

Sunday Worship

Suffering Unto Glory

November 3, 2019

The Ties That Bind Us

11/03

10:30A

10:26a **Grace Alone**

Intro, V1, C1, Intro, V2, C2, B, C3, Ending

GATHERING

10:30a **Welcome/Call to Worship**

> *Welcome to Grace Sacramento*

> *My name is ... and I'm so happy you are here. Please take a moment and let us know you are here by filling out the welcome card in your bulletin. It's a way for us to get in touch with you if you'd like more information about the ministries we offer and for you to let us know how we can pray for you or serve your family.*

Today is a unique Sunday, celebrated by many as "Reformation Day", commemorating the reform and resurgence of the Christian faith that began just over 500 years ago. Our service today will borrow from reformation leaders like Luther, Zwingli and Calvin as we worship together.

The reformer John Calvin began many of his worship services with a votum (prayer or statement) based on Psalm 124:8. That one verse encapsulates much of what Calvin—and centuries of Reformed folk—believed about worship and about our relationship with God. Please rise if you are able and join me as we respond to Psalm 124:

Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

What did God do to help us?

God chose the people of Israel to make a new beginning.

They received God's covenant and prepared the way for Jesus to come as our Savior.

Let us worship the God of the covenant, the God of heaven and earth.

Let's continue to worship!

10:32a **How Great Thou Art**

V1, C, V3, C, V4, C

v1 - O Lord my God...

v3 - And when I think...

v4 - When Christ shall come...

10:36a **Mighty To Save**

Instrumental 1, V1, C, Instrumental 1, V2, C, B, Cx2, Instrumental 1

10:40a **Confession/Assurance**

In John 11, Jesus says: "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die." Let's read together Martin Luther's reflection on this passage as our confession of sin:

Dear Lord Jesus, I feel my sins. They bite and gnaw and terrify me. Where shall I go? I will look to you, Lord Jesus, and believe in you. Although my faith is weak, I look to you and find assurance, for you have promised, "He that believes in me shall have everlasting life."

My conscience is burdened and my sins make me tremble, but you have said: "Be of good cheer, your sins are forgiven and I will raise you up on the last day and you shall have eternal life." I cannot do any of this for myself. I come to you for help. Amen. (Prayer #147, Adapted from Luther's Prayers, translated by Charles Kistler)

[Silent Reflection]

The Heidelberg Catechism (Q & A 69) reminds us that "as surely as water washes away dirt from the body, so certainly Christ's blood and his Spirit wash away all our sins". So as surely as you can see and hear this water pouring know that if your faith is in Christ:

He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us. (Psalm 103:10-12)

Thanks be to God!

10:44a **Offering**

10:44:30a ***His Mercy Is More***

Turnaround, V1, C, Turnaround, V2, C, Turnaround, V3, Cx2

10:48:30a **Doxology**

10:49a **Passing of the Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you

And also with you

10:51a **Prayers of the People**

Pastoral Prayer (Adapted from A Gospel Prayer for Reformation Sunday by Scotty Smith)

Please join me as I pray:

Rom. 3:21-24 says, "But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus."

Dear Lord Jesus, how could your church ever forget, lose or reject this glorious gospel? What created the necessity for Martin Luther to nail his Ninety-Five Theses to the front door in Wittenberg on October 31, 1517? Why would we ever choose some other way of salvation over the way of grace? These are rhetorical questions for I know my own proud and foolish heart.

I know that by nature I'm allergic to grace, I want to believe there's something I can do to make God accept and love me. But the gospel declares me to be a whole lot worse off than I can imagine, and certainly a whole lot worse than I want to acknowledge. I wasn't just distanced from God; I was dead in my sins and trespasses—running as fast and as far as I could from free grace. Such is the insanity of sin.

Why was there a need for the first Reformation? Because of people like me. Why will the church continue to lose and rediscover the gospel of your grace? Because of people like me.

Jesus, how I praise you for showing me the great depth of my need and the heights of your provision in the gospel. Earn my salvation, impress God with my works, merit heaven by my rules keeping?...O the arrogance. O the despair.

You're no mere moral model to follow; you're my perfect righteousness to wear. You don't give second chances to sincere people, you give new life to rebels, fools and idolaters, like me. I needed you to fulfill all the demands of the law for me; and that is what you did by your life of perfect obedience. I needed you to absorb all the judgment and wrath I deserve from God; and that is what you accomplished once-and-for-all by your death on the cross.

I needed you to begin a good work in me by your Spirit and that you will complete by your Spirit; and that is what you have signed on for by your resurrection. I need you to be my Advocate before the Father when I sin, not my cheerleader or coach when I fall; and that is who are you this very moment. I need and want you to come back and finish making all things new—in me, in your whole Church, and in your broken cosmos; and that is precisely what you will do one Day. Hallelujah!

Jesus, on this Reformation Sunday, I once again affirm that my hope is built on nothing less, nothing more, and nothing other than your blood and your righteousness. On you, the solid and saving Rock, I stand. All other ground is sinking sand. Keep bringing me back to the gospel, Jesus; keep bringing me back to the gospel plus nothing for my everything. So very Amen I pray, in your most holy and gracious name.

10:54a **Ministry Moment**

Operation Christmas Child Announcement (Interview: Charlene/Mia)

1. What is it?
2. Invite students to go on "shopping spree" and sponsor a box
3. Invite others to "sponsor a box?"

10:55a **GraceKids**

WORD

10:56a **Scripture Reading**

1 Peter 4:1-11

Please stand if you are able for a reading from God's Holy Word. Today's Scripture reading is from 1 Peter 4:1-11. Please read with me the verses in blue.

[1] Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same way of thinking, for whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin,

[2] so as to live for the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for human passions but for the will of God.

[3] For the time that is past suffices for doing what the Gentiles want to do, living in sensuality, passions, drunkenness, orgies, drinking parties, and lawless idolatry.

[4] With respect to this they are surprised when you do not join them in the same flood of debauchery, and they malign you;

[5] but they will give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.

[6] For this is why the gospel was preached even to those who are dead, that though judged in the flesh the way people are, they might live in the spirit the way God does.

[7] The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers.

[8] Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins.

[9] Show hospitality to one another without grumbling.

[10] As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace:

[11] whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

L: This is the Word of the Lord

P: Thanks be to God!

10:59a **Sermon**

Suffering Unto Glory

TABLE

11:34a **Communion**

> Servers: Diaconate

> Prayer Ministers: Randy Anderson, Debbie Lauger

11/03
10:30A

11:40a ***The Solid Rock***
V1, C, V2, C, V3, C, V4, C

SENDING

11:44a **Benediction**

11:45a **Postlude**

11:45a
