that we would seek to do your bidding and be devoted to seeking that your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT from Psalm 143:10 and Romans 12:1-2

“Teach me to do your will, for you are my God; may your good Spirit lead me on level ground.”

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God – this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will.

PREPARATION AND PRAISE, CONTINUED

CELEBRATION OF ADVENT

Lighting of the Bethlehem Candle

Alan, Lauren, and Lucas Hicks

O Little Town of Bethlehem

GIVING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Larry Clagett

Awake My Soul

Following the offering, children will be dismissed. Nursery is available for children two years and under. Children three years of age through fifth grade may go to Children’s Church.

RENEWAL

GREETING ONE ANOTHER AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Larry Clagett

PASTORAL PRAYER and 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.

Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

Genesis 35:1-21

Then God said to Jacob, “Go up to Bethel and settle there, and build an altar there to God, who appeared to you when you were fleeing from your brother Esau.”

² So Jacob said to his household and to all who were with him, “Get rid of the foreign gods you have with you, and purify yourselves and change your clothes.” ³ Then come, let us go up to Bethel, where I will build an altar to God, who answered me in the day of my distress and who has been with me wherever I have gone.” ⁴ So they gave Jacob all the foreign gods they had and the rings in their ears, and Jacob buried them under the oak at Shechem. ⁵ Then they set out, and the terror of God fell on the towns all around them so that no one pursued them.

⁶ Jacob and all the people with him came to Luz (that is, Bethel) in the land of Canaan. ⁷ There he built an altar, and he called the place El Bethel, because it was there that God revealed himself to him when he was fleeing from his brother.

⁸ Now Deborah, Rebekah’s nurse, died and was buried under the oak outside Bethel. So it was named Allon Bakuth.

⁹ After Jacob returned from Paddan Aram, God appeared to him again and blessed him. ¹⁰ God said to him, “Your name is Jacob, but you will no longer be called Jacob; your name will be Israel.” So he named him Israel.

¹¹ And God said to him, “I am God Almighty; be fruitful and increase in number. A nation and a community of nations will come from you, and kings will be among your descendants. ¹² The land I gave to Abraham and Isaac I also give to you, and I will give this

land to your descendants after you.” ¹³ Then God went up from him at the place where he had talked with him.

¹⁴ Jacob set up a stone pillar at the place where God had talked with him, and he poured out a drink offering on it; he also poured oil on it. ¹⁵ Jacob called the place where God had talked with him Bethel.

¹⁶ Then they moved on from Bethel. While they were still some distance from Ephrath, Rachel began to give birth and had great difficulty. ¹⁷ And as she was having great difficulty in childbirth, the midwife said to her, “Don’t despair, for you have another son.” ¹⁸ As she breathed her last—for she was dying—she named her son Ben-Oni. But his father named him Benjamin.

¹⁹ So Rachel died and was buried on the way to Ephrath (that is, Bethlehem). ²⁰ Over her tomb Jacob set up a pillar, and to this day that pillar marks Rachel’s tomb.

²¹ Israel moved on again and pitched his tent beyond Migdal Eder.

SERMON

Pastor Randy Edwards

The Gospel According to Jacob: The God Who Answers

RESPONSE

SONG OF RESPONSE

Hear Our Praises

BENEDICTION

SERMON NOTES