

WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, January 13, 2019

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

Romans 5:1-2

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

ENTERING INTO WORSHIP

Greeting and Blessing*

Responsive Reading*

Psalm 112 (p. 826)

Hymn of Preparation*

“This Is My Father’s World” Hymn 111

Congregational Confession of Sin

Leader: Heavenly Father, we come before you with guilt and shame as we consider how we have offended you by our sinful actions, our hurtful words, and our disgraceful thoughts.

All: You know us even better than we know ourselves; none of our sins are hidden from your sight. It grieves us that we continually fall short of what your Word commands.

Leader: We do earnestly repent and are sincerely sorry for our sins. Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father, for the sake of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. We rejoice as we hear again the good news that by his work of obedience we have been made righteous.

All: All glory be to you, O God, through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in unity with the Holy Spirit, one God, forever. Amen.

Private Confession of Our Sins

Assurance of Forgiveness

1 Timothy 1:15-17

The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life. To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

* Congregation is requested to stand, if able.

ADORATION AND PRAISE

First Reading*

Deuteronomy 30

Congregational Response (Hymn of the Month) “I Am Not Skilled to Understand” Hymn 459

Confession of Faith

The Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 44

Q. 113. *What is God’s will for you in the tenth commandment?*

A. That not even the slightest desire or thought contrary to any one of God’s commandments should ever arise in our hearts. Rather, with all our hearts we should always hate sin and delight in all righteousness.

Q. 114. *But can those converted to God keep these commandments perfectly?*

A. No. In this life even the holiest have only a small beginning of this obedience. Nevertheless, with all seriousness of purpose, they do begin to live according to all, not only some, of God’s commandments.

Q. 115. *Since no one in this life can keep the Ten Commandments perfectly, why does God want them preached so pointedly?*

A. First, so that all our life long we may more and more come to know our sinful nature and thus more eagerly seek the forgiveness of sins and righteousness in Christ.

Second, so that we may never stop striving and never stop praying to God for the grace of the Holy Spirit, so that we may be renewed more and more after God’s image, until after this life we reach our goal: perfection.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Stewardship

Tithes and Offerings

Gloria Patri*

Hymn 735

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.

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 forever. Amen.

THE WORD AND SACRAMENT

Second Reading*

Galatians 5

Congregational Response (Psalm of the Month [Ps. 95]) “Come, Sound His Praise” Hymn 118

Pastoral Prayer (based on Psalm 32:8-9)

Sermon

“Put No Confidence in the Flesh”
Philippians 3:1-3

Pastor Ben Muresan

GOD'S BLESSING ON HIS PEOPLE

Hymn of Thanksgiving*

“Fairest Lord Jesus” Hymn 170

Benediction*

Congregational Benediction Response*

(Sung to TRINITY)

To the great One in Three eternal praises be, hence evermore.
His sovereign majesty may we in glory see, and to eternity love and adore. Amen.

LORD'S DAY DEVOTION AND QUESTIONS

The joy of our salvation comes from the assurance that we are saved by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone. We are not saved by our works or our merits, but only by the grace that comes in Jesus Christ. While some Christians over the centuries have been hesitant to emphasize salvation by grace for fear that it breeds antinomianism, this doctrine remains at the center of the gospel message. It is not just a Reformation doctrine; it is a biblical doctrine that spans from Genesis to Revelation and stirs both our hearts and our minds as we rejoice in what God has done for us. The Apostle Paul writes in Titus 3:4-7:

But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

1. For review, read Philippians 2:19-30. In what ways are Timothy and Epaphroditus examples of what Paul teaches in Philippians 2:3-4? Is it good for us to admire the faith and works of other believers? Why or why not?
2. How can we obey the command to “rejoice in the Lord” in Philippians 3:1? What would such joy look like in your life?
3. Why is it important for us to hear the gospel repeatedly? Why is it “safe” for us to be reminded consistently that we are saved by grace?
4. Who was Paul talking about in Philippians 3:2? What were they teaching, and why did Paul use such strong language against them? For a summary of what the Church decided about the issue, read Acts 15:1-21.
5. Consider Philippians 3:3, especially the phrase “for we are the circumcision.” Work through the following three statements in this verse and discuss why these are characteristics of saving faith.
6. In preparation for next week, read through Philippians 3:1-11. How do you think verses 4-11 connect with what we learned from verses 1-3? As you consider the seven things that Paul lists in verses 5-6, what are some of the current things that some Christians boast about or find confidence in outside of Christ?

