

WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, January 19, 2020

I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever.
Every day I will bless you and praise your name forever and ever.
Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised, and his greatness is unsearchable.

Psalm 145:1-3

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

ENTERING INTO WORSHIP

Greeting and Blessing*

Responsive Reading*

Psalm 15 (p. 787)

Hymn of Preparation*

Hymn 97

We Praise You, O God, Our Redeemer, Creator

We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;
In grateful devotion our tribute we bring.
We lay it before you, we kneel and adore you;
We bless your holy name, glad praises we sing.

We worship you, God of our fathers, we bless you;
Through life's storm and tempest our Guide you have been.
When perils o'ertake us, escape you will make us,
And with your help, O Lord, our battles we win.

With voices united our praises we offer,
To you, great Jehovah, glad anthems we raise.
Your strong arm will guide us, our God is beside us;
To you, our great Redeemer, for ever be praise. Amen.

Congregational Confession of Sin

Leader: Gracious God and Father, we confess that you are holy and perfect. We feel unworthy to enter into your presence because we again have failed to keep all your commandments.

All: Forgive us, we pray. Apart from Christ we could never stand in your presence. Yet in him you have called us to draw near. In ourselves, we are unworthy, but in the Lord Jesus we boldly approach your throne of grace that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Leader: Cause us to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which we have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

All: We ask all this through Jesus Christ, our risen and ascended Lord, 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 Peter 2:22-25

Christ committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

* Congregation is requested to stand, if able.

ADORATION AND PRAISE

First Reading*

Isaiah 55

Congregational Response (Hymn of the Month)

Hymn 103

Holy God, We Praise Your Name

Holy God, we praise your name;
Lord of all, we bow before you;
All on earth your scepter claim,
All in heav'n above adore you.
Infinite your vast domain,
Everlasting is your reign.

Hark, the loud celestial hymn
Angel choirs above are raising;
Cherubim and seraphim
In unceasing chorus praising,
Fill the heav'ns with sweet accord:
"Holy, holy, holy Lord."

Lo! the apostolic train
Join your sacred name to hallow;
Prophets swell the glad refrain,
And the white-robed martyrs follow;
And from morn to set of sun,
Through the church the song goes on.

Holy Father, Holy Son,
Holy Spirit, Three we name you;
While in essence only One,
Undivided God we claim you,
And adoring bend the knee,
While we sing this mystery. Amen.

Confession of Faith

The Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 106. *For what do we pray in the sixth petition?*

A. In the sixth petition, which is, "And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil," we pray that God would either keep us from being tempted to sin, or support and deliver us when we are tempted.

Q. 107. *What does the conclusion of the Lord's Prayer teach us?*

A. The conclusion of the Lord's Prayer, which is, "For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen," teaches us to take our encouragement in prayer from God only, and in our prayers to praise him, ascribing kingdom, power, and glory to him; and in testimony of our desire and assurance to be heard, we say, "Amen."

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*

John 4:1-45

Congregational Response (Psalm of the Month [based on Psalm 136])

Hymn 3

Give to Our God Immortal Praise

Give to our God immortal praise;
Mercy and truth are all his ways:
Wonders of grace to God belong;
Repeat his mercies in your song.

Give to the Lord of lords renown;
The King of kings with glory crown:
His mercies ever shall endure,
When lords and kings are known no more.

He built the earth, he spread the sky,
And fixed the starry lights on high:
Wonders of grace to God belong;
Repeat his mercies in your song.

He fills the sun with morning light;
He bids the moon direct the night:
His mercies ever shall endure,
When suns and moons shall shine no more.

He sent his Son with pow'r to save
From guilt, and darkness and the grave:
Wonders of grace to God belong;
Repeat his mercies in your song.

Through this vain world he guides our feet,
And leads us to his heav'nly seat:
His mercies ever shall endure,
When this vain world shall be no more. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer (based on Habakkuk 2:2-4)

Sermon

“Living Water”
John 4:1-14

Pastor Ben Muresan

GOD'S BLESSING ON HIS PEOPLE

Hymn of Thanksgiving*

Hymn 439

Christ Shall Have Dominion

Christ shall have dominion over land and sea,
Earth's remotest regions shall his empire be;
They that wilds inhabit shall their worship bring,
Kings shall render tribute, nations serve our King.
*Christ shall have dominion over land and sea,
Earth's remotest regions shall his empire be.*

When the needy seek him, he will mercy show;
Yea, the weak and helpless shall his pity know;
He will surely save them from oppression's might,
For their lives are precious in his holy sight.
*Christ shall have dominion over land and sea,
Earth's remotest regions shall his empire be.*

Ever and forever shall his Name endure,
Long as suns continue it shall stand secure;
And in him forever all men shall be blest,
And all nations hail him King of kings confessed.
*Christ shall have dominion over land and sea,
Earth's remotest regions shall his empire be.*

Unto God Almighty joyful Zion sings;
He alone is glorious, doing wondrous things.
Evermore, ye people, bless his glorious name,
His eternal glory through the earth proclaim.
*Christ shall have dominion over land and sea,
Earth's remotest regions shall his empire be. Amen.*

LORD'S DAY DEVOTION AND QUESTIONS

In John 3, Jesus had an encounter with Nicodemus, one of the leading Pharisees. We studied their conversation and noted how Jesus plainly explained the necessity of the regenerating work of the Holy Spirit in a person in order for that person to be saved. This would have come as a surprise to someone like Nicodemus, who had a deep sense of works-righteousness and of being able to keep God's commandments. Now, in John 4, we read about Jesus' encounter with what many in that society would have considered the opposite of Nicodemus: Jesus met a sinful Samaritan woman. These two polar opposites—Nicodemus and the Samaritan woman—are placed side by side in John's gospel to show us that everyone is in need of God's grace. These two also reveal the power of God's grace. As we noted, there is some evidence in John's gospel that Nicodemus did repent and believe (John 7:40-52; John 19:38-42), and there is also ample evidence that the Samaritan woman did as well (John 4:39-42). While the law reveals that all fall short of God's glory, the gospel reveals the power of God's salvation for all who believe.

1. For review, read John 3:31-36. What do we learn here about saving faith? What is one of the evidences of saving faith according to verse 36?
2. Read John 4:1-4. Given that there was no geographical necessity for Jesus to travel through Samaria, what does verse 4 mean in light of divine necessity? Compare this text with Luke 19:1-10, and consider especially the meaning of verse 10.
3. Why did the Jews and the Samaritans hate each other? What other barriers would have prevented Jewish men from talking to the Samaritan woman? What does Jesus' intentional encounter with her reveal about his mission?
4. How does this passage foreshadow what the early church would experience in Acts 8:4-8?
5. What is the double meaning of the phrase "living water" in John 4:10-14? What did the Samaritan woman initially believe Jesus was referring to? What was Jesus actually referring to?
6. What are some lessons that you learn about evangelism from John 4:1-14?
7. In preparation for our next study, read John 4:15-26. How do you think Jesus knew about her personal life, and why do you think he brought up her sinfulness in the course of their conversation?