

WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, March 8, 2020

For in Christ all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,
and through him to reconcile to himself all things,
whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

Colossians 1:19-20

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

ENTERING INTO WORSHIP

Greeting and Blessing*

Responsive Reading*

Psalm 19 (p. 790)

Hymn of Preparation*

Hymn 2

O Worship the King

O worship the King all glorious above, O gratefully sing his pow'r and his love;
Our Shield and Defender, the Ancient of Days, pavilioned in splendor and girded with praise.

O tell of his might, O sing of his grace, whose robe is the light, whose canopy space.
His chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds form, and dark is his path on the wings of the storm.

The earth with its store of wonders untold, Almighty, your pow'r has founded of old;
Has 'stablished it fast by a changeless decree, and round it has cast, like a mantle, the sea.

Your bountiful care what tongue can recite? It breathes in the air; it shines in the light;
It streams from the hills; it descends to the plain; and sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.

Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail, in you do we trust, nor find you to fail;
Your mercies how tender, how firm to the end, our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend!

O measureless Might! Ineffable Love! While angels delight to hymn you above,
The humbler creation, though feeble their lays, with true adoration shall lisp to your praise. Amen.

Congregational Confession of Sin

Leader: Gracious God and Father, we confess 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 walked in darkness rather than living according to what you have revealed to us in your Word. We have sinned against you and our neighbors, and we are not worthy to be called your children.

Leader: Our sins and failures weigh heavy on our hearts, and we feel how our fellowship with you has suffered. Forgive us and restore us, we pray, for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, who loves us and gave himself for us.

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, now and forever. Amen.

Private Confession of Our Sins

Assurance of Forgiveness

Isaiah 55:6-7

Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

* Congregation is requested to stand, if able.

ADORATION AND PRAISE

First Reading*

Deuteronomy 6

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. 13. *Did our first parents continue in the estate in which they were created?*

A. Our first parents, being left to the freedom of their own will, fell from the estate in which they were created, by sinning against God.

Q. 14. *What is sin?*

A. Sin is any lack of conformity to, or transgression of, the Law of God.

Q. 15. *What was the sin by which our first parents fell from the estate in which they were created?*

A. The sin by which our first parents fell from the estate in which they were created, was their eating of the forbidden fruit.

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*

Matthew 25:31 - 26:5

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 Matthew 7:15-20)

Sermon

“The Divine Son”
John 5:19-29

Pastor Ben Muresan

GOD'S BLESSING ON HIS PEOPLE

Hymn of Thanksgiving*

Hymn 310

Rejoice, the Lord Is King

Rejoice, the Lord is King: your Lord and King adore!
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing, and triumph evermore.
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

Jesus the Savior reigns, the God of truth and love;
When he had purged our stains, he took his seat above.
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

His kingdom cannot fail, he rules o'er earth and heav'n;
The keys of death and hell are to our Jesus giv'n.
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

He sits at God's right hand till all his foes submit,
And bow to his command, and fall beneath his feet.
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

Rejoice in glorious hope! Our Lord, the Judge, shall come,
And take his servants up to their eternal home.
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice! Amen.

LORD'S DAY DEVOTION AND QUESTIONS

As we noted at the beginning of our series through the Gospel of John, Jesus' divinity is at the forefront of every chapter. From the opening verses of his gospel, John wants us to know that Jesus is the Divine Son of God. As the Divine Son, he has all authority and power and must receive all glory and honor. To reject Jesus is to reject God. C.S. Lewis wrote in *Mere Christianity*:

I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him [that is, Christ]: "I'm ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don't accept His claim to be God." That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic—on a level with the man who says he is a poached egg—or else he would be the devil of hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God: or else a madman or something worse.... You can shut Him up for a fool, you can spit at Him and kill Him as a demon; or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God. But let us not come up with any patronizing nonsense about His being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to.

1. Read John 5:1-18. What issue caused Jesus to teach the religious leaders about his divinity?
2. Read John 5:19-29. What is Jesus' relationship with the Father? In what sense is he subordinate to the Father? How has this idea of Jesus' subordination been misunderstood by some believers?
3. How does the Westminster Confession of Faith 8.1-5 describe Jesus' relationship to the Father? Why is the word "willingly" so important in 8.4?
4. Review the parable we read during worship from Matthew 25:31 - 26:5. What does this parable reveal about the Day of Judgment? How does Revelation 11:15-19 and 20:11-15 describe that Day? As Christians, what is the proper attitude for us to have as we anticipate that Day?
5. In preparation for next week, read John 5:30-47. Who and what are the "witnesses" that John identifies?