

WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, August 12, 2018

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another:
just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.

By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.

John 13:34-35

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

ENTERING INTO WORSHIP

Greeting and Blessing*

Responsive Reading*

Psalm 91 (p. 817)

Hymn of Preparation*

“The Church’s One Foundation” Hymn 347

Congregational Confession of Sin

Leader: Our God and 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 are guilty of pride and unbelief, of anger and lust. Our sins are too many to count, 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 have all been laid upon Christ.

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*

Psalm 118

Congregational Response (Hymn of the Month)

“O God beyond All Praising” Hymn 660

Confession of Faith

The Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 25

Q. 65. *It is by faith alone that we share in Christ and all his blessings: where then does that faith come from?*

A. The Holy Spirit produces it in our hearts by the preaching of the holy gospel, and confirms it through our use of the holy sacraments.

Q. 66. *What are sacraments?*

A. Sacraments are holy signs and seals for us to see. They were instituted by God so that by our use of them he might make us understand more clearly the promise of the gospel, and might put his seal on that promise.

And this is God’s gospel promise: to forgive our sins and give us eternal life by grace alone because of Christ’s one sacrifice finished on the cross.

Q. 67. *Are both the Word and the sacraments then intended to focus our faith on the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross as the only ground of our salvation?*

A. Yes, indeed! The Holy Spirit teaches us in the gospel and confirms by the holy sacraments that our entire salvation rests on Christ’s one sacrifice for us on the cross.

Q. 68. *How many sacraments did Christ institute in the New Testament?*

A. Two: Baptism and the Lord’s Supper.

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*

John 13

Congregational Response (Psalm 103:13-18)

“The Tender Love a Father Has” Hymn 93

Pastoral Prayer (based on Philippians 1:3-11)

Sermon

“Kingdom Life”
Hebrews 13:1-6

Pastor Ben Muresan

GOD’S BLESSING ON HIS PEOPLE

Hymn of Thanksgiving*

“I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord” Hymn 353

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

As the writer of Hebrews brings his letter to a conclusion, he gives a series of exhortations that are meant to teach us how to apply the rich truths of the gospel to our lives. He has spent twelve chapters explaining the wonderful accomplished work of Christ, our superior Prophet, Priest, and King. And now in chapter 13, the writer shows that a right understanding of the gospel will have a direct impact on how a true believer lives. This is doctrine and life, truth and application. What we see in verses 1-6 is that our faith must affect every aspect of the way we live, from our affections, to our care for others, to loving our spouses and keeping a biblical perspective about money. Pastor Richard Phillips writes:

If we are to wear the genuine mark of Jesus Christ in this world, it will have to be in the manner of these verses from Hebrews 13. It will be through love and purity before the world, shining, as Paul said, “as lights in the world, holding fast to the word of life”(Philippians 2:15-16). In that manner, it will then be Jesus we truly and faithfully proclaim, displaying his mark of love and wearing his righteous robe.

Questions:

1. Review last week’s sermon text from Joshua 5:13 - 6:21. What are some practical applications from this text for the Christian life?
2. What is the significance of the word “brotherly” in Hebrews 13:1? How does John 13:1-35 help us understand how we are to love fellow believers?
3. How do you show hospitality in your life? (Hebrews 13:2) Why do you think being hospitable is such an important aspect of the Christian life?
4. What are some ways you minister to suffering believers? What is the significance of the phrases “as though in prison with them” and “since you also are in the body” in Hebrews 13:3?
5. How can we “honor marriage” as Christians? (Hebrew 13:4) Read and discuss Ephesians 5:25-33. Who designed and instituted marriage? What does marriage teach us about Christ’s relationship with his Church?
6. What fears does the author imply often lie at the root of the love of money? (Hebrews 13:5-6)
7. In preparation for next Sunday, read Hebrews 13:7-14. What do they think were the “strange teachings” (v. 9) the author refers to as you consider the original audience of this letter?

