

WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, February 16, 2020

But I have trusted in your steadfast love; my heart shall rejoice in your salvation.
I will sing to the LORD, because he has dealt bountifully with me.

Psalm 13:5-6

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

ENTERING INTO WORSHIP

Greeting and Blessing*

Responsive Reading*

Psalm 18:1-19 (p. 789)

Hymn of Preparation*

Hymn 76

Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven, to his feet your tribute bring;
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, who, like me, his praise should sing?

Praise him, praise him, praise him, praise him,
Praise the everlasting King.

Praise him for his grace and favor to our fathers in distress;
Praise him, still the same for ever, slow to chide and swift to bless;

Praise him, praise him, praise him, praise him,
Glorious in his faithfulness.

Father-like, he tends and spares us; well our feeble frame he knows;

In his hands he gently bears us, rescues us from all our foes;

Praise him, praise him, praise him, praise him,
Widely as his mercy goes.

Frail as summer's flow'r we flourish, blows the wind and it is gone;

But while mortals rise and perish, God endures unchanging on.

Praise him, praise him, praise him, praise him,
Praise the High Eternal One.

Angels, help us to adore him; you behold him face to face;

Sun and moon, bow down before him, dwellers all in time and space,

Praise him, praise him, praise him, praise him,
Praise with us the God of grace. Amen.

* Congregation is requested to stand, if able.

Congregational Confession of Sin

Leader: Heavenly Father, we confess that we have erred and strayed from your ways like lost sheep, each of us going our own way and seeking our own path.

All: We confess that we have sinned against you and others. 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: Have mercy on us, we pray, and grant us forgiveness through our Lord Jesus Christ. Cause us to grow in love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

All: All praise, honor, and glory be to you, O God, through 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 103:8-12

The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. He will not always chide, nor will he keep his anger forever. He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.

ADORATION AND PRAISE

First Reading*

Isaiah 61

Congregational Response (Hymn of the Month)

Hymn 466

I Sought the Lord, and Afterward I Knew

I sought the Lord, and afterward I knew
He moved my soul to seek him, seeking me;
It was not I that found, O Savior true;
No, I was found of thee.

Thou didst reach forth thy hand and mine enfold;
I walked and sank not on the storm-vexed sea—
’Twas not so much that I on thee took hold,
As thou, dear Lord, on me.

I find, I walk, I love, but O the whole
Of love is but my answer, Lord, to thee;
For thou wert long beforehand with my soul,
Always thou lovedst me. Amen.

Confession of Faith

The Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 7. *What are the decrees of God?*

A. The decrees of God are his eternal purpose, according to the counsel of his will, by which, for his own glory, he has foreordained whatsoever comes to pass.

Q. 8. *How does God execute his decrees?*

A. God executes his decrees in the works of creation and providence.

Q. 9. *What is the work of creation?*

A. The work of creation is God’s making all things of nothing, by the word of his power, in the space of six days, and all very good.

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 12:20-50

Congregational Response (Psalm of the Month [based on Psalm 102:17-27])

Hymn 27

Great God, How Infinite Art Thou!

Great God, how infinite art thou!
How poor and weak are we!
Let the whole race of creatures bow,
And pay their praise to thee.

Thy throne eternal ages stood,
Ere seas or stars were made:
Thou art the ever-living God,
Were all the nations dead.

Eternity, with all its years,
Stands present in thy view;
To thee there's nothing old appears;
To thee there's nothing new.

Our lives through various scenes are drawn,
And vexed with trifling cares;
While thine eternal thought moves on
Thine undisturbed affairs.

Great God, how infinite art thou!
How poor and weak are we!
Let the whole race of creatures bow,
And pay their praise to thee. Amen.

Installation of Women's Ministry Leaders

Pastoral Prayer (based on Matthew 7:7-11)

Sermon

“The Third Sign: Healing the Nobleman's Son”
John 4:43-54

Pastor Ben Muresan

GOD'S BLESSING ON HIS PEOPLE

Hymn of Thanksgiving*

He Will Hold Me Fast

When I fear my faith will fail, Christ will hold me fast;
When the tempter would prevail, he will hold me fast.
I could never keep my hold through life's fearful path;
For my love is often cold; he must hold me fast.
He will hold me fast, he will hold me fast;
For my Savior loves me so, he will hold me fast.

Those he saves are his delight, Christ will hold me fast;
Precious in his holy sight, he will hold me fast.
He'll not let my soul be lost; his promises shall last;
Bought by him at such a cost, he will hold me fast.
He will hold me fast, he will hold me fast;
For my Savior loves me so, he will hold me fast.

For my life he bled and died, Christ will hold me fast;
Justice has been satisfied; he will hold me fast.
Raised with him to endless life, he will hold me fast
'Til our faith is turned to sight, when he comes at last!
He will hold me fast, he will hold me fast;
For my Savior loves me so, he will hold me fast. Amen.

LORD'S DAY DEVOTION AND QUESTIONS

Near the end of his Gospel, John the Evangelist 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 first sign John recored was the water turned to wine. The second was the clearing of the temple. And in John 4:43-54, we read about the third sign—the healing of the nobleman’s son. Each of these signs authenticated Jesus’ ministry by revealing his glory. The glory Jesus revealed in healing the nobleman’s son is a foretaste of the spiritual restoration he would bring to his people through the cross. It pointed to the greater blessing of regeneration, and also to the new heaven and the new earth, where Jesus reigns and where “death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things will have passed away” (Revelation 21:4).

1. For review, read John 4:27-42. What is the significance of the title the Samaritans ascribe to Jesus as the “Savior of the world” in verse 42 when you take into account the context of this story and the hostility between the Jews and the Samaritans?
2. Review our First Reading from Isaiah 61, a passage that describes the Messianic Age. Jesus read a portion of this passage in Luke 4:16-21 and concluded by saying: “Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.” What are some of the blessings Isaiah records and how were they fulfilled in Jesus’ ministry?
3. What was Jesus lamenting in John 4:48, where he said, “Unless you see signs and wonders you will not believe”? Read and consider the Apostle Paul’s explanation in 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 about the danger of seeking signs and wonders. How has this problem affected some churches?
4. In contrast with the other Galileans who came to see Jesus, what was different about the nobleman’s faith according to John 4:50? How was his faith similar to what Jesus experienced in Samaria? In what sense did their faith serve as a judgment against many in Israel?
5. What do we learn about the importance of faithfulness as parents in light of John 4:53? What other examples can you think of in Scripture where the faithfulness of one or both parents led to blessings upon their household?
6. In preparation for next week, read John 5:1-18. What are some of the reasons given in the text to explain why the religious leaders were growing in their opposition to Jesus? What do you think this miracle reveals about Jesus?

He Will Hold Me Fast

1. When I fear my faith will fail, Christ will hold me fast; When the tempt-er
 2. Those He saves are His de-light, Christ will hold me fast; Pre-cious in his
 3. For my life He bled and died, Christ will hold me fast; Just-ice has been
 would pre-vail, He will hold me fast. I could nev-er keep my hold
 ho-ly sight, He will hold me fast. He'll not let my soul be lost; His
 sat-is-fied; He will hold me fast. Raised with Him to end-less life,
 Through life's fear-ful path; For my love is oft-en cold; He must hold me
 Prom-is-es shall last; Bought by Him at such a cost, He will hold me
 He will hold me fast 'Till our faith is turned to sight, When He comes at
 fast. He will hold me fast, He will hold me fast;
 fast.
 last!
 For my Sa-rior loves me so, He will hold me fast.

He Will Hold Me Fast
 Lyrics vv. 1-2 Ada Habershon (1861-1918), Public Domain;
 Alt words vv.1-2, lyrics v.3, and music: Matt Merker, © 2013