

WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, May 24, 2020

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you.
Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

John 14:27

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

ENTERING INTO WORSHIP

Greeting and Blessing

Responsive Reading

Psalm 30 (p. 794 in the *Trinity Hymnal*)

A PSALM OF DAVID. A SONG AT THE DEDICATION OF THE TEMPLE.

I will exalt you, O LORD, for you lifted me out of the depths and did not let my enemies gloat over me.

O LORD my God, I called to you for help and you healed me.

O LORD, you brought me up from the grave; you spared me from going down into the pit.

Sing to the LORD, you saints of his; praise his holy name.

For his anger lasts only a moment, but his favor lasts a lifetime;

weeping may remain for a night, but rejoicing comes in the morning.

When I felt secure, I said, "I will never be shaken."

O LORD, when you favored me, you made my mountain stand firm; but when you hid your face, I was dismayed.

To you, O LORD, I called; to the Lord I cried for mercy:

"What gain is there in my destruction, in my going down into the pit?"

"Will the dust praise you? Will it proclaim your faithfulness?"

"Hear, O LORD, and be merciful to me; O LORD, be my help."

You turned my wailing into dancing; you removed my sackcloth and clothed me with joy, that my heart may sing to you and not be silent.

O LORD my God, I will give you thanks forever.

Hymn of Preparation

Hymn 289

A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing

A hymn of glory let us sing; new songs thro'out the world shall ring: *Alleluia! Alleluia!*

Christ, by a road before untrod, ascendeth to the throne of God.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

The holy apostolic band upon the Mount of Olives stand; *Alleluia! Alleluia!*

And with his followers they see Jesus' resplendent majesty.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

To whom the angels, drawing nigh: "Why stand and gaze upon the sky?" *Alleluia! Alleluia!*

"This is the Savior," thus they say, "this is his noble triumph day."

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

"Again shall ye behold him so as ye today have seen him go, *Alleluia! Alleluia!*

In glorious pomp ascending high, up to the portals of the sky."

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Amen.

Congregational Confession of Sin

Leader: Heavenly Father, we marvel today that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. We were your enemies, living in stubborn opposition to your Word, yet you loved us, pursued us, and brought us into your family.

All: We confess that despite the grace we have received in Jesus Christ, we have sinned against you and others with our thoughts, words, and deeds. We have failed to honor you and give you the thanks and praise you alone deserve.

Leader: Forgive us, we pray, and grant that as we hear your assurance of pardon, we would accept, receive, and rest on Christ alone for justification, sanctification, and eternal life.

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

John 3:16-17

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

ADORATION AND PRAISE

First Reading

Isaiah 9:1-7

Congregational Response

Hymn 295

Crown Him with Many Crowns

Crown him with many crowns, the Lamb upon his throne;
Hark! how the heav'nly anthem drowns all music but its own:
Awake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,
And hail him as thy matchless King through all eternity.

Crown him the Lord of love; behold his hands and side,
Rich wounds, yet visible above, in beauty glorified:
No angel in the sky can fully bear that sight,
But downward bends his burning eye at mysteries so bright.

Crown him the Lord of peace; whose pow'r a scepter sways
From pole to pole, that wars may cease, absorbed in prayer and praise:
His reign shall know no end; and round his pierced feet
Fair flow'rs of paradise extend their fragrance ever sweet.

Crown him the Lord of years, the Potentate of time;
Creator of the rolling spheres, ineffably sublime:
All hail, Redeemer, hail! For thou hast died for me:
Thy praise shall never, never fail throughout eternity. Amen.

Q. 35. *What is sanctification?*

A. Sanctification is the work of God's free grace, by which we are renewed in the whole man after the image of God, and are enabled more and more to die to sin and live to righteousness.

Q. 36. *What are the benefits that in this life accompany or flow from justification, adoption, and sanctification?*

A. The benefits that in this life do accompany or flow from justification, adoption, and sanctification are: assurance of God's love, peace of conscience, joy in the Holy Spirit, increase of grace, and perseverance to the end.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Stewardship

Tithes and Offerings

Doxology*

Hymn 732

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 3:1-21

Congregational Response

Hymn 159

O Savior, Precious Savior

O Savior, precious Savior, whom yet unseen we love,
O Name of might and favor, all other names above;
We worship you, we bless you, to you alone we sing;
We praise you, and confess you our holy Lord and King.

O bringer of salvation, who wondrously have wrought,
Yourself the revelation of love beyond our thought;
We worship you, we bless you, to you alone we sing;
We praise you, and confess you our gracious Lord and King.

In you all fulness dwelling, all grace and power outpours:
The glory all excelling, O Son of God, is yours;
We worship you, we bless you, to you alone we sing;
We praise you, and confess you our glorious Lord and King.

O grant the consummation of this our song above
In endless adoration and everlasting love;
Then shall we praise and bless you where perfect praises ring,
And evermore confess you our Savior and our King. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer (based on 1 Peter 1:13-21)

Sermon

Pastor Ben Muresan

“I AM the Light of the World”
John 8:12-30

1. God Is Light, and In Him Is No Darkness At All

Isaiah 43:11, 25
Psalm 27:1; 104:1-2
1 John 1:5
Genesis 1:3-4
Exodus 13:21

2. The Light Exposes and Condemns the Darkness

Ephesians 2:1-3
John 3:19-21
John 8:24, 28

3. The Light Overcomes the Darkness

John 12:46
Ephesians 5:1-21

GOD’S BLESSING ON HIS PEOPLE

Hymn of Thanksgiving

Hymn 290

Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise

Hail the day that sees him rise *Alleluia!*
To his throne above the skies; *Alleluia!*
Christ, the Lamb for sinners giv’n, *Alleluia!*
Enters now the highest heav’n. *Alleluia!*

There for him high triumph waits; *Alleluia!*
Lift your heads, eternal gates, *Alleluia!*
He hath conquered death and sin, *Alleluia!*
Take the King of glory in! *Alleluia!*

See, he lifts his hands above! *Alleluia!*
See, he shows the prints of love! *Alleluia!*
Hark! his gracious lips bestow *Alleluia!*
Blessings on his church below. *Alleluia!*

Lord, beyond our mortal sight, *Alleluia!*
Raise our hearts to reach thy height; *Alleluia!*
There thy face unclouded see, *Alleluia!*
Find our heav’n of heav’ns in thee! *Alleluia!* 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

In John 8:12, we encounter another one of Jesus' seven "I am" sayings. Each of them vividly describe Jesus' saving work for his people. The seven sayings are:

"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).

In each of these sayings, Jesus reveals our spiritual need and shows that he is the only way to fulfill that need. As the light of the world, he reveals that the world is in the darkness of sin, and he shows that he is the light that exposes that darkness and overcomes it. Jesus warns that those who choose to remain in darkness will die in their sins (John 8:24). But for those who put their faith in Christ, the same light that exposes sin also removes sin. We read this sure promise in 1 John 1:7, "But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin."

1. For review, read John 7:37-39. What was Jesus teaching the crowds in these verses? Can you think of some similarities and differences between how Old Covenant believers understood and experienced the Person and work of the Holy Spirit with how New Covenant believers do?
2. What comes to your mind when you think about light? Why do you think light was such a helpful way for Jesus to describe his identity and ministry?
3. What was the ninth judgment that God sent upon Egypt according to Exodus 10:21-23? What was God teaching both the Egyptians and the Israelites through this judgment?
4. Read John 8:13-22. What aspects of the Pharisees' comments and questions reveal their spiritual darkness? How does Jesus' dialogue with the Pharisees mirror his dialogue with Nicodemus in John 3:1-21?
5. Read Ephesians 5:1-21, focusing especially on how the Apostle Paul describes the difference between those who are in darkness and those who are children of light. What kinds of thoughts, words, and deeds should characterize children of light? How can you apply this in your own life?
6. In preparation for next Sunday, read John 8:31-38. What kind of freedom is Jesus talking about?

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 25

Scripture: 2 Samuel 7:1 - 8:18; John 14:15-31; Psalm 119:33-48; Proverbs 15:33
Catechism: The Westminster Confession of Faith: Chapter 4
Pray for: Our federal, state, and local government leaders.

Tuesday, May 26

Scripture: 2 Samuel 9:1 - 11:27; John 15:1-27; Psalm 119:49-64; Proverbs 16:1-3
Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 2
Pray for: Our military, police, fire, and medical personnel.

Wednesday, May 27

Scripture: 2 Samuel 12:1-31; John 16:1-33; Psalm 119:65-80; Proverbs 16:4-5
Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 3
Pray for: Our covenant children and Christian military chaplains.
The churches in Tonga and persecuted Christians.

Thursday, May 28

Scripture: 2 Samuel 13:1-39; John 17:1-26; Psalm 119:81-96; Proverbs 16:6-7
Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 4
Pray for: Our Elders, Deacons, Women's Ministry, & the PCA.

Friday, May 29

Scripture: 2 Samuel 14:1 - 15:22; John 18:1-24; Psalm 119:97-112; Proverbs 16:8-9
Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 5
Pray for: Our members who have ongoing health needs.

Saturday, May 30

Scripture: 2 Sam. 15:23 - 16:23; John 18:25 - 19:22; Ps. 119:113-128; Prov. 16:10-11
Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 6
Pray for: The preaching and for our Sunday School teachers.

Sunday, May 31

Scripture: 2 Samuel 17:1-29; John 19:23-42; Psalm 119:129-152; Proverbs 16:12-13
Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 7
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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