

WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, April 19, 2020

Listen to me, O Jacob, and Israel, whom I called!
I am he; I am the first, and I am the last.
My hand laid the foundation of the earth,
and my right hand spread out the heavens;
when I call to them, they stand forth together.
Isaiah 48:12–13

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

ENTERING INTO WORSHIP

Greeting and Blessing

Responsive Reading

Psalm 25 (p. 792 in the *Trinity Hymnal*)

OF DAVID.

To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul; in you I trust, O my God.

Do not let me be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me.

No one whose hope is in you will ever be put to shame,

but they will be put to shame who are treacherous without excuse.

Show me your ways, O LORD, teach me your paths;

guide me in your truth and teach me,

for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long.

Remember, O LORD, your great mercy and love, for they are from of old.

**Remember not the sins of my youth and my rebellious ways;
according to your love remember me, for you are good, O LORD.**

Good and upright is the LORD; therefore he instructs sinners in his ways.

He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them his way.

All the ways of the LORD are loving and faithful for those who keep the demands of his covenant.

For the sake of your name, O LORD, forgive my iniquity, though it is great.

Who, then, is the man that fears the LORD? He will instruct him in the way chosen for him.

He will spend his days in prosperity, and his descendants will inherit the land.

The LORD confides in those who fear him; he makes his covenant known to them.

My eyes are ever on the LORD, for only he will release my feet from the snare.

Turn to me and be gracious to me, for I am lonely and afflicted.

The troubles of my heart have multiplied; free me from my anguish.

Look upon my affliction and my distress and take away all my sins.

See how my enemies have increased and how fiercely they hate me!

Guard my life and rescue me; let me not be put to shame, for I take refuge in you.

May integrity and uprightness protect me, because my hope is in you.

Redeem Israel, O God, from all their troubles!

I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art

I greet thee, who my sure Redeemer art,
 My only trust and Savior of my heart,
 Who pain didst undergo for my poor sake;
 I pray thee from our hearts all cares to take.

Thou art the King of mercy and of grace,
 Reigning omnipotent in ev'ry place:
 So come, O King, and our whole being sway;
 Shine on us with the light of thy pure day.

Thou art the Life, by which alone we live,
 And all our substance and our strength receive;
 O comfort us in death's approaching hour,
 Strong-hearted then to face it by thy pow'r.

Thou hast the true and perfect gentleness,
 No harshness hast thou and no bitterness:
 Make us to taste the sweet grace found in thee
 And ever stay in thy sweet unity.

Our hope is in no other save in thee;
 Our faith is built upon thy promise free;
 O grant to us such stronger hope and sure
 That we can boldly conquer and endure. Amen.

Congregational Confession of Sin

Leader: Our God and Father, we approach your throne of grace repenting of the sins we have committed. You know our hearts better than we do. Nothing in all creation is hidden from you. Everything is open and exposed before your eyes, and you are the one to whom we are accountable.

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, and grant us repentant hearts. Cause us to keep in step with the Holy Spirit and to live according to your revealed will. Help us to do good to everyone, especially to those who are of the household of faith.

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**

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

Isaiah 43

Congregational Response

Hymn 498

Jesus! What a Friend for Sinners!

Jesus! what a Friend for sinners! Jesus! lover of my soul;
Friends may fail me, foes assail me, he, my Savior, makes me whole.

*Hallelujah! what a Savior! Hallelujah! what a Friend!
Saving, helping, keeping, loving, he is with me to the end.*

Jesus! what a strength in weakness! Let me hide myself in him;
Tempted, tried, and sometimes failing, he, my strength, my vict'ry wins.

*Hallelujah! what a Savior! Hallelujah! what a Friend!
Saving, helping, keeping, loving, he is with me to the end.*

Jesus! what a help in sorrow! While the billows o'er me roll,
Even when my heart is breaking, he, my comfort, helps my soul.

*Hallelujah! what a Savior! Hallelujah! what a Friend!
Saving, helping, keeping, loving, he is with me to the end.*

Jesus! what a guide and keeper! While the tempest still is high,
Storms about me, night o'ertakes me, he, my pilot, hears my cry.

*Hallelujah! what a Savior! Hallelujah! what a Friend!
Saving, helping, keeping, loving, he is with me to the end.*

Jesus! I do now receive him, more than all in him I find,
He hath granted me forgiveness, I am his, and he is mine.

*Hallelujah! what a Savior! Hallelujah! what a Friend!
Saving, helping, keeping, loving, he is with me to the end. Amen.*

Confession of Faith

The Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 24. *How does Christ execute the office of a prophet?*

A. Christ executes the office of a prophet in revealing to us, by his Word and Spirit, the will of God for our salvation.

Q. 25. *How does Christ execute the office of a priest?*

A. Christ executes the office of a priest in his once offering up of himself a sacrifice to satisfy divine justice, and reconcile us to God, and in making continual intercession for us.

Q. 26. *How does Christ execute the office of a king?*

A. Christ executes the office of a king in subduing us to himself, in ruling and defending us, and in restraining and conquering all his and our enemies.

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

John 6:22-71

Congregational Response

Hymn 585

Take My Life, and Let It Be

Take my life, and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee.
Take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise, let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands, and let them move at the impulse of thy love.
Take my feet, and let them be swift and beautiful for thee, swift and beautiful for thee.

Take my voice, and let me sing, always, only, for my King.
Take my lips, and let them be filled with messages from thee, filled with messages from thee.

Take my silver and my gold; not a mite would I withhold.
Take my intellect, and use ev'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose, ev'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.

Take my will, and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is thine own; it shall be thy royal throne, it shall be thy royal throne.

Take my love; my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure-store.
Take my self, and I will be ever, only, all for thee, ever, only, all for thee. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer (based on Psalm 136)

Sermon

Pastor Ben Muresan

“I AM the Bread of Life”
John 6:22-71

1. What People Want

John 6:22-25
John 20:30-31
Mark 4:16-19

2. What People Need

Acts 14:17
Ephesians 2:1-3
John 6:35, 47-51
Isaiah 43:11, 25

3. What Christ Alone Can Give

John 6:53-58
John 1:29

GOD'S BLESSING ON HIS PEOPLE

Hymn of Thanksgiving

Hymn 646

Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts

Jesus, thou joy of loving hearts,
Thou fount of life, thou light of men,
From the best bliss that earth imparts
We turn unfilled to thee again.

Thy truth unchanged hath ever stood;
Thou savest those that on thee call;
To them that seek thee thou art good,
To them that find thee all in all.

We taste thee, O thou living bread,
And long to feast upon thee still;
We drink of thee, the fountainhead,
And thirst our souls from thee to fill.

Our restless spirits yearn for thee,
Where'er our changeful lot is cast;
Glad when thy gracious smile we see,
Blest when our faith can hold thee fast.

O Jesus, ever with us stay,
Make all our moments calm and bright;
Chase the dark night of sin away,
Shed o'er the world thy holy light. Amen.

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

There is not a verse in the New Testament in which Jesus says the words, "I am God." As a result, some people argue that Jesus never claimed to be God. However, when we consider the "I am" sayings of Jesus in the gospels, and especially in the Gospel of John, we see that Jesus did claim to be God. This is precisely why the religious leaders sought to kill him. They said to Jesus, "It is not for a good work that we are going to stone you but for blasphemy, because you, being a man, make yourself God" (John 10:33). They clearly understood what Jesus was saying about himself. Due to the hardness of their hearts, they did not believe Jesus' words, but they did understand the depths of his claims. Each of Jesus' "I am" sayings revealed that he was the one sent from the Father and equal in power and glory with the Father and the Spirit. Each of Jesus' "I am" sayings also clearly and vividly described his saving work for his people:

"I am the bread of life" (John 6:35);
"I am the light of the world" (8:12);
"I am the door" (10:7);
"I am the good shepherd" (10:11);
"I am the resurrection and the life" (11:25);
"I am the way, and the truth, and the life" (14:6);
and "I am the true vine" (15:1).

1. For review, read John 6:1-22. What connections do you see between Jesus' feeding the large crowd and how God fed Israel in the wilderness? What did Jesus reveal about himself in John 6:16-21?
2. According to John 6:26, why did the crowds follow Jesus? What does this reveal about our hearts?
3. Why did Jesus say, "I am the bread of life," in John 6:35, 48? According to Jesus' words in John 6:49-51, what is the difference between the bread of life and the manna in the wilderness?
4. Why did Jesus use such vivid imagery in John 6:52-58? Why didn't he use softer, easier language to convey what he was talking about?
5. Is this passage (John 6:52-58) referring to the Lord's Supper? Consider what John Calvin notes: "There is nothing said here that is not figured and actually presented to believers in the Lord's Supper. Indeed, we might say that Christ intended the holy Supper to be a seal of this discourse. This is also the reason why John [the Evangelist] makes no mention of the Lord's Supper."
6. In preparation for next Sunday, read John 6:22-71, this time focusing on how Jesus describes his relationship to the Father. What does Jesus say about election?

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, April 20

Scripture: Joshua 21:1 - 22:20; Luke 20:1-26; Psalm 89:1-13; Proverbs 13:15-16

Catechism: The Westminster Confession of Faith: Chapter 32

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

Tuesday, April 21

Scripture: Joshua 22:21 - 23:16; Luke 20:27-47; Psalm 89:14-37; Proverbs 13:17-19

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 79

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

Wednesday, April 22

Scripture: Joshua 24:1-33; Luke 21:1-28; Psalm 89:38-52; Proverbs 13:20-23

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 80

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

Thursday, April 23

Scripture: Judges 1:1 - 2:9; Luke 21:29 - 22:13; Psalm 90:1 - 91:16; Proverbs 13:24-25

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 81

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

Friday, April 24

Scripture: Judges 2:10 - 3:31; Luke 22:14-34; Psalm 92:1 - 93:5; Proverbs 14:1-2

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 82

Pray for: Our members who have ongoing health needs.

Saturday, April 25

Scripture: Judges 4:1 - 5:31; Luke 22:35-53; Psalm 94:1-23; Proverbs 14:3-4

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 83

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

Sunday, April 26

Scripture: Judges 6:1-40; Luke 22:54 - 23:12; Psalm 95:1 - 96:13; Proverbs 14:5-6

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 84

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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