

WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, February 2, 2020

O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Psalm 8:9

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

ENTERING INTO WORSHIP

Greeting and Blessing*

Responsive Reading*

Psalm 102 (printed on last page)

Hymn of Preparation*

Hymn 55

To God Be the Glory

To God be the glory, great things he has done!
So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,
Who yielded his life an atonement for sin,
And opened the life-gate that we may go in.

*Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear his voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father thro' Jesus the Son,
And give him the glory, great things he has done!*

O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood!
To ev'ry believer the promise of God;
The vilest offender who truly believes,
That moment from Jesus forgiveness receives.

*Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear his voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father thro' Jesus the Son,
And give him the glory, great things he has done!*

Great things he has taught us, great things he has done,
And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
But purer and higher, and greater will be
Our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see.

*Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear his voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father thro' Jesus the Son,
And give him the glory, great things he has done! Amen.*

* Congregation is requested to stand, if able.

Congregational Confession of Sin

Leader: Gracious God and Father, we believe that you are holy and perfect. We feel unworthy to enter into your presence because we again have failed to keep all your commandments.

All: We confess that we have not loved you with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, and we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

Leader: Forgive us, we pray. Our sins and failures weigh heavy on our hearts, and we feel how our fellowship with you has suffered. Free us from both the penalty and power of sin, so that it will not be master over us, and strengthen us to live in holiness and righteousness to the glory of your holy name.

All: Thank you for the assurance we have of forgiveness through the blood of our Savior, who lives and reigns with you in unity with the Holy Spirit, one God, forever. Amen.

Private Confession of Our Sins

Assurance of Forgiveness

Hebrews 9:24-28

For Christ has entered, not into holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true things, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf. Nor was it to offer himself repeatedly, as the high priest enters the holy places every year with blood not his own, for then he would have had to suffer repeatedly since the foundation of the world. But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment, so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.

ADORATION AND PRAISE

First Reading*

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

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. 1. *What is the chief end of man?*

A. Man’s chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever.

Q. 2. *What rule has God given to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy him?*

A. The Word of God, which is contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, is the only rule to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy him.

Q. 3. *What do the Scriptures principally teach?*

A. The Scriptures principally teach what man is to believe concerning God, and what duty God requires of man.

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*

Romans 12

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 a Ruling Elder

Pastoral Prayer (based on Psalm 141)

Sermon

“Worship in Spirit and Truth”
John 4:19-26

Pastor Ben Muresan

GOD'S BLESSING ON HIS PEOPLE

Hymn of Thanksgiving*

Hymn 301

Join All the Glorious Names

Join all the glorious names of wisdom, love, and pow'r,
That ever mortals knew, that angels ever bore:
All are too poor to speak his worth, too poor to set my Savior forth.

Great Prophet of my God, my tongue would bless thy name:
By thee the joyful news of our salvation came,
The joyful news of sins forgiv'n, of hell subdued and peace with heav'n.

Jesus, my great High Priest, offered his blood and died;
My guilty conscience seeks no sacrifice beside:
His pow'rful blood did once atone and now it pleads before the throne.

Thou art my Counselor, my pattern, and my Guide,
And thou my Shepherd art; O keep me near thy side;
Nor let my feet e'er turn astray to wander in the crooked way.

My Savior and my Lord, my Conqu'ror and my King,
Thy scepter and thy sword, thy reigning grace, I sing:
Thine is the pow'r; behold I sit in willing bonds beneath thy feet. Amen.

LORD'S DAY DEVOTION AND QUESTIONS

As Reformed Christians, we believe that the Bible alone regulates how we are to worship God. We refer to this as the regulative principle. While God encourages us to use our imagination and our ability to innovate in work and in daily life, he discourages us from doing so in our worship of him. He has given us a guide explaining how to worship him and we must not deviate from it. Ligon Duncan explains why:

In contrast to all human creativity and initiative, the Bible is to be our rule for how we worship God, because the Bible is our rule for how we are to think about God—and how we worship God in turn impacts our concept of God. Put another way: how we worship determines whom we worship. That is why both the medium and the message, both the means and the object, must be attended to in true worship. So, the Bible (God's own revelation regarding himself and his worship)—and not our own innovations, imaginations, experiences, opinions, and representations—is to determine how we worship God... There must be scriptural warrant for all we do. That warrant may come in the form of explicit directives, implicit requirements, the general principles of Scripture, positive commands, examples, and things derived from good and necessary consequences.

1. For review, read John 4:15-19. Why did Jesus bring up the Samaritan woman's sin? What are the uses of the moral law in the Christian life?
2. Read John 4:20-21. What was Jesus referring to when he spoke of the coming "hour"? Where should Christians worship today?
3. Read John 4:22. What is the connection between knowing Scripture and approaching God in true worship? What was Jesus explaining to the Samaritan woman about the theological errors of the Samaritans?
4. Read John 4:23-24. What does it mean to worship God "in spirit and in truth"? What is the connection between this and Jesus' explanation that "God is spirit"?
5. What is the significance of the way Jesus identified himself to the Samaritan woman in verse 26? What is the connection with Exodus 3:13-15?
6. In preparation for next week, read John 4:27-45. What led the Samaritan woman to profess her faith in Jesus to others in the town she lived in?

PSALM 102

A PRAYER OF ONE AFFLICTED, WHEN HE IS FAINT
AND POURS OUT HIS COMPLAINT BEFORE THE LORD.

¹ Hear my prayer, O LORD; let my cry come to you!

² **Do not hide your face from me in the day of my distress!
Incline your ear to me; answer me speedily in the day when I call!**

³ For my days pass away like smoke, and my bones burn like a furnace.

⁴ **My heart is struck down like grass and has withered; I forget to eat my bread.**

⁵ Because of my loud groaning my bones cling to my flesh.

⁶ **I am like a desert owl of the wilderness, like an owl of the waste places;**

⁷ I lie awake; I am like a lonely sparrow on the housetop.

⁸ **All the day my enemies taunt me; those who deride me use my name for a curse.**

⁹ For I eat ashes like bread and mingle tears with my drink,

¹⁰ **because of your indignation and anger; for you have taken me up and thrown me down.**

¹¹ My days are like an evening shadow; I wither away like grass.

¹² **But you, O LORD, are enthroned forever; you are remembered throughout all generations.**

¹³ You will arise and have pity on Zion; it is the time to favor her; the appointed time has come.

¹⁴ **For your servants hold her stones dear and have pity on her dust.**

¹⁵ Nations will fear the name of the LORD, and all the kings of the earth will fear your glory.

¹⁶ **For the LORD builds up Zion; he appears in his glory;**

¹⁷ he regards the prayer of the destitute and does not despise their prayer.

¹⁸ **Let this be recorded for a generation to come,
so that a people yet to be created may praise the LORD:**

¹⁹ that he looked down from his holy height; from heaven the LORD looked at the earth,

²⁰ **to hear the groans of the prisoners, to set free those who were doomed to die,**

²¹ that they may declare in Zion the name of the LORD, and in Jerusalem his praise,

²² **when peoples gather together, and kingdoms, to worship the LORD.**

²³ He has broken my strength in midcourse; he has shortened my days.

²⁴ **"O my God," I say, "take me not away in the midst of my days—
you whose years endure throughout all generations!"**

²⁵ Of old you laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands.

²⁶ **They will perish, but you will remain; they will all wear out like a garment.
You will change them like a robe, and they will pass away,**

²⁷ but you are the same, and your years have no end.

²⁸ **The children of your servants shall dwell secure;
their offspring shall be established before you.**