

WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, June 10, 2018

And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

Philippians 1:6

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

ENTERING INTO WORSHIP

Greeting and Blessing*

Responsive Reading*

Psalm 80 (p. 813)

Hymn of Preparation*

“Holy, Holy, Holy!” Hymn 100

Congregational Confession of Sin

Leader: Almighty God and Heavenly Father, we pray to you in sorrow and frustration as we consider how we have sinned against you and others.

All: We knew in our hearts what was right, and yet we did wrong anyway. We have acted wickedly by turning aside from your commandments and seeking our own ways.

Leader: Forgive us, we pray. Apart from Christ we could never stand in your presence. Yet in him you have called us to draw near. In ourselves, we are unworthy, but in the Lord Jesus we boldly approach your throne of grace that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

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, forever. Amen.

Private Confession of Our Sins

Assurance of Forgiveness

1 Peter 2:22-25

Christ committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

** Congregation is requested to stand, if able.*

ADORATION AND PRAISE

First Reading*

Genesis 48

Congregational Response (Hymn of the Month)

“All Authority and Power” Hymn 453

Confession of Faith

The Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 18

Q. 46. *What do you mean by saying, “He ascended into heaven”?*

A. That Christ, while his disciples watched, was lifted up from the earth to heaven and will be there for our good until he comes again to judge the living and the dead.

Q. 47. *But isn’t Christ with us until the end of the world as he promised us?*

A. Christ is the true man and true God. In his human nature Christ is not now on earth; but in his divinity, majesty, grace, and Spirit he is not absent from us for a moment.

Q. 48. *If his humanity is not present wherever his divinity is, then aren’t the two natures of Christ separated from each other?*

A. Certainly not. Since divinity is not limited and is present everywhere, it is evident that Christ’s divinity is surely beyond the bounds of the humanity he has taken on, but at the same time his divinity is in and remains personally united to his humanity.

Q. 49. *How does Christ’s ascension into heaven benefit us?*

A. 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.

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*		Genesis 50
Congregational Response (Psalm 113)	“Hallelujah! Raise, O Raise” Hymn 54	
Pastoral Prayer (based on Ephesians 4:1-16)		
Sermon	“Faith and Perseverance” Hebrews 11:20-22	Pastor Ben Muresan

GOD’S BLESSING ON HIS PEOPLE

Hymn of Thanksgiving*	“The Church’s One Foundation” Hymn 347
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 Hebrews 11:20-22 we read about Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph who all persevered in faith to the end of their lives. They are among those whom the author spoke about in v. 13: “These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth.” While Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph each showed great faith during their lives, the author of Hebrews focuses on how they finished—these men evidenced “the triumph of faith in the face of death, the last and darkest trial of all” (Philip Hughes). Their final actions while alive indicated that they believed in the enduring promises of God that extended beyond death into eternity. They believed God’s Word by faith and trusted that the promise God gave to Abraham of a land filled with descendants too numerous to count would come to pass. They also believed that these promises would not only be fulfilled on earth, but would be more fully and finally realized in the New Creation. They lived like pilgrims on earth, “looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God” (Hebrews 11:10).

Questions:

1. Review last week’s sermon text from Hebrews 11:17-19. What did Abraham believe as he obeyed God in offering up his only son, Isaac? How does Genesis 22 point us to Christ?
2. Review Genesis 22 – 27 to familiarize yourself with Isaac’s life. What did Isaac do during his lifetime that demonstrated his faith in God’s promises? What was the significance of the blessing he bestowed in Genesis 27?
3. Review Genesis 28 – 35 to familiarize yourself with Jacob’s life. What did Jacob do during his lifetime that demonstrated his faith in God’s promises? How was God’s grace evident in his life?
4. Review Genesis 37, 39 – 50 to familiarize yourself with Joseph’s life. What did Joseph do during his lifetime that demonstrated his faith in God’s promises? How was God’s providence evident in his life? What did his arrangements in Genesis 50:22-26 reveal about his faith?
5. Read Westminster Confession of Faith 17 (On the Perseverance of the Saints). What does perseverance depend on? How does this comfort you?
6. In preparation for next Sunday, read Hebrews 11:23-26. How do you think what the author of Hebrews points out about Moses might have encouraged the Hebrew Christians?

