

WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, May 3, 2020

I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace.
In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.

John 16:33

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

ENTERING INTO WORSHIP

Greeting and Blessing

Responsive Reading

Psalm 27 (p. 793 in the *Trinity Hymnal*)

OF DAVID.

The LORD is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear?

The LORD is the stronghold of my life—of whom shall I be afraid?

When evil men advance against me to devour my flesh, when my enemies and my foes attack me, they will stumble and fall.

Though an army besiege me, my heart will not fear; though war break out against me, even then will I be confident.

One thing I ask of the LORD, this is what I seek:

that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to seek him in his temple.

For in the day of trouble he will keep me safe in his dwelling;

he will hide me in the shelter of his tabernacle and set me high upon a rock.

Then my head will be exalted above the enemies who surround me;

at his tabernacle will I sacrifice with shouts of joy; I will sing and make music to the LORD.

Hear my voice when I call, O LORD; be merciful to me and answer me.

My heart says of you, “Seek his face!” Your face, LORD, I will seek.

Do not hide your face from me, do not turn your servant away in anger; you have been my helper.

Do not reject me or forsake me, O God my Savior.

Though my father and mother forsake me, the LORD will receive me.

Teach me your way, O LORD; lead me in a straight path because of my oppressors.

Do not turn me over to the desire of my foes, for false witnesses rise up against me, breathing out violence.

I am still confident of this: I will see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.

Wait for the LORD; be strong and take heart and wait for the LORD.

Hymn of Preparation

Hymn 32

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father; there is no shadow of turning with thee;
Thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not; as thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

*Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see:
All I have needed thy hand hath provided—Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!*

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest, sun, moon, and stars in their courses above,
Join with all nature in manifold witness to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

*Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see:
All I have needed thy hand hath provided—Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!*

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow, blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

*Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see:
All I have needed thy hand hath provided—Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me! Amen.*

Congregational Confession of Sin

Leader: Heavenly Father, you are rich in mercy to all those who call upon you. Hear us as we come before you to confess our sins and ask for your forgiveness.

All: We confess that we have sinned against you and others, and that we have failed to act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with you, our God.

Leader: Have mercy on us, we pray, and grant us forgiveness through our Lord Jesus Christ. Cause us to grow in love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

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

Psalm 103:8-12

The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. He will not always chide, nor will he keep his anger forever. He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.

ADORATION AND PRAISE

First Reading

Exodus 20:1-17; Romans 13:8-10

Congregational Response

Hymn 92

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;
Our helper he amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe;
His craft and pow'r are great; and armed with cruel hate,
On earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing;
Were not the right man on our side, the man of God's own choosing.
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is he,
Lord Sabaoth his name, from age to age the same,
And he must win the battle.

And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us,
We will not fear, for God hath willed his truth to triumph through us.
The prince of darkness grim, we tremble not for him;
His rage we can endure, for lo! his doom is sure;
One little word shall fell him.

That Word above all earthly pow'rs, no thanks to them, abideth;
The Spirit and the gifts are ours through him who with us sideth.
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also;
The body they may kill: God's truth abideth still;
His kingdom is forever. Amen.

Confession of Faith

The Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 27. *What was Christ's humiliation?*

A. Christ's humiliation consisted in his being born, and that in a low condition, made under the law, undergoing the miseries of this life, the wrath of God, and the cursed death of the cross; in being buried, and continuing under the power of death for a time.

Q. 28. *What is Christ's exaltation?*

A. Christ's exaltation consists in his rising again from the dead on the third day, in ascending into heaven, in sitting at the right hand of God the Father, and in coming to judge the world at the Last Day.

Q. 29. *How do we take part in the redemption purchased by Christ?*

A. We take part in the redemption purchased by Christ by the effectual application of it to us by his Holy Spirit.

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

1 Corinthians 1:18 - 2:5

Congregational Response

Hymn 129

I Belong to Jesus

I belong to Jesus, I am not my own;
All I have and all I am shall be his alone.

I belong to Jesus, he is Lord and King,
Reigning in my inmost heart over ev'rything.

I belong to Jesus, blessed, blessed thought!
With his own most precious blood has my soul been bought.

I belong to Jesus, he has died for me;
I am his and he is mine through eternity.

I belong to Jesus, he will keep my soul
When the deathly waters dark round about me roll.

I belong to Jesus, and ere long I'll stand
With my precious Savior there in the glory land. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer (based on Revelation 4)

Sermon

Pastor Ben Muresan

“Following Christ Above All”
John 7:1-13

1. Jesus’ family misunderstood his mission (verses 1-6).

John 5:18

2. Jesus’ family misunderstood the sinful world (verses 7-13).

1 Corinthians 1:22-24

James 4:4

Jude 18-25

GOD’S BLESSING ON HIS PEOPLE

Hymn of Thanksgiving

Hymn 642

Be Thou My Vision

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; naught be all else to me, save that thou art—
Thou my best thought by day or by night, waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word; I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
Thou my great Father, I thy true son; thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.

Be thou my battle shield, sword for my fight; be thou my dignity, thou my delight,
Thou my soul’s shelter, thou my high tow’r: raise thou me heav’n-ward, O Pow’r of my pow’r.

Riches I heed not, nor man’s empty praise, thou mine inheritance, now and always:
Thou and thou only, first in my heart, High King of heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of heaven, my victory won, may I reach heaven’s joys, O bright heav’n’s Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, still be my vision, O Ruler of all. Amen.

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

Jesus often warned his followers that there would be a cost to following him. This is because the sinful world is hostile to the meaning and message of the Gospel. Many of Jesus' early followers, including his own family, believed he was the Messiah, but they did not understand that he had come to suffer and die for the sins of his people. Peter, for example, rebuked Jesus after hearing his first passion prediction: that Jesus would suffer many things, be rejected, killed, and after three days rise again. Jesus' words were in direct contrast to Peter's expectation that the Messiah would restore Israel's glory and power to the levels it had during King David's rule and reign. It was only after Jesus' resurrection and ascension that Jesus' followers, including Peter, finally understood his mission and the cost of following him. J.C. Ryle explains:

It does cost something to be a real Christian according to the standard of the Bible. There are enemies to be overcome, battles to be fought, sacrifices to be made, an Egypt to be forsaken, a wilderness to be passed through, a cross to be carried, and a race to be run. Conversion is not putting a man in an armchair and taking him easily to heaven. It is the beginning of a mighty conflict, in which it costs much to win the victory (*Holiness: Its Nature, Hindrances, Difficulties, and Roots*, p. 69).

1. For review, read John 6:35-44. How does Jesus describe the Covenant of Redemption in these verses? How is this covenant related to the other covenants in the Bible?
2. Read John 5:18 and 7:1. Why were the religious leaders seeking to kill Jesus?
3. Read John 7:3-4. What advice did Jesus' brothers give him? What caused them to think this way according to verse 5? How does this connect with what the Apostle Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 1:18 - 2:5? How might knowing this help you understand why Christians face rejection from many people?
4. What was the difference between Jesus' "time" and his brothers' "time" according to John 7:6?
5. What was Jesus teaching his brothers in verse 7? How do James 4:4 and Jude 18-25 reveal the transformation Jesus' brothers experienced later in their lives?
6. In preparation for next Sunday, read John 7:14-23. Why were those gathered in the temple surprised by Jesus' teaching? What was the source of Jesus' authority?

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 4

Scripture: Judges 19:1 - 20:48; John 3:22 - 4:3; Psalm 104:25-35; Proverbs 14:22-23

Catechism: The Westminster Confession of Faith: Chapter 1

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

Tuesday, May 5

Scripture: Judges 21:1 - Ruth 1:22; John 4:4-42; Psalm 105:1-15; Proverbs 14:24-25

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 91

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

Wednesday, May 6

Scripture: Ruth 2:1 - 4:22; John 4:43-54; Psalm 105:16-36; Proverbs 14:26-27

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 92

Pray for: Our covenant children and Christian military chaplains.
The churches in Timor-Leste and persecuted Christians.

Thursday, May 7

Scripture: 1 Samuel 1:1 - 2:21; John 5:1-23; Psalm 105:37-45; Proverbs 14:28-29

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 93

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

Friday, May 8

Scripture: 1 Samuel 2:22 - 4:22; John 5:24-47; Psalm 106:1-12; Proverbs 14:30-31

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 94

Pray for: Our members who have ongoing health needs.

Saturday, May 9

Scripture: 1 Samuel 5:1 - 7:17; John 6:1-21; Psalm 106:13-31; Proverbs 14:32-33

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 95

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

Sunday, May 10

Scripture: 1 Samuel 8:1 - 9:27; John 6:22-42; Psalm 106:32-48; Proverbs 14:34-35

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 96

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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