

WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, February 17, 2019

Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me?
Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my salvation and my God.

Psalm 42:11

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

ENTERING INTO WORSHIP

Greeting and Blessing*

Responsive Reading*

Psalm 116 (p. 827)

Hymn of Preparation*

“Holy, Holy, Holy!” Hymn 100

Congregational Confession of Sin

Leader: Gracious Father, as we sang about your holiness, we were reminded of our sinfulness. You are holy, holy, holy, and we do not feel worthy to come before you. We confess that we have sinned and done what is evil in your sight.

All: We have not loved kindness and delighted our souls in doing good to others. We have not walked humbly and wisely before you, but rather we have walked in our own wisdom and followed the counsel of the world around us.

Leader: Forgive us, we pray, 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 ask 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 2:13-15

And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.

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

ADORATION AND PRAISE

First Reading*

Psalm 2

Congregational Response (Hymn of the Month)

“I Lay My Sins on Jesus” Hymn 512

Confession of Faith

The Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Days 50-51

Q. 125. *What does the fourth petition mean?*

A. “Give us this day our daily bread” means:

Provide for all our physical needs so that we may recognize that you are the only source of everything good, and that neither our care and work nor your gifts can do us any good without your blessing.

Therefore may we withdraw our trust from all creatures and place it in you alone.

Q. 126. *What does the fifth petition mean?*

A. “Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors” means:

Because of Christ’s blood, do not impute to us, poor sinners that we are, any of the transgressions we do or the evil that constantly clings to us.

Forgive us just as we are fully determined, as evidence of your grace in us, wholeheartedly to forgive our neighbors.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Stewardship

Tithes and Offerings

Doxology*

Hymn 732

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*

1 Corinthians 1:18 - 2:5

Congregational Response (Psalm of the Month [Ps. 67]) “O God, to Us Show Mercy” Hymn 437

Reception of New Members

Sacrament of Baptism

“Baptized into Your Name Most Holy” Hymn 415

Pastoral Prayer (based on Romans 5:1-5)

Sermon

“Our Citizenship Is in Heaven”
Philippians 3:17 - 4:1

Pastor Ben Muresan

GOD’S BLESSING ON HIS PEOPLE

Hymn of Thanksgiving*

“O Father, You Are Sovereign” Hymn 75

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

The idea of citizenship is important to many people in our world, especially those who dream of becoming citizens of a wealthy and politically stable nation. Citizens gain benefits from their respective countries, but they also have responsibilities to live according to the laws and customs that have been established. There is a certain allegiance that comes with citizenship. When the Apostle Paul writes that we are citizens of heaven, he has in mind the status and privileges that accompany our citizenship, and also the responsibilities that we have toward the Lord of heaven, who is our sovereign King. We have been received into the wealthiest and most powerful Kingdom in existence, and we have been given all the rights and privileges that accompany our heavenly citizenship. We know that though we live in this world and in this country, our true allegiance is to the Lord, and our lives must be patterned according to his Word. Sinclair Ferguson writes, “We are in Christ; we have experienced a heavenly calling; we belong to another country and are citizens of a different city. Our character is bound to be different. We inevitably stand out for our minds are not on earthly things.”

1. For review, read Philippians 3:12-16. What is Paul referring to in verse 12 when he writes that he is not “perfect”? Can we be perfected in this life? If we cannot be perfected in this life, what is the purpose of “straining” according to verses 13-14?
2. Read Philippians 3:17. What role does imitating mature, godly Christians have in our faith? Is there a Christian in your life that you look up to? How does having a person like that in your life help you grow in your faith?
3. Who are the “enemies of the cross” that Paul is referring to in verse 18? According to 1 Corinthians 1:18-25 and Romans 3:21-26, why is Jesus’ crucifixion central to our faith? Why do you think some who call themselves Christians would want to undermine the importance of the cross?
4. How does Paul describe the enemies of the cross in Philippians 3:19? Can you think of false teachers today who fit some of these descriptions?
5. In what sense are we citizens of heaven? Consider these verses as you formulate your answer: John 17:14-16; 1 Corinthians 7:29-31; 2 Corinthians 5:18-21, and 1 Peter 2:11.
6. In preparation for next week, read Philippians 4:2-3. What do we learn about church conflict in these verses? What do you think Paul means when he says that Euodia and Syntyche should “agree in the Lord” in verse 2?

