

WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, June 17, 2018

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed.

1 Peter 4:12-13

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

ENTERING INTO WORSHIP

Greeting and Blessing*

Responsive Reading*

Psalm 84 (p. 814)

Hymn of Preparation*

"God, All Nature Sings Thy Glory" Hymn 122

Congregational Confession of Sin

Leader: Our God and Father, have mercy on us according to your unfailing love. According to your great compassion, blot out our transgressions. Wash away all our iniquity, and cleanse us from our sins.

All: Against you, you only, have we sinned and done what is evil in your sight. Wash us, that we may be whiter than snow, for a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

Leader: Restore us to fellowship with you, that we may walk in the full assurance of your promises, and in the freedom of knowing that you care for us. Forgive us all that is past, and grant that hereafter we may serve and please you in newness of life.

All: We ask all 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

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*

Exodus 1

Congregational Response (Hymn of the Month)

"All Authority and Power" Hymn 453

Confession of Faith

The Heidelberg Catechism, Lord's Day 19

Q. 50. *Why the next words: "and is seated at the right hand of God"?*

A. Christ ascended to heaven, there to show that he is head of his church, and that the Father rules all things through him.

Q. 51. *How does this glory of Christ our head benefit us?*

A. First, through his Holy Spirit he pours out his gifts from heaven upon us his members. Second, by his power he defends us and keeps us safe from all enemies.

Q. 52. *How does Christ's return "to judge the living and the dead" comfort you?*

A. In all my distress and persecution I turn my eyes to the heavens and confidently await as judge the very One who has already stood trial in my place before God and so has removed the whole curse from me. All his enemies and mine he will condemn to everlasting punishment: but me and all his chosen ones he will take along with him into the joy and the glory of heaven.

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*

Exodus 2

Congregational Response (Psalm 113)

“Hallelujah! Raise, O Raise” Hymn 54

Pastoral Prayer (based on Psalm 91)

Sermon

“Faith and Suffering the Reproach of Christ”
Hebrews 11:23-26

Pastor Ben Muresan

GOD’S BLESSING ON HIS PEOPLE

Hymn of Thanksgiving*

“My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less” Hymn 521

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

The author of Hebrews, writing under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, presents Moses as an example of faithfulness in chapter 3, verses 1-6. Moses was “faithful in all God’s house as a servant, to testify to the things that were to be spoken later” (v. 5). God called Moses to lead Israel out of slavery in Egypt to the Promised Land, and Moses obeyed by faith. While Moses was an important figure in redemptive history, he was merely a type of Christ, who would come in the fullness of time to lead his people out of slavery to sin and to an eternal inheritance.

There is a remarkable statement in Hebrews 11:26 which says Moses “considered the reproach of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt.” What we learn from this verse is that Moses’ faith was in Jesus, and Moses chose to suffer for the sake of the Gospel. Richard Phillips writes:

Acknowledging Christ is always costly; it means not just Yes to him, but also Yes to the affliction of his people, and Yes to his disgrace before the world. And it brings a No as well, for Jesus also said: “Whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it” (Matthew 10:38-39). Both the Yes and the No of faith in Christ will be richly rewarded, for in Christ there is greater wealth than all the treasures in this Egyptian world.

Questions:

1. Review last week’s sermon text from Hebrews 11:20-22. How did Issac, Jacob, and Joseph demonstrate their faith in God’s promises? According to these verses, how is the doctrine of the perseverance of the saints displayed in their lives?
2. How is God’s providence displayed in Exodus 1-2? What do you think the Holy Spirit is communicating to us by so clearly revealing God’s protection over Moses?
3. What similarities do you see between the birth accounts of Moses and Jesus? Why do you think these are important to notice?
4. Why did the Hebrew midwives disobey the king of Egypt according to Exodus 1:15-21? How does this situation relate to Acts 5:17-32?
5. What is the significance of Hebrews 11:26 in helping us to understand the unity of the Old and New Testaments?
6. In preparation for next Sunday, read Hebrews 11:27-29. How do you think Israel demonstrated faith in God’s promises through their worship? What do you think is significant about the phrase “for he endured as seeing him who is invisible” in verse 27?

