

WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, October 20, 2019

Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!

Revelation 5:12

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

ENTERING INTO WORSHIP

Greeting and Blessing*

Responsive Reading*

Psalm 148 (p. 840)

Hymn of Preparation*

“How Firm a Foundation” Hymn 94

Congregational Confession of Sin

Leader: Our God and Father, we confess that we have sinned and done what is evil in your sight.

All: We have broken all your commandments, and we have failed to show love to others in word and deed. Though you have equipped us with many gifts and graces, we have not faithfully used them for your glory and the good of your Church.

Leader: Forgive us, we pray, and cleanse us from our sins. Work in us by your Word and Spirit, and give us both the desire and the power to do what pleases you.

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

Psalm 32:1-5

Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit. For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,” and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.

* *Congregation is requested to stand, if able.*

ADORATION AND PRAISE

First Reading*

Isaiah 52:13 - 53:12

Congregational Response

“Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts” Hymn 646

Confession of Faith

The Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 79. *Which is the tenth commandment?*

A. The tenth commandment is, “You shall not covet your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor’s.”

Q. 80. *What is required in the tenth commandment?*

A. The tenth commandment requires full contentment with our own condition, with a right and loving frame of spirit toward our neighbor, and all that is his.

Q. 81. *What is forbidden in the tenth commandment?*

A. The tenth commandment forbids all discontentment with our own estate, envying or grieving at the good of our neighbor, and all inordinate motions and affections to anything that is his.

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*

Revelation 5

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

Pastoral Prayer (based on John 15:13)

Sermon

“The Lamb of God”
John 1:29

Pastor Ben Muresan

GOD'S BLESSING ON HIS PEOPLE

Hymn of Thanksgiving*

“Just As I Am, without One Plea” Hymn 501

Benediction*

Congregational Benediction Response*

(Sung to Stuttgart [Hymn 5])

Honor, glory, might, and merit, be to God and God alone!
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, One in Three and Three in One. Amen.

LORD'S DAY DEVOTION AND QUESTIONS

When John the Baptist declared that Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, John was speaking prophetically. The Holy Spirit revealed to John that Jesus was going to fulfill the Old Testament predictions of a person who would atone for the sins of his people (Isaiah 53:7). It is amazing to think that John recognized that Jesus' redemptive work would extend not just to the true Israel, but to the world—to people of every tribe, tongue, and nation who put their faith in him. Jesus came to solve our greatest problem, and he solved it in the greatest way, by giving his life as a ransom for many (Mark 10:45). J.C. Ryle explains:

Christ... did not come on earth to be a conqueror, or a philosopher, or a mere teacher of morality. He came to save sinners. He came to do that which man could never do for himself—to do that which money and learning can never obtain—to do that which is essential to man's real happiness: He came to “take away sin.”

1. For review, read John 1:19-28. What was significant about each of the names and titles that the interrogators posed to John the Baptist? What do you learn from John's replies?
2. Read Genesis 22:1-19 and Exodus 12:1-14. What do these passages teach about penal substitutionary atonement?
3. Review today's First Reading from Isaiah 52:13 - 53:12. R.C. Sproul used to say that this passage reads like an eye-witness testimony of Jesus' crucifixion even though Isaiah wrote centuries before Jesus was born. How does this reveal the Spirit's inspiration of the authors of Scripture and the way God was preparing his people for Christ's atoning work?
4. Why do you think some people (even some Christians) do not like to talk about penal substitutionary atonement? According to what the Apostle Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 1:18-25, what makes the cross seem foolish to some?
5. Review today's reading from Revelation 5. According to the testimony of those who are in his presence, why is the Lamb worthy of praise?
6. In preparation for next Sunday (when we will observe Reformation Sunday), think about some of the doctrines that the Reformers emphasized in their writing and preaching. Which doctrines do you find most comforting? Which do you find most challenging?

