

WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, October 13, 2019

And when Jesus heard it, he said to them, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.”

Mark 2:17

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

ENTERING INTO WORSHIP

Greeting and Blessing*

Responsive Reading*

Psalm 147 (p. 839)

Hymn of Preparation*

“Mighty God, While Angels Bless You” Hymn 8

Congregational Confession of Sin

Leader: Almighty God and Heavenly Father, we come in sorrow and frustration as we consider how we have sinned against you and others.

All: We confess that we have sinned against you by breaking your commandments and by wasting your good gifts to us. We have hurt others and ourselves by our sins, and we are not worthy to be called your children. Forgive us, we pray.

Leader: Have compassion on us and grant us the daily increase of your Holy Spirit. Cause us to continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the Gospel.

All: We pray this through the merit and mediation of our Savior, 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 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*

Malachi 4

Congregational Response

“Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts” Hymn 646

Confession of Faith

The Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 76. *Which is the ninth commandment?*

A. The ninth commandment is, “You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.”

Q. 77. *What is required in the ninth commandment?*

A. The ninth commandment requires the maintaining and promoting of truth between man and man, and of our own and our neighbor’s good name, especially in testifying as witnesses.

Q. 78. *What is forbidden in the ninth commandment?*

A. The ninth commandment forbids whatever is prejudicial to truth, or injurious to our own or our neighbor’s good name.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Stewardship

Tithes and Offerings

Doxology*

Hymn 731

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host: praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. 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*

Luke 3:1-22

Congregational Response (Psalm 19) “The Heavens Declare Your Glory, Lord” Hymn 138

Pastoral Prayer (based on Psalm 16:7-8)

Sermon

“The Testimony of a True Believer”
John 1:19-28

Pastor Ben Muresan

GOD'S BLESSING ON HIS PEOPLE

Hymn of Thanksgiving*

“We Come, O Christ, to You” Hymn 181

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

When the religious leaders investigated John the Baptist to see who he was, they listed several names and titles that revealed their suspicions. Was he the Christ? (whom they believed would lead Israel to victory over the Gentiles). If not the Christ, then was he Elijah or some other influential leader? All the names and titles they put forth revealed their hope was in a merely human figure who would lead them in a victory that was more political than spiritual.

In whom is your hope? When you begin your morning, do you find greater comfort in who our President is than in who Jesus is? Mark Johnston writes:

When it comes to looking for deliverance, the hopes of every generation are set too low. For many, the hope is of economic deliverance achieved by just a little more prosperity. For others, it is social, political, or merely psychological deliverance—something to make life in this world a little more bearable. The Gospel makes us think again as to the real nature of our need. In essence our need is spiritual: the problem of a sinful heart. What we need is a salvation that can deal with sin in all its ramifications. To realize this forces us to think again as to who or what can save us.

1. For review, read John 1:15-18. In what way does Christ reveal God? Can a person truly know God apart from knowing and trusting Jesus?
2. Read John 1:19. Who came to investigate John the Baptist and why?
3. Read John 1:20-21. Who are each of the people the religious leaders listed? Who was the Christ? (according to their expectations). Who was Elijah and what is the connection with Malachi 4:5? Who was “the Prophet” according to Deuteronomy 18:15-18? Do you agree with Mark Johnston’s assessment that their expectations of deliverance were too low?
4. Now knowing Jesus’ true identity and all that he did to accomplish our salvation, how does the Heidelberg Catechism Q/A 31 explain his title of “Christ”? (The question and answer is printed on the inside cover of the bulletin).
5. What did John the Baptist mean by quoting Isaiah 40:3 when responding to the delegation from Jerusalem?
6. Read John 1:25-26. What was the significance of John’s baptism? What was his role in redemptive history? What is the significance of baptism in the New Covenant?
7. In preparation for next week, read John 1:29-34. What do you think is the meaning of John’s declaration in verse 29? How did Jesus “take away” our sin?

