

WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, March 22, 2020

See what kind of love the Father has given to us,
that we should be called children of God; and so we are.

1 John 3:1

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

ENTERING INTO WORSHIP

Greeting and Blessing

Responsive Reading

Psalm 20 (p. 790 in the *Trinity Hymnal*)

FOR THE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC. A PSALM OF DAVID.

May the LORD answer you when you are in distress; may the name of the God of Jacob protect you.

May he send you help from the sanctuary and grant you support from Zion.

May he remember all your sacrifices and accept your burnt offerings.

May he give you the desire of your heart and make all your plans succeed.

We will shout for joy when you are victorious and will lift up our banners in the name of our God.

May the LORD grant all your requests.

Now I know that the LORD saves his anointed; he answers him from his holy heaven
with the saving power of his right hand.

Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the LORD our God.

They are brought to their knees and fall, but we rise up and stand firm.

O LORD, save the king! Answer us when we call!

Hymn of Preparation

Hymn 111

This Is My Father's World

This is my Father's world, and to my list'ning ears,
All nature sings, and round me rings the music of the spheres.
This is my Father's world: I rest me in the thought
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas; his hand the wonders wrought.

This is my Father's world, the birds their carols raise,
The morning light, the lily white, declare their Maker's praise.
This is my Father's world: he shines in all that's fair;
In the rustling grass I hear him pass, he speaks to me everywhere.

This is my Father's world, O let me ne'er forget
That though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the Ruler yet.
This is my Father's world: the battle is not done;
Jesus who died shall be satisfied, and earth and heav'n be one. 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: Forgive us, O Lord, and cause us to walk in your ways. Remove from us every worldly desire, every anxious thought, and every bitter resentment. Work in us by your Holy Spirit so that we will always seek to do what is pleasing in your sight.

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

1 Peter 2:22-25

Christ committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

ADORATION AND PRAISE

First Reading

Psalm 110

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. 16. *Did all mankind fall in Adam's first transgression?*

A. The covenant being made with Adam, not only for himself, but for his descendants, all mankind, descending from him by ordinary generation, sinned in him, and fell with him, in his first transgression.

Q. 17. *Into what estate did the Fall bring mankind?*

A. The Fall brought mankind into an estate of sin and misery.

Q. 18. *What is the sinfulness of that estate into which man fell?*

A. The sinfulness of that estate into which man fell consists of: the guilt of Adam's first sin, the lack of original righteousness, and the corruption of his whole nature, which is commonly called original sin, together with all actual transgressions that proceed from it.

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 24:13-35

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 has 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 46)

Sermon

Pastor Ben Muresan

“Witnesses to Christ”
John 5:30-47

1. John the Baptist
2. Jesus’ Works
3. God the Father
4. The Scriptures
5. Us

GOD’S BLESSING ON HIS PEOPLE

Hymn of Thanksgiving

Hymn 461

Not What My Hands Have Done

Not what my hands have done can save my guilty soul;
Not what my toiling flesh has borne can make my spirit whole.
Not what I feel or do can give me peace with God;
Not all my prayers and sighs and tears can bear my awful load.

Thy work alone, O Christ, can ease this weight of sin;
Thy blood alone, O Lamb of God, can give me peace within.
Thy love to me, O God, not mine, O Lord, to thee,
Can rid me of this dark unrest, and set my spirit free.

Thy grace alone, O God, to me can pardon speak;
Thy pow’r alone, O Son of God, can this sore bondage break.
No other work, save thine, no other blood will do;
No strength, save that which is divine, can bear me safely through.

I bless the Christ of God; I rest on love divine;
And with unfalt’ring lip and heart, I call this Savior mine.
His cross dispels each doubt; I bury in his tomb
Each thought of unbelief and fear, each ling’ring shade of gloom.

I praise the God of grace; I trust his truth and might;
He calls me his, I call him mine, my God, my joy, my light.
’Tis he who saveth me, and freely pardon gives;
I love because he loveth me, I live because he lives. Amen.

Benediction

Congregational Benediction Response

(Sung to STUTTGART [Hymn 5])

May the grace of Christ our Savior and the Father’s boundless love,
With the Holy Spirit’s favor, rest upon us from above.

Thus may we abide in union with each other and the Lord,
And possess, in sweet communion, joys which earth cannot afford. 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). John the Evangelist bears witness to the fact that Jesus is the Son of God. In today's sermon passage, Jesus reveals the many other witnesses that testify to his bold assertion of divinity. Under the Mosaic Law, two or three witnesses were required and their testimony had to agree. Jesus provides four reliable witnesses that are in complete agreement about the fact that he is the Christ, the Son of God. How about you? Do you consider yourself a witness to Jesus?

1. For review, read John 5:18-29. What is Jesus' relationship with the Father? As Christians, what is the proper attitude for us to have as we anticipate Judgment Day, knowing that Christ will be our Judge?
2. Read John 5:30-31; Numbers 35:30; and Deuteronomy 19:15-21. According to these Old Testament passages, what does Jesus mean when he says, "If I alone bear witness about myself, my testimony is not true" (John 5:31)? What vital role do witnesses play in a court of law?
3. Read John 1:6-8; 19:34; and 5:33-35. How did John the Baptist witness to the truth? Why was John opposed by the religious leaders?
4. Read John 5:36. What "works" is Jesus referring to? How does this verse connect with John 20:30-31?
5. Read John 5:37-38; Matthew 3:17; 17:5. What does God the Father reveal about Jesus' identity? Why, in John 5:38, does Jesus say the religious leaders do not believe God? Is it possible to be religious and not have saving faith?
6. Read John 5:39-40 and review our Second Reading from Luke 24:13-35. How do the Old Testament Scriptures witness to Christ? Try to think of some Old Testament passages that clearly point to Christ and that are also quoted in the New Testament.
7. According to the Westminster Confession of Faith 19.3, how did the ceremonial laws in the Old Covenant point to Christ? "In addition to this law, commonly called the moral law, God was pleased to give the people of Israel—as the church under age—ceremonial laws, which contained several typological ordinances. These ordinances consisted partly of worship, prefiguring Christ, his graces, actions, sufferings, and benefits, and partly of various instructions of moral duties. All these ceremonial laws are now abrogated under the New Testament."
8. How are we to witness to Christ in our daily lives?
9. In preparation for next week, read John 6:1-15. What connections do you see between this passage and the Old Testament? Why do you think Jesus withdrew from the crowd when he perceived that they were going to "take him by force to make him king"?

HOME WORSHIP GUIDE

*The daily reading schedule follows the One Year Bible Reading Plan.
Use our church directory to pray for an individual or family each day.*

Monday, March 23

Scripture: Num. 36:1 – Deut. 1:46; Luke 5:29 – 6:11; Psalm 66:1-20; Prov. 11:24-26

Catechism: The Westminster Confession of Faith: Chapter 28

Pray for: Our federal, state, and local government leaders.

Tuesday, March 24

Scripture: Deuteronomy 2:1 – 3:29; Luke 6:12-38; Psalm 67:1-7; Proverbs 11:27

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 55

Pray for: Our military, police, fire, and medical personnel.

Wednesday, March 25

Scripture: Deuteronomy 4:1-49; Luke 6:39 – 7:10; Psalm 68:1-18; Proverbs 11:28

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 56

Pray for: Our covenant children and Christian military chaplains.
The churches in Syria and persecuted Christians.

Thursday, March 26

Scripture: Deuteronomy 5:1 – 6:25; Luke 7:11-35; Psalm 68:19-35; Proverbs 11:29-31

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 57

Pray for: Our Elders, Deacons, Women's Ministry, & the PCA.

Friday, March 27

Scripture: Deuteronomy 7:1 - 8:20; Luke 7:36 - 8:3; Psalm 69:1-18; Proverbs 12:1

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 58

Pray for: Our pregnant mom and for our members who have ongoing health needs.

Saturday, March 28

Scripture: Deuteronomy 9:1 - 10:22; Luke 8:4-21; Psalm 69:19-36; Proverbs 12:2-3

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 59

Pray for: The preaching and for our Sunday School teachers.

Sunday, March 29

Scripture: Deuteronomy 11:1 - 12:32; Luke 8:22-39; Psalm 70:1-5; Proverbs 12:4

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 60

Pray for: Our worship this morning.

MISSIONS CORNER

*Pray for our missionaries. Their prayer requests are sent out through the Prayer Chain
and their newsletters are published in Grace Notes as they become available.*

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