

WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, May 10, 2020

Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me?
Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my salvation and my God.

Psalm 43:5

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

ENTERING INTO WORSHIP

Greeting and Blessing

Responsive Reading

Psalm 28 (p. 793 in the *Trinity Hymnal*)

OF DAVID.

To you I call, O LORD my Rock; do not turn a deaf ear to me.

For if you remain silent, I will be like those who have gone down to the pit.

Hear my cry for mercy as I call to you for help,

as I lift up my hands toward your Most Holy Place.

Do not drag me away with the wicked, with those who do evil,

who speak cordially with their neighbors but harbor malice in their hearts.

Repay them for their deeds and for their evil work;

repay them for what their hands have done and bring back upon them what they deserve.

Since they show no regard for the works of the LORD and what his hands have done,

he will tear them down and never build them up again.

Praise be to the LORD, for he has heard my cry for mercy.

The LORD is my strength and my shield;

my heart trusts in him, and I am helped.

My heart leaps for joy and I will give thanks to him in song.

The LORD is the strength of his people, a fortress of salvation for his anointed one.

Save your people and bless your inheritance; be their shepherd and carry them forever.

Hymn of Preparation

Hymn 353

I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord

I love thy kingdom, Lord, the house of thine abode,
The church our blest Redeemer saved with his own precious blood.

I love thy church, O God: her walls before thee stand,
Dear as the apple of thine eye, and graven on thy hand.

For her my tears shall fall, for her my prayers ascend;
To her my cares and toils be giv'n, till toils and cares shall end.

Beyond my highest joy I prize her heav'nly ways,
Her sweet communion, solemn vows, her hymns of love and praise.

Jesus, thou Friend divine, our Savior and our King,
Thy hand from ev'ry snare and foe shall great deliv'rance bring.

Sure as thy truth shall last, to Zion shall be giv'n
The brightest glories earth can yield, and brighter bliss of heav'n. Amen.

Congregational Confession of Sin

Leader: Have mercy on us, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out our transgressions. Wash away all our iniquity and cleanse us from our sins.

All: For we know our transgressions, and our sins are always before us. Against you, you only, have we sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are right in your verdict and justified when you judge.

Leader: Surely we were sinful at birth, sinful from the time we were conceived. Cleanse us, and we will be clean; wash us, and we will be whiter than snow. Create in us clean hearts, O God, and grant us steadfast obedience.

All: Restore to us the joy of your salvation and grant to each of us a willing spirit, to sustain us. Then we will teach transgressors your ways, so that sinners will turn back to you. You are God our Savior, and we will sing of your righteousness. In Jesus' Name we pray. Amen.

Private Confession of Our Sins

Assurance of Forgiveness

Romans 5:6-9

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God.

ADORATION AND PRAISE

First Reading

2 Samuel 7

Congregational Response

Hymn 486

God, Be Merciful to Me

God, be merciful to me, on thy grace I rest my plea;
Plenteous in compassion thou, blot out my transgressions now;
Wash me, make me pure within, cleanse, O cleanse me from my sin.

My transgressions I confess, grief and guilt my soul oppress;
I have sinned against thy grace and provoked thee to thy face;
I confess thy judgment just, speechless, I thy mercy trust.

I am evil, born in sin; thou desirest truth within.
Thou alone my Savior art, teach thy wisdom to my heart;
Make me pure, thy grace bestow, wash me whiter than the snow.

Broken, humbled to the dust by thy wrath and judgment just,
Let my contrite heart rejoice and in gladness hear thy voice;
From my sins O hide thy face, blot them out in boundless grace.

Gracious God, my heart renew, make my spirit right and true;
Cast me not away from thee, let thy Spirit dwell in me;
Thy salvation's joy impart, steadfast make my willing heart.

Sinners then shall learn from me and return, O God, to thee;
Savior, all my guilt remove, and my tongue shall sing thy love;
Touch my silent lips, O Lord, and my mouth shall praise accord. Amen.

Confession of Faith

The Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 30. *How does the Spirit apply to us the redemption purchased by Christ?*

A. The Spirit applies to us the redemption purchased by Christ by working faith in us, and thereby uniting us to Christ in our effectual calling.

Q. 31. *What is effectual calling?*

A. Effectual calling is the work of God's Spirit, by which, convincing us of our sin and misery, enlightening our minds in the knowledge of Christ, and renewing our wills, he persuades and enables us to embrace Jesus Christ, freely offered to us in the gospel.

Q. 32. *What benefits are there in this life for those who are effectually called?*

A. Those who are effectually called partake in justification, adoption, sanctification, and the other benefits that, in this life, do either accompany them or flow from them.

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

John 7:14-52

Congregational Response

He Will Hold Me Fast

When I fear my faith will fail, Christ will hold me fast;
When the tempter would prevail, he will hold me fast.
I could never keep my hold through life's fearful path;
For my love is often cold; he must hold me fast.
He will hold me fast, he will hold me fast;
For my Savior loves me so, he will hold me fast.

Those he saves are his delight, Christ will hold me fast;
Precious in his holy sight, he will hold me fast.
He'll not let my soul be lost; his promises shall last;
Bought by him at such a cost, he will hold me fast.
He will hold me fast, he will hold me fast;
For my Savior loves me so, he will hold me fast.

For my life he bled and died, Christ will hold me fast;
Justice has been satisfied; he will hold me fast.
Raised with him to endless life, he will hold me fast
'Til our faith is turned to sight, when he comes at last!
He will hold me fast, he will hold me fast;
For my Savior loves me so, he will hold me fast. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer (based on Ephesians 4:11-16)

Sermon

Pastor Ben Muresan

“Who Is Jesus?”
John 7:14-52

1. Where Did Jesus Get His Knowledge? (verses 14-24, 44-46)

Matthew 7:24-27

Prioritize His Word in Your Life

2. Where Was Jesus From? (verses 25-31, 40-43, 52)

Micah 5:2

Luke 2:4-7

Prioritize His Authority in Your Life

3. Where Was He Going? (verses 32-36)

How does Christ’s ascension into heaven benefit us?

First, he pleads our cause in heaven in the presence of his Father (1 John 2:1; Romans 8:33-34).

Second, we have our own flesh in heaven—a guarantee that Christ our head will take us, his members, to himself in heaven (Colossians 3:1-4).

Third, he sends his Spirit to us on earth as a further guarantee. By the Spirit’s power we make the goal of our lives, not earthly things, but the things above where Christ is, sitting at God’s right hand.

Prioritize His Kingdom in Your Life

GOD’S BLESSING ON HIS PEOPLE

Hymn of Thanksgiving

Hymn 660

O God Beyond All Praising

O God beyond all praising, we worship you today
And sing the love amazing that songs cannot repay;
For we can only wonder at every gift you send,
At blessings without number and mercies without end:
We lift our hearts before you and wait upon your word,
We honor and adore you, our great and mighty Lord.

Then hear, O gracious Savior, accept the love we bring,
That we who know your favor may serve you as our King;
And whether our tomorrows be filled with good or ill,
We’ll triumph through our sorrows and rise to bless you still:
To marvel at your beauty and glory in your ways,
And make a joyful duty our sacrifice of praise. 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

As we read John 7, we can sense the increasing tension between Jesus and the religious leaders. They refuse to accept his teaching and to worship him as Lord. Some want to arrest him (John 7:30, 44) while others want to kill him (John 5:18; 7:25). Despite the opposition, Jesus remains faithful to his Father's will, knowing that his sheep will hear his voice and follow him in repentance and faith (John 10:16). Amazingly, those who are plotting to kill Jesus out of a sinful and selfish motivation cannot thwart the plan of God, but are fulfilling it. Sinclair Ferguson writes, "Without knowing it, the religious leaders...were all a part of a tapestry of grace which God was weaving for sinners. Jesus was not dying for his own crimes, but for the crimes of others; not for his own sins, but the sins of others. He did not die for himself; he died for us!"

1. For review, read John 7:1-13. What were Jesus' brothers asking him to do and why? Why does the world hate Jesus?
2. Read John 7:14-17. Where did Jesus get his knowledge? Why did his teaching sound different from that of the religious leaders? How can you prioritize his Word in your life?
3. Read John 7:24 and Matthew 7:1-6. What does it mean to "judge with a right judgment"? Why is this so important in your life as a Christian?
4. Read John 7:25-31, 40-43, and 52. What is the irony in these verses? How does what Jesus teaches in verses 28-29 connect with what we learned about the Covenant of Redemption in John 6:38? How can you prioritize his authority in your life?
5. According to John 7:32-36, what is Jesus teaching about his ascension? Consider the three benefits we receive as a result of Christ's ascension as described in Heidelberg Catechism Q/A 49:
How does Christ's ascension into heaven benefit us?
First, he pleads our cause in heaven in the presence of his Father.
Second, we have our own flesh in heaven—a guarantee that Christ our head will take us, his members, to himself in heaven.
Third, he sends his Spirit to us on earth as a further guarantee. By the Spirit's power we make the goal of our lives, not earthly things, but the things above where Christ is, sitting at God's right hand.
6. How is that third benefit revealed in the way that you live your life as a Christian?
7. In preparation for next Sunday, read John 7:37-39. What do you think Jesus was teaching about himself and the Holy Spirit in this declaration?

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, May 11

Scripture: 1 Samuel 10:1 - 11:15; John 6:43-71; Psalm 107:1-43; Proverbs 15:1-3
Catechism: The Westminster Confession of Faith: Chapter 2
Pray for: Our federal, state, and local government leaders.

Tuesday, May 12

Scripture: 1 Samuel 12:1 - 13:23; John 7:1-30; Psalm 108:1-13; Proverbs 15:4
Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 97
Pray for: Our military, police, fire, and medical personnel.

Wednesday, May 13

Scripture: 1 Samuel 14:1-52; John 7:31-53; Psalm 109:1-31; Proverbs 15:5-7
Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 98
Pray for: Our covenant children and Christian military chaplains.
The churches in Togo and persecuted Christians.

Thursday, May 14

Scripture: 1 Samuel 15:1 - 16:23; John 8:1-20; Psalm 110:1-7; Proverbs 15:8-10
Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 99
Pray for: Our Elders, Deacons, Women's Ministry, & the PCA.

Friday, May 15

Scripture: 1 Samuel 17:1 - 18:4; John 8:21-30; Psalm 111:1-10; Proverbs 15:11
Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 100
Pray for: Our members who have ongoing health needs.

Saturday, May 16

Scripture: 1 Samuel 18:5 - 19:24; John 8:31-59; Psalm 112:1-10; Proverbs 15:12-14
Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 101
Pray for: The preaching and for our Sunday School teachers.

Sunday, May 17

Scripture: 1 Samuel 20:1 - 21:15; John 9:1-41; Psalm 113:1 - 114:8; Proverbs 15:15-17
Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 102
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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