

WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, May 6, 2018

There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

Galatians 3:28-29

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

ENTERING INTO WORSHIP

Greeting and Blessing*

Responsive Reading*

Psalms 50:1-15 (p. 803)

Hymn of Preparation*

“A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing” Hymn 289

Congregational Confession of Sin

Leader: Heavenly Father, we have sinned in so many ways against you, by not obeying your eternal Word and by daily provoking your anger through indifference, ingratitude, and grumbling.

All: We have failed to do what is right. We know the good works that you command in your Word, but we have not done them. Forgive us for our weak faith.

Leader: Lord, have mercy on us. We believe; help our unbelief. Set us free from all that entangles and enslaves us and cause us to live as your faithful servants.

All: We pray this through the merit and mediation of our Savior, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in unity with the Holy Spirit, one God, forever. Amen.

Private Confession of Our Sins

Assurance of Forgiveness

Colossians 1:21-23

And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister.

* Congregation is requested to stand, if able.

ADORATION AND PRAISE

First Reading*

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

Congregational Response (Hymn of the Month)

“See the Conqueror Mounts in Triumph”

Confession of Faith

The Heidelberg Catechism, Lord's Day 14

Q. 35. *What does it mean that he “was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary”?*

A. That the eternal Son of God, who is and remains true and eternal God, took to himself, through the working of the Holy Spirit, from the flesh and blood of the virgin Mary, a truly human nature so that he might become David's true descendant, in all things like us his brothers, except for sin.

Q. 36. *How does the holy conception and birth of Christ benefit you?*

A. He is our mediator, and with his innocence and perfect holiness he removes from God's sight my sin—mine since I was conceived.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Stewardship

Tithes and Offerings

Gloria Patri*

Hymn 734

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*

Genesis 11:27 – 12:20

Congregational Response (Psalm 50:1-6)

“The Mighty God, the Lord” Hymn 316

Pastoral Prayer (based on Matthew 7:1-6)

Sermon

“Forward-Looking Faith”
Hebrews 11:8-10

Pastor Ben Muresan

GOD’S BLESSING ON HIS PEOPLE

Hymn of Thanksgiving*

“The God of Abraham Praise” Hymn 34

Benediction*

Congregational Benediction Response*

“May the Peace of God” Getty & Townend

May the peace of God, our heav’nly Father,
And the grace of Christ, the risen Son,
And the fellowship of God, the Spirit
Keep our hearts and minds within his love.

REFRAIN

And to him be praise for his glorious reign;
From the depths of earth to the heights of heaven
We declare the name of the Lamb once slain—
Christ eternal, the King of kings.

May this peace which passes understanding,
And this grace which makes us what we are,
And this fellowship of his communion,
Make us one in spirit and in heart.

LORD’S DAY DEVOTION AND QUESTIONS

Of all the men and women listed in Hebrews 11, the description of Abraham’s faith and actions is the longest and most detailed. Abraham’s importance is seen not only in Hebrews 11, but also throughout the Bible because it was through him that God made the Covenant of Grace by which the elect are redeemed. Abraham is the only person in the Bible who is called God’s friend (Isaiah 41:8; James 2:23). Consider how remarkable these words are. That a holy, triune God would willingly condescend to have fellowship—even friendship—with a sinful, mortal man. By grace, God granted Abraham saving faith and powerfully and pleasantly drew Abraham to himself. This same grace is given to all those who are enabled by God to call upon the name of the Lord and be saved.

Questions:

1. Review last week’s readings from Genesis 6 and Hebrews 11:7. How did Noah demonstrate faith? In what way does Noah’s story foreshadow New Covenant baptism?
2. Read the Westminster Larger Catechism Q&A 67-68. How was God’s effectual call evident in Abraham’s life?
3. Read Romans 4. What is the Apostle Paul explaining in this chapter? Was Abraham righteous before God because of his good works? What is our relationship with Abraham according to this chapter and Galatians 3:29?
4. What was Abraham looking forward to according to Hebrews 11:10? How did this affect how he lived? What can we learn from this?
5. In preparation for next Sunday, read Hebrews 11:11-12. What made God’s promise to Abraham and Sarah about their having a large family seem impossible? How long did Abraham and Sarah have to wait until they saw this promise fulfilled?

