

WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, August 23, 2020

Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name!
For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

Psalm 100:4-5

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

ENTERING INTO WORSHIP

Greeting and Blessing

Responsive Reading

Psalm 39 (p. 798 in the *Trinity Hymnal*)

I said, "I will watch my ways and keep my tongue from sin;

"I will put a muzzle on my mouth as long as the wicked are in my presence."

But when I was silent and still, not even saying anything good, my anguish increased.

My heart grew hot within me, and as I meditated, the fire burned; then I spoke with my tongue:

"Show me, O LORD, my life's end and the number of my days; let me know how fleeting is my life.

"You have made my days a mere handbreadth; the span of my years is as nothing before you.

Each man's life is but a breath.

"Man is a mere phantom as he goes to and fro: He bustles about, but only in vain; he heaps up wealth, not knowing who will get it.

"But now, Lord, what do I look for? My hope is in you.

"Save me from all my transgressions; do not make me the scorn of fools.

"I was silent; I would not open my mouth, for you are the one who has done this.

"Remove your scourge from me; I am overcome by the blow of your hand.

"You rebuke and discipline men for their sin; you consume their wealth like a moth—each man is but a breath.

"Hear my prayer, O LORD, listen to my cry for help;

"be not deaf to my weeping.

"For I dwell with you as an alien, a stranger, as all my fathers were.

"Look away from me, that I may rejoice again before I depart and am no more."

Hymn of Preparation

Hymn 116

For the Beauty of the Earth

For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies,
For the love which from our birth over and around us lies,
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the beauty of each hour of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale, and tree and flow'r, sun and moon and stars of light,
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's delight,
For the mystic harmony linking sense to sound and sight,
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild,
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For each perfect gift of thine to our race so freely giv'n,
Graces human and divine, flow'rs of earth and buds of heav'n,
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise. Amen.

Congregational Confession of Sin

Leader: Gracious God, we confess that you are holy and perfect. We feel unworthy to enter into your presence because we again have failed to keep all your commandments.

All: We acknowledge that we have sinned against you and others, and that we have failed to act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with you, our God.

Leader: Have mercy on us, we pray, and grant us your forgiveness. Cause us to grow in love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

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

Isaiah 55:6-7

Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

ADORATION AND PRAISE

First Reading

Psalms 2

Congregational Response

Hymn 642

Be Thou My Vision

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that thou art—
Thou my best thought by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
Thou my great Father, I thy true son;
Thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.

Be thou my battle shield, sword for my fight;
Be thou my dignity, thou my delight,
Thou my soul's shelter, thou my high tow'r:
Raise thou me heav'n-ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,
Thou mine inheritance, now and always:
Thou and thou only, first in my heart,
High King of heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of heaven, my victory won,
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heav'n's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all. Amen.

Confession of Faith

The Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 70. *Which is the seventh commandment?*

A. The seventh commandment is, “You shall not commit adultery.”

Q. 71. *What is required in the seventh commandment?*

A. The seventh commandment requires the preservation of our own and our neighbor’s chastity, in heart, speech, and behavior.

Q. 72. *What is forbidden in the seventh commandment?*

A. The seventh commandment forbids all unchaste thoughts, words, and actions.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Stewardship

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

Luke 16:19-31

Congregational Response (Psalm of the Month [based on Psalm 78:1-7])

Hymn 364

Let Children Hear the Mighty Deeds

Let children hear the mighty deeds
Which God performed of old;
Which in our younger years we saw,
And which our fathers told.

He bids us make his glories known,
His works of pow'r and grace;
And we'll convey his wonders down
Through ev'ry rising race.

Our lips shall tell them to our sons,
And they again to theirs;
That generations yet unborn
May teach them to their heirs.

Thus shall they learn in God alone
Their hope securely stands,
That they may ne'er forget his works,
Bur practice his commands. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer

Sermon

“A Declaration of War Against God”
John 11:45-57

Pastor Ben Muresan

1. The Depravity of Sinful Human Beings

Genesis 6:5
Ephesians 2:1-3

2. The Providence of God

Genesis 45:4-8; 50:19-20
Luke 2:1-7; Micah 5:2
Acts 2:22-23
Matthew 10:29-31

3. The Vicarious Sacrifice of Christ

Leviticus 16
Isaiah 53:5-6

GOD'S BLESSING ON HIS PEOPLE

Hymn of Thanksgiving

Hymn 648

My Jesus, I Love Thee

My Jesus, I love thee, I know thou art mine;
For thee all the follies of sin I resign.
My gracious Redeemer, my Savior art thou;
If ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

I love thee because thou hast first loved me,
And purchased my pardon on Calvary's tree.
I love thee for wearing the thorns on thy brow;
If ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

I'll love thee in life, I will love thee in death;
And praise thee as long as thou lendest me breath;
And say, when the death-dew lies cold on my brow:
If ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

In mansions of glory and endless delight,
I'll ever adore thee in heaven so bright;
I'll sing with the glittering crown on my brow:
If ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now. Amen.

Benediction

Congregational Benediction Response

(Sung to STUTTGART [Hymn 5])

Honor, glory, might, and merit, be to God and God alone!
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, One in Three and Three in One. Amen.

LORD'S DAY DEVOTION AND QUESTIONS

In John 11:45-57 we read about the open hostility the religious leaders had against Jesus. Their hostility was rooted in the fact that ever since the fall, Satan has been fighting to try to thwart God's plan to redeem his people through a Savior. The religious leaders who plotted to kill Jesus were part of a long line of antichrists who actively sought to oppose Christ and his people. There are still many in the world today who oppose Christ and his Church. As Christians we must not lose hope or be deterred by the opposition we face. The Belgic Confession, a Reformed confession written in 1561, helpfully instructs us:

We believe and confess one single catholic or universal church—a holy congregation and gathering of true Christian believers, awaiting their entire salvation in Jesus Christ, being washed by his blood, and sanctified and sealed by the Holy Spirit. This church has existed from the beginning of the world and will last until the end, as appears from the fact that Christ is the eternal King who cannot be without subjects. And this holy church is preserved by God against the rage of the whole world, even though for a time it may appear very small to human eyes—as though it were snuffed out. For example, during the very dangerous time of Ahab the Lord preserved for himself seven thousand who did not bend their knees to Baal. And so this holy church is not confined, bound, or limited to a certain place or certain people. But it is spread and dispersed throughout the entire world, though still joined and united in heart and will, in one and the same Spirit, by the power of faith.

1. For review, read John 11:1-44. What does this sign reveal about Jesus?
2. Read John 11:45-48. What was the religious leaders' motivation for plotting to kill Jesus? What irony do you see in these verses? Why weren't the religious leaders convinced that Jesus was the Messiah even though he performed "many signs" (John 11:47)?
3. Read John 11:49-53. How do these verses reveal the providence of God? What does concurrence mean in light of what you read in Acts 2:22-23?
4. What do you learn about the purpose of the atonement in John 11:51-52?
5. How does learning about God's sovereign providence in the sermon text comfort you in your own life?
6. In preparation for next Sunday, read John 12:1-8. What do you think is the significance of Mary's act during this point in Jesus' life?

HOME WORSHIP GUIDE

*The daily reading schedule follows the One Year Bible Reading Plan.
Use our church directory to pray for an individual or family each day.*

Monday, August 24

Scripture: Job 12:1 - 15:35; 1 Corinthians 15:29-58; Psalm 39:1-13; Proverbs 21:30-31

Catechism: The Westminster Confession of Faith: Chapter 17

Pray for: Our federal, state, and local government leaders.

Tuesday, August 25

Scripture: Job 16:1 - 19:29; 1 Corinthians 16:1-24; Psalm 40:1-10; Proverbs 22:1

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 80

Pray for: Our military, police, fire, and medical personnel.

Wednesday, August 26

Scripture: Job 20:1 - 22:30; 2 Corinthians 1:1-11; Psalm 40:11-17; Proverbs 22:2-4

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 81

Pray for: Our covenant children and Christian military chaplains.
The churches in Uruguay and persecuted Christians.

Thursday, August 27

Scripture: Job 23:1 - 27:23; 2 Corinthians 1:12 - 2:11; Psalm 41:1-13; Proverbs 22:5-6

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 82

Pray for: Our Elders, Deacons, Women's Ministry, & the PCA.

Friday, August 28

Scripture: Job 28:1 - 30:31; 2 Corinthians 2:12-17; Psalm 42:1-11; Proverbs 22:7

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 83

Pray for: Our members who have ongoing health needs.

Saturday, August 29

Scripture: Job 31:1 - 33:33; 2 Corinthians 3:1-18; Psalm 43:1-5; Proverbs 22:8-9

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 84

Pray for: The preaching and for our Sunday School teachers.

Sunday, August 30

Scripture: Job 34:1 - 36:33; 2 Corinthians 4:1-12; Psalm 44:1-8; Proverbs 22:10-12

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 85

Pray for: Our worship this morning.

MISSIONS CORNER

*Pray for our missionaries. Their prayer requests are sent out through the Prayer Chain
and their newsletters are published in Grace Notes as they become available.*

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