

WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, December 9, 2018

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Isaiah 9:6-7

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

ENTERING INTO WORSHIP

Greeting and Blessing*

Responsive Reading*

Psalm 107:1-22 (p. 824)

Hymn of Preparation*

“Comfort, Comfort Ye My People” Hymn 197

Congregational Confession of Sin

Leader: Almighty and Merciful Father, we confess that we have been unfaithful to our covenant with you. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed.

All: We have served our own self-interest and have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have been impatient, covetous, and angry. Our sins are too many to count.

Leader: Forgive us, gracious God, and renew us for the sake of your Son who died for us. By your Holy Spirit enable us to live for you and to please you in every way.

All: We ask all 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

Romans 5:6-9

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God.

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

ADORATION AND PRAISE

First Reading*

Genesis 50

Congregational Response

“Thou Who Wast Rich Beyond All Splendor” Hymn 230

Confession of Faith

The Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Days 38 & 39

Q. 103. *What is God’s will for you in the fourth commandment?*

A. First, that the gospel ministry and schools for it be maintained, and that, especially on the festive day of rest, I diligently attend the assembly of God’s people to learn what God’s Word teaches, to participate in the sacraments, to pray to the Lord publicly, and to bring Christian offerings for the poor.

Second, that every day of my life I rest from my evil ways, let the Lord work in me through his Spirit, and so begin in this life the eternal Sabbath.

Q. 104. *What is God’s will for you in the fifth commandment?*

A. That I show honor, love, and faithfulness to my father and mother and all those in authority over me; submit myself with proper obedience to all their good teaching and discipline; and also that I be patient with their failings—for by their hand God wills to rule us.

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 9:18-36

Congregational Response

“O Lord, How Shall I Meet You” Hymn 156

Pastoral Prayer

Sermon

“The Benedictus”
Luke 1:67-79

Dr. Michael Preciado

GOD'S BLESSING ON HIS PEOPLE

Hymn of Thanksgiving*

“Angels We Have Heard on High” Hymn 214

Benediction*

Congregational Benediction Response*

(Hymn 115, verse 5)

Let all things their Creator bless, and worship him in humbleness, O praise him, alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son, and praise the Spirit, three in One,
O praise him, O praise him, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Amen.

LORD'S DAY DEVOTION AND QUESTIONS

Luke 1:67-79 is a hymn of praise, sung by an Old Testament priest, about the Divine visitation in Jesus Christ. This visitation is meant to invoke the pattern of the Exodus. The Son of God visited his people and liberated them from sin, Satan, and the world. He did this by his active and passive obedience. He now leads his people through the wilderness of this world through his Word and sacraments. This wilderness wandering will culminate in our entrance into the Promised Land of heaven. John the Baptist is the forerunner, or herald, indicating that this Second Exodus is about to commence.

1. For review from last Sunday, read Philippians 2:12-13. What are good works? Are they necessary for salvation?
2. What is the significance of the word “visited” in Luke 1:68?
3. How does Christ fulfill the Abrahamic covenant?
4. In what way does the transfiguration (Luke 9:28-31) demonstrate that Christ is leading a Second Exodus?
5. What is the purpose of John the Baptist?
6. How does the Exodus pattern (liberation, wandering, Promised Land) apply to your life right now?

