

WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, December 1, 2019

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.
Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest
for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

Matthew 11:28-30

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

ENTERING INTO WORSHIP

Greeting and Blessing*

Responsive Reading*

Psalm 4 (p. 786)

Hymn of Preparation*

Hymn 194

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy tribes, on Sinai's height,
In ancient times didst give the law in cloud and majesty and awe.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free thine own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell thy people save, and give them victory o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Dayspring from on high and cheer us by thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Key of David, come and open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel. Amen.

* Congregation is requested to stand, if able.

Congregational Confession of Sin

Leader: Heavenly Father, we know that your commandments are holy, righteous, and good. They reveal your holiness, and they teach us how to live as your children in a way that pleases you. Hear us as we come humbly into your presence, confessing our sins and transgressions.

All: We acknowledge that we depended on our own strength and stumbled. We leaned on our own understanding and made foolish decisions. We sought the things of this world and failed to seek first your Kingdom and your righteousness.

Leader: Forgive us, we pray, and grant us repentant hearts. Cause us to keep in step with the Holy Spirit and to live according to your revealed will. Help us to do good to everyone, especially to those who are of the household of faith.

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

Colossians 3:12-14

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

ADORATION AND PRAISE

First Reading*

Deuteronomy 5:6-21; Matthew 22:34-40

Congregational Response

Hymn 198

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates!

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates!
Behold, the King of glory waits;
The King of kings is drawing near,
The Savior of the world is here.

A helper just he comes to thee,
His chariot is humility,
His kingly crown is holiness,
His scepter, pity in distress.

O blest the land, the city blest,
Where Christ the Ruler is confessed!
O happy hearts and happy homes
To whom this King in triumph comes!

Fling wide the portals of your heart;
Make it a temple, set apart
From earthly use for heav'n's employ,
Adorned with prayer and love and joy.

Redeemer, come! I open wide
my heart to thee; here, Lord, abide!
Let me thy inner presence feel;
Thy grace and love in me reveal.

So come, my Sovereign, enter in!
Let new and nobler life begin!
Thy Holy Spirit, guide us on,
Until the glorious crown be won. Amen.

Confession of Faith

The Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 91. *How do the sacraments become effectual means of salvation?*

A. The sacraments become effectual means of salvation, not from any virtue in them, or in him who administers them, but only by the blessing of Christ, and the working of his Spirit in those who by faith receive them.

Q. 92. *What is a sacrament?*

A. A sacrament is a holy ordinance instituted by Christ, in which, by perceptible signs, Christ and the benefits of the new covenant are represented, sealed, and applied to believers.

Q. 93. *Which are the sacraments of the New Testament?*

A. The sacraments of the New Testament are Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Stewardship

Tithes and Offerings

Gloria Patri*

Hymn 734

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*

Mark 7:1-23

Congregational Response (Psalm 138)

Hymn 168

I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art

I greet thee, who my sure Redeemer art,
My only trust and Savior of my heart,
Who pain didst undergo for my poor sake;
I pray thee from our hearts all cares to take.

Thou art the King of mercy and of grace,
Reigning omnipotent in ev'ry place:
So come, O King, and our whole being sway;
Shine on us with the light of thy pure day.

Thou art the Life, by which alone we live,
And all our substance and our strength receive;
O comfort us in death's approaching hour,
Strong-hearted then to face it by thy pow'r.

Thou hast the true and perfect gentleness,
No harshness hast thou and no bitterness:
Make us to taste the sweet grace found in thee
And ever stay in thy sweet unity.

Our hope is in no other save in thee;
Our faith is built upon thy promise free;
O grant to us such stronger hope and sure
That we can boldly conquer and endure. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer (based on Matthew 5-7)

Sermon

“The First Sign: Water into Wine”
John 2:1-12

Pastor Ben Muresan

GOD'S BLESSING ON HIS PEOPLE

Hymn of Thanksgiving*

Hymn 196

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art,
Dear Desire of every nation, joy of ev'ry longing heart.

Joy to those who long to see thee, Dayspring from on high, appear;
Come, thou promised Rod of Jesse, of thy birth we long to hear!
O'er the hills the angels singing news, glad tidings of a birth:
“Go to him, your praises bringing; Christ the Lord has come to earth.”

Come to earth to taste our sadness, he whose glories knew no end;
By his life he brings us gladness, our Redeemer, Shepherd, Friend.
Leaving riches without number, born within a cattle stall;
This the everlasting wonder, Christ was born the Lord of all.

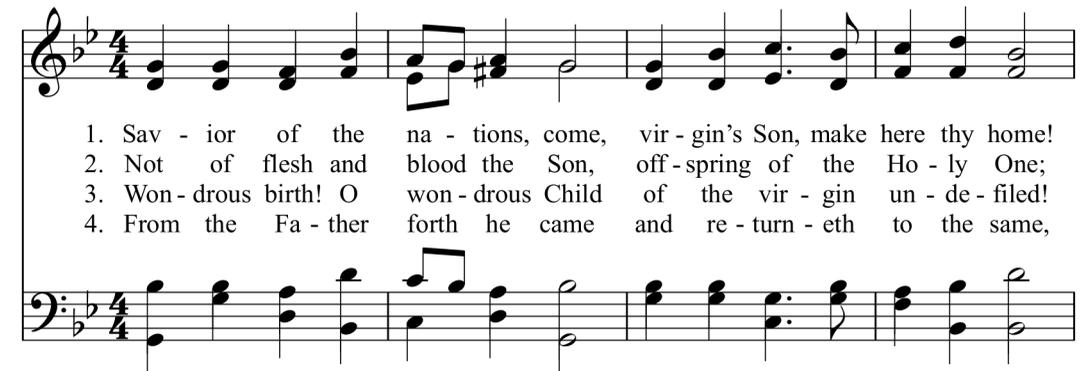
Born thy people to deliver, born a child, and yet a king,
Born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
By thine own sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne. Amen.

LORD'S DAY DEVOTION AND QUESTIONS

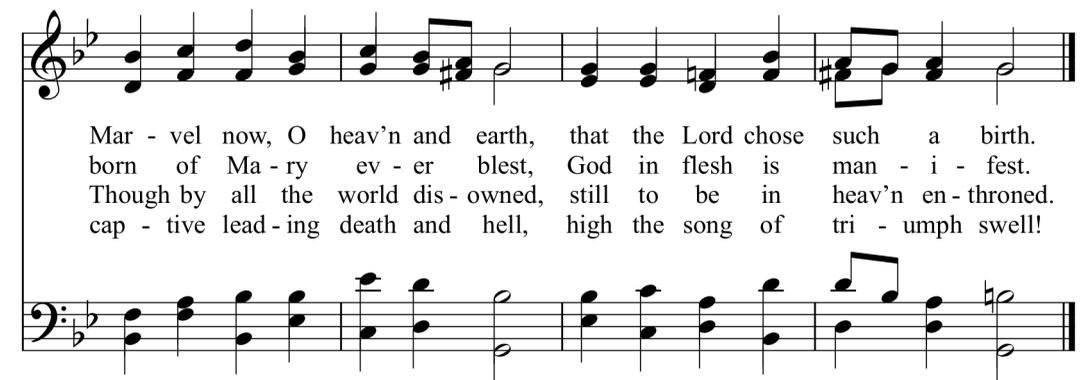
Near the end of his Gospel, John gives us the purpose of his writing under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit: "Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name" (John 20:30-31). The signs John records are not just marvelous displays of power and authority, but they point to something greater than themselves. The sign Jesus performed at the Wedding at Cana revealed the inadequacy of the Mosaic Law and the fullness of Christ and his work. Though Christ is better and greater than the Mosaic Law, our temptation often is to return to the Law for assurance. We seek to add to the abundance and completeness of what Christ has already provided in order to contribute to our justification. Yet Scripture cautions us against this temptation and reminds us to receive and rest in Christ alone for our salvation, for "by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight" (Romans 3:20).

1. For review, scan John 1 and note some of Jesus' names and titles. Why does he have so many? Choose 2-3 and try to explain their significance.
2. How have you typically interpreted John 2:1-11 in your Bible reading? How does verse 11 help us understand the meaning of this passage in light of what John writes in 20:30-31?
3. According to passages such as Ps. 104:15; Eccl. 10:19; Is. 25:6; and 55:1-2, what does wine symbolize in the Bible? Under what circumstances does Scripture condemn wine's ability to alter our moods? Read and consider the cautions in Prov. 20:1; Isa. 5:11-12; 1 Cor. 6:12.
4. Consider Jesus' response to his mother in John 2:4. Jesus' "hour" or "time" (2:4) is a recurring theme in the Gospel of John. Examine each reference and see if you can find a pattern (7:6-8, 30; 8:20; 12:23, 27; 13:1; 16:32; 17:1).
5. According to John 2:6, what were the water jars used for? Discuss this statement from A.W. Pink: "Judaism still existed as a religious system, but it ministered no comfort to the heart. It had degenerated into a cold, mechanical routine, utterly destitute of joy in God. Israel had lost the joy of their espousals." In what way is religion empty without Christ?
6. What is the significance of the amount of wine that Jesus produced?
7. According to John 2:10, what does the master of the feast's comment reveal about this sign?
8. In preparation for next week, read John 2:13-25. What practical applications can you draw from this account?

SAVIOR OF THE NATIONS, COME



1. Sav - ior of the na - tions, come, vir - gin's Son, make here thy home!
 2. Not of flesh and blood the Son, off - spring of the Ho - ly One;
 3. Won - drous birth! O won - drous Child of the vir - gin un - de - filed!
 4. From the Fa - ther forth he came and re - turn - eth to the same,



Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth.
 born of Ma - ry ev - er blest, God in flesh is man - i - fest.
 Though by all the world dis - owned, still to be in heav'n en - throned.
 cap - tive lead - ing death and hell, high the song of tri - umph swell!

5. Thou, the Father's only Son,
 hast o'er sin the vict'ry won.
 Boundless shall thy kingdom be;
 when shall we its glories see?

6. Praise to God the Father sing,
 Praise to God the Son, our King,
 Praise to God the Spirit be
 ever and eternally.

Ambrose of Milan, 340–397
 Tr. Martin Luther, 1524
 Tr. William M. Reynolds, 1860; alt.

NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND 7.7.7.7.
 Adapted from *Geistliches Gesangbüchlein*, Wittenberg, 1524