

WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, June 3, 2018

He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, whom God made our wisdom and our righteousness and sanctification and redemption. Therefore, as it is written, “Let him who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

1 Corinthians 1:30

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

ENTERING INTO WORSHIP

Greeting and Blessing*

Responsive Reading*

Psalm 113 (p. 826)

Hymn of Preparation*

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness” Hymn 32

Congregational Confession of Sin

Leader: Gracious God and Merciful Father, we praise you for the loving kindness you have shown us in Jesus Christ. While we were still sinners, he died for us.

All: Forgive us, O Lord, for our many sins. We confess that we are guilty of pride and unbelief, of anger and lust. We have sinned against you by breaking your commandments and by wasting your good gifts to us. Our transgressions are ever before us, and they weigh heavy on our hearts.

Leader: Grant us repentant hearts to understand the sinfulness of sin, but also the assurance of forgiveness. We thank you that our sins will not be counted against us, because they all have been laid upon Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world.

All: All praise to you, O God, for such wondrous grace! We are loved with an everlasting love! Grant that we, by your Spirit, may live daily unto you and may seek to glorify you in thought, word, and deed. In Jesus’ Name we pray. Amen.

Private Confession of Our Sins

Assurance of Forgiveness

Romans 8:31-34

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.

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

ADORATION AND PRAISE

First Reading*

Deuteronomy 5:6-21; Matthew 22:34-40

Congregational Response (Hymn of the Month)

“All Authority and Power” Hymn 453

Confession of Faith

The Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 17

Q. 45. *How does Christ’s resurrection benefit us?*

A. First, by his resurrection he has overcome death, so that he might make us share in the righteousness he won for us by his death.

Second, by his power we too are already now resurrected to a new life.

Third, Christ’s resurrection is a guarantee of our glorious resurrection.

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 22:1-19

Congregational Response (Psalm 113)

“Hallelujah! Raise, O Raise” Hymn 54

Pastoral Prayer (based on Matthew 7:21-27)

Sermon

“Faith and Testing”
Hebrews 11:17-19

Pastor Ben Muresan

GOD’S BLESSING ON HIS PEOPLE

Hymn of Thanksgiving*

“Marvelous Grace of Our Loving Lord” Hymn 465

Benediction*

Congregational Benediction Response*

(Sung to STUTTGART [Hymn 5])

May the grace of Christ our Savior and the Father’s boundless love,
with the Holy Spirit’s favor, rest upon us from above.
Thus may we abide in union with each other and the Lord,
and possess, in sweet communion, joys which earth cannot afford. Amen.

LORD’S DAY DEVOTION AND QUESTIONS

In Genesis 22 we read that God came to Abraham and tested him. This was not the first time God tested Abraham, but it was the most severe test that Abraham had faced. What was Abraham’s response? Hebrews 11:17 simply tells us, “By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac.” Abraham’s response was one of obedience to God’s command. Abraham had faith—he was receiving and resting on the promise that God had given him. As a result, he was able to obey God’s command even when it seemed to contradict God’s promise.

Though Abraham’s great faith is displayed in Genesis 22, God’s faithfulness shines even brighter. God spared Isaac and provided a substitute to die in his place. The ram that Abraham saw caught in the thicket was a shadow that pointed forward to the Perfect Substitute that was to come, the One who would take away the sins of the world (John 1:29). God revealed his faithfulness by renewing his promise to Abraham that all the nations of the earth would be blessed by Abraham’s offspring. God has fulfilled his promise to Abraham in Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

Questions:

1. Review last week’s sermon text from Hebrews 11:13-16. What does it mean to live as a “stranger” and “exile” on earth? What “better country” do we look forward to as Christians? How should our hope of eternal life affect how we live as Christians in this present evil age?
2. Read 1 Peter 1:2-4 and Romans 5:1-5. Why does God test his people? Why do you think God chose to test Abraham in this specific way—by commanding him to sacrifice Isaac?
3. Read Deuteronomy 8:2-5. How did God test Israel in the wilderness? Read Matthew 4:1-11. What are the similarities and the differences between what Jesus faced in his testing and what Israel faced?
4. Read Hebrews 11:17-19. What did Abraham believe as he obeyed God? What was his faith resting upon?
5. What similarities are there between Isaac and Jesus? In what ways is Jesus’ sacrifice different from that of Isaac?
6. In preparation for next Sunday, read Hebrews 11:20-22. What do Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph have in common according to this passage?

