

WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, March 1, 2020

This is the day that the LORD has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Psalm 118:24

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

ENTERING INTO WORSHIP

Greeting and Blessing*

Responsive Reading*

Psalm 103 (p. 821)

Hymn of Preparation*

Hymn 390

Lord of the Sabbath, Hear Us Pray

Lord of the Sabbath, hear us pray, in this your house, on this your day;
And own, as grateful sacrifice, the songs which from your temple rise.

Now met to pray and bless your name, whose mercies flow each day the same,
Whose kind compassions never cease, we seek instruction, pardon, peace.

Your earthly Sabbaths, Lord, we love, but there's a nobler rest above;
To that our lab'ring souls aspire with ardent hope and strong desire.

In your blest kingdom we shall be from ev'ry mortal trouble free;
No sighs shall mingle with the songs resounding from immortal tongues.

No rude alarms of raging foes; no cares to break the long repose;
No midnight shade, no waning moon, but sacred, high, eternal noon.

O long-expected day, begin, dawn on these realms of woe and sin!
Break, morn of God, upon our eyes; and let the world's true Sun arise! Amen.

Congregational Confession of Sin

Leader: Heavenly Father, we come before you with guilt and shame as we consider how we have offended you by our sinful actions, our hurtful words, and our disgraceful thoughts.

All: You know us even better than we know ourselves; none of our sins are hidden from your sight. It grieves us that we continually fall short of what your Word commands.

Leader: We do earnestly repent and are sincerely sorry for our sins. Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father, for the sake of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Enable us to receive and rest in the truth that we have been justified by faith and have peace with you through our Lord Jesus Christ.

All: Give us a growing desire to joyfully serve you and one another as we follow after 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

1 Timothy 1:15-17

The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life. To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

* Congregation is requested to stand, if able.

ADORATION AND PRAISE

First Reading*

Exodus 20:1-17; Romans 13:8-10

Congregational Response (Hymn of the Month)

Hymn 305

Arise, My Soul, Arise

Arise, my soul, arise,
Shake off your guilty fears;
The bleeding Sacrifice
In my behalf appears:
Before the throne my Surety stands,
Before the throne my Surety stands,
My name is written on his hands.

He ever lives above,
For me to intercede,
His all-redeeming love,
His precious blood to plead;
His blood atoned for ev'ry race,
His blood atoned for ev'ry race,
And sprinkles now the throne of grace.

Five bleeding wounds he bears,
Received on Calvary;
They pour effectual prayers,
They strongly plead for me.
“Forgive him, O forgive,” they cry,
“Forgive him, O forgive,” they cry,
“Nor let that ransomed sinner die!”

My God is reconciled;
His pard'ning voice I hear;
He owns me for his child,
I can no longer fear;
With confidence I now draw nigh,
With confidence I now draw nigh,
And “Father, Abba, Father!” cry. Amen.

Confession of Faith

The Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 10. *How did God create man?*

A. God created man male and female, after his own image, in knowledge, righteousness, and holiness, with dominion over the creatures.

Q. 11. *What are God's works of providence?*

A. God's works of providence are, his most holy, wise, and powerful preserving and governing all his creatures, and all their actions.

Q. 12. *What special act of providence did God exercise towards man in the estate in which he was created?*

A. When God created man, he entered into a covenant of life with him, upon condition of perfect obedience; forbidding him to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, on the pain of death.

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*

Genesis 1:1 - 2:3

Congregational Response (Psalm of the Month [from Psalm 103])

Hymn 78

O Bless the Lord, My Soul

O bless the Lord, my soul;
Let all within me join,
And aid my tongue to bless his name,
Whose favors are divine.

O bless the Lord, my soul,
Nor let his mercies lie
Forgotten in unthankfulness,
And without praises die.

'Tis he forgives your sins,
'Tis he relieves your pain,
'Tis he that heals your sicknesses
And makes you young again.

He crowns your life with love
When ransomed from the grave;
He that redeemed my soul from hell
Hath sovereign pow'r to save.

He fills the poor with good;
He gives the suff'ers rest:
The Lord has judgments for the proud
And justice for th'oppressed.

His wondrous works and ways
He made by Moses known,
But sent the world his truth and grace
By his beloved Son. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer (based on Psalm 1)

Sermon

“Jesus Is Lord of the Sabbath”
John 5:1-18

Pastor Ben Muresan

GOD'S BLESSING ON HIS PEOPLE

Hymn of Thanksgiving*

Hymn 170

Fairest Lord Jesus

Fairest Lord Jesus, Ruler of all nature,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Thee will I cherish, thee will I honor,
Thou, my soul's glory, joy, and crown.

Fair are the meadows, fair are the woodlands,
Robed in the blooming garb of spring:
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer,
Who makes the woeful heart to sing.

Fair is the sunshine, fair is the moonlight,
And all the twinkling, starry host:
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer
Than all the angels heav'n can boast.

Beautiful Savior! Lord of the nations!
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, praise, adoration,
Now and for evermore be thine. Amen.

LORD'S DAY DEVOTION AND QUESTIONS

As you prepare to work through the questions below, consider how Thomas Boston (1676-1732) explains the blessings of the Lord's Day in his book, *Human Nature in its Fourfold State*:

The Sabbath, in the esteem of saints, is the queen of days; and they shall have an endless Sabbatism in the kingdom of heaven, so shall their garments always be white. They will have an eternal rest, with an uninterrupted joy; for heaven is not a resting place, where men may sleep out an eternity; there they rest not day or night, but their work is their rest, and continual recreation, and toil and weariness have no place there. They rest there in God, who is the center of their souls. Here they find the completion, or satisfaction, of all their desires, having the full enjoyment of God, and uninterrupted communion with him. This is the point to which, til the soul come, it will always be restless: but that point reached, it rests; for God is the last end, and the soul can go no further. It cannot understand, will, nor desire more; but in him it has what is commensurable to its boundless desires.

1. Read John 5:1-18. What do you find surprising about this miracle and about the details in the passage? Why did the religious leaders take issue with what Jesus did?
2. Read Genesis 2:1-3; Exodus 20:8-11; Exodus 31:12-18; and Hebrews 4:1-13. What are God's reasons for establishing Sabbath rest for his people according to these passages?
3. The following questions and answers are from the Westminster Shorter Catechism. Read the questions and consider the answers in light of your observance of the Lord's Day. If you are in a group setting, discuss them together:

Q. 58. *What is required in the fourth commandment?* The fourth commandment requires the keeping holy to God such set times as he has appointed in his Word; expressly one whole day in seven, to be a holy Sabbath to himself.

Q. 59. *Which day of the seven has God appointed to be the weekly Sabbath?* From the beginning of the world to the resurrection of Christ, God appointed the seventh day of the week to be the weekly Sabbath; and the first day of the week ever since, to continue to the end of the world, which is the Christian Sabbath.

Q. 60. *How is the Sabbath to be sanctified?* The Sabbath is to be sanctified by a holy resting all that day, even from such worldly employments and recreations as are lawful on other days; and spending the whole time in the public and private exercises of God's worship, except so much as is to be taken up in the works of necessity and mercy.

Q. 61. *What is forbidden in the fourth commandment?* The fourth commandment forbids the omission, or careless performance, of the duties required, and the profaning the day by idleness, or doing that which is in itself sinful, or by unnecessary thoughts, words, or works, about our worldly employments or recreations.

Q. 62. *What are the reasons attached to the fourth commandment?* The reasons attached to the fourth commandment are, God's allowing us six days of the week for our own employments, his challenging a special propriety in the seventh, his own example, and his blessing the Sabbath day.