

WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, July 15, 2018

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

1 Peter 2:9

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

ENTERING INTO WORSHIP

Greeting and Blessing*

Responsive Reading*

Psalm 87 (p. 815)

Hymn of Preparation*

“How Great Thou Art” Hymn 44

Congregational Confession of Sin

Leader: Our God and Father, we praise you for your mercy and grace to us through Jesus Christ, our Good Shepherd who laid down his life for us.

All: Forgive us, we pray, for our many sins. We confess that we have sinned against you by breaking your commandments and by wasting your good gifts to us.

Leader: Have compassion on us and grant us the daily increase of your Holy Spirit. Cause us to continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the Gospel as we run the race you have marked out for us.

All: All glory be to you, O God, through Jesus Christ, 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

Titus 2:11-14

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus 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.

* Congregation is requested to stand, if able.

ADORATION AND PRAISE

First Reading*

1 Samuel 17

Congregational Response “More Than Conquerors” (printed on the last page of the bulletin)

Confession of Faith

The Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 22

Q. 57. *How does “the resurrection of the body” comfort you?*

A. Not only my soul will be taken immediately after this life to Christ its head, but even my very flesh, raised by the power of Christ, will be reunited with my soul and be made like Christ’s glorious body.

Q. 58. *How does the article concerning “life everlasting” comfort you?*

A. Even as I already now experience in my heart the beginning of eternal joy, so after this life I will have perfect blessedness such as no eye has seen, no ear has heard, no man has ever imagined: a blessedness in which to praise God eternally.

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 9

Congregational Response (Psalm 118)

“This Is the Day the Lord Has Made” Hymn 389

Pastoral Prayer (based on Philippians 4:2-9)

Sermon

“Faith Fixed on Jesus”
Hebrews 12:1-3

Pastor Ben Muresan

GOD’S BLESSING ON HIS PEOPLE

Hymn of Thanksgiving*

“Look, Ye Saints, the Sight Is Glorious” Hymn 299

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

The epistle to the Hebrews was written mainly to Jewish Christians who heard the gospel from the Apostles and became followers of Christ. As a result of their newfound faith and confession, they were expelled from Jewish institutions and were experiencing persecution. They were subjected to suffering and shame and were increasingly tempted to turn away from Christ and return to what was familiar and comfortable to them. The author of the epistle wrote to encourage them to persevere in their faith, which was veiled in the Old Testament but has now been made known in the New Covenant mediated by Jesus.

In Hebrews 12:1-3, the author encourages both a negative and a positive aspect to the Hebrews’ sanctification and perseverance: they are to lay aside every weight and sin which clings so closely, and they are to look to Christ. In so doing they will be strengthened in their faith and finish the race marked out for them. We read this same assurance in the Westminster Confession of Faith 14.3 which explains that saving faith is “different in degrees, weak or strong; may be often and many ways assailed, and weakened, but gets the victory: growing up in many to the attainment of a full assurance, through Christ, who is both the author and finisher of our faith.”

Questions:

1. Review last week’s sermon text from Hebrews 11:32-40. How do these verses show the unity of the Old and New Covenants? What does “that apart from us they should not be made perfect” (v. 40) mean?
2. Read 1 Corinthians 9:24-27. How does the Apostle Paul describe perseverance and discipline in the faith?
3. Read Hebrews 12:1-3. What are some weights and hindrances in your Christian life? What sins consistently entangle you?
4. Practically speaking, what do you think it means to “fix our eyes” on Jesus?
5. What does it mean that Jesus is the “founder” and “perfector” of our faith?
6. Read Westminster Confession of Faith 17. What does perseverance depend upon?
7. In preparation for next Sunday, read Hebrews 12:4-13. Why does God discipline his children? How might understanding God’s fatherly love and care for us help us endure suffering?

