

WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, May 13, 2018

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, “The righteous shall live by faith.”

Romans 1:16-17

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

ENTERING INTO WORSHIP

Greeting and Blessing*

Responsive Reading*

Psalm 73 (p. 811)

Hymn of Preparation*

“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God” Hymn 92

Congregational Confession of Sin

Leader: Heavenly Father, we enter into worship acknowledging that you are holy and righteous, perfect and just in all your ways.

All: We confess our sins and offenses against you. You know how often we have wandered from your ways, wasted your gifts, and forgotten your love for us. Our sins are too many to count, and they weigh heavy on our hearts.

Leader: Forgive us and restore to us the joy of our salvation. Work in us by your Holy Spirit to renew our wills and strengthen our resolve to follow what you teach us in your Word.

All: We ask all this through Jesus Christ, our risen and ascended Lord, 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 John 4:9-11

In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

* Congregation is requested to stand, if able.

ADORATION AND PRAISE

First Reading*

Genesis 17:15 – 18:15

Congregational Response (Hymn of the Month)

“See the Conqueror Mounts in Triumph”

Confession of Faith

The Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 15

Q. 37. *What do you understand by the word “suffered”?*

A. That during his whole life on earth, but especially at the end, Christ sustained in body and soul the anger of God against the sin of the whole human race. He did this in order that, by his suffering as the only atoning sacrifice, he might set us free, body and soul, from eternal condemnation, and gain for us God’s grace, righteousness, and eternal life.

Q. 38. *Why did he suffer “under Pontius Pilate” as judge?*

A. So that he, though innocent, might be condemned by a civil judge, and so free us from the severe judgment of God that was to fall on us.

Q. 39. *Is it significant that he was “crucified” instead of dying some other way?*

A. Yes. This death convinces me that he shouldered the curse which lay on me, since death by crucifixion was accursed by God.

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*	Romans 4:13 – 5:11
Congregational Response (Psalm 50:1-6)	“The Mighty God, the Lord” Hymn 316
Pastoral Prayer (based on Matthew 7:7-11)	
Sermon	“Faith and Patience” Hebrews 11:11-12 Pastor Ben Muresan

GOD’S BLESSING ON HIS PEOPLE

Hymn of Thanksgiving*	“Hail to the Lord’s Anointed” Hymn 311
Benediction*	
Congregational Benediction Response*	(Hymn 115, verse 5)
Let all things their Creator bless, and worship him in humbleness, O praise him, alleluia! Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son, and praise the Spirit, three in One, O praise him, O praise him, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Amen.	

LORD’S DAY DEVOTION AND QUESTIONS

In Genesis 11:30, we are introduced to Abraham and Sarah (who were then known as Abram and Sarai), and we read that she was barren; she had no child. This little detail provides some context to the extraordinary promises that God made to Abraham in Genesis 12, promises that focus on a vast land and numerous descendants. Humanly speaking, the fulfillment of both of these promises seemed impossible, especially the one about Abraham and Sarah having “descendants as many as the stars of heaven and as many as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore” (Hebrews 11:12). Both Abraham and Sarah understood the extraordinary nature of what God was promising. Sarah laughed to herself, saying, “After I am worn out, and my lord is old, shall I have pleasure?” (Genesis 18:10). And even Abraham fell on his face and laughed, saying to himself, “Shall a child be born to a man who is a hundred years old? Shall Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?” (Genesis 17:17). Yet despite the seeming impossibility, God demonstrated his power and his faithfulness in the birth of Isaac. The fact that Abraham was one hundred years old and Sarah was well past the age of childbearing did not impede the fulfillment of what God had promised. God promised and it came to pass just as he said. His Word is sure.

Questions:

1. Review last week’s sermon text from Hebrews 11:8-10. How was God’s sovereign grace demonstrated in the call of Abraham? What does it mean that Abraham “was looking forward to the city that has foundations”?
2. What themes, commonalities, or progressions do you find in the believers we have considered thus far in Hebrews 11? How was each one of their stories helpful for the persecuted Hebrew Christians to remember and understand?
3. What do we learn about faith and patience in Genesis 16? Do you sometimes try to “help God” fulfill what he’s promised? What can we learn as a church from Abraham and Sarah’s misstep of faith?
4. According to Hebrews 11:11, why did Abraham and Sarah feel confident about putting their faith in God? How were they rewarded for their faith according to verse 12?
5. In preparation for next Sunday, read Acts 2 and consider the importance of Pentecost in the history of redemption. What questions do you have about the Person of the Holy Spirit and how he works in the lives of individual believers, in the Church universal, and among unbelievers?

