

WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, January 12, 2020

For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin,
so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.
2 Corinthians 5:21

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

ENTERING INTO WORSHIP

Greeting and Blessing*

Responsive Reading*

Psalm 13 (p. 787)

Hymn of Preparation*

Hymn 53

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation!
All ye who hear, now to his temple draw near,
Join me in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,
Shelters thee under his wings, yea, so gently sustaineth!
Hast thou not seen how thy desires e'er have been
Granted in what he ordaineth?

Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee!
Surely his goodness and mercy here daily attend thee;
Ponder anew what the Almighty will do,
If with his love he befriend thee.

Praise to the Lord, who with marvelous wisdom hath made thee,
Decked thee with health, and with loving hand guided and stayed thee.
How oft in grief hath not he brought thee relief,
Spreading his wings to o'ershade thee!

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before him!
Let the amen sound from his people again;
Gladly fore'er we adore him. Amen.

* Congregation is requested to stand, if able.

Congregational Confession of Sin

Leader: Our Father, we acknowledge and believe that you are holy, holy, holy and that the whole earth is full of your glory. As we examine ourselves in the light of your law, we are reminded of how we fall short of your glory.

All: We have offended you with our thoughts, words, and deeds. Rather than seeking to conform ourselves to your law, we have all too eagerly conformed to the pattern of this passing evil age.

Leader: Forgive us, we pray, and grant us repentant hearts. Cause us to keep in step with the Holy Spirit and to live according to your revealed will. Help us to do good to everyone, especially to those who are of the household of faith.

All: Give us a growing desire to joyfully serve you and one another as we follow after 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

Hebrews 10:11-14

And every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet. For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.

ADORATION AND PRAISE

First Reading*

Psalm 110

Congregational Response (Hymn of the Month)

Hymn 103

Holy God, We Praise Your Name

Holy God, we praise your name;
Lord of all, we bow before you;
All on earth your scepter claim,
All in heav'n above adore you.
Infinite your vast domain,
Everlasting is your reign.

Hark, the loud celestial hymn
Angel choirs above are raising;
Cherubim and seraphim
In unceasing chorus praising,
Fill the heav'ns with sweet accord:
"Holy, holy, holy Lord."

Lo! the apostolic train
Join your sacred name to hallow;
Prophets swell the glad refrain,
And the white-robed martyrs follow;
And from morn to set of sun,
Through the church the song goes on.

Holy Father, Holy Son,
Holy Spirit, Three we name you;
While in essence only One,
Undivided God we claim you,
And adoring bend the knee,
While we sing this mystery. Amen.

Confession of Faith

The Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 104. *For what do we pray in the fourth petition?*

A. In the fourth petition, which is, "Give us this day our daily bread," we pray that, of God's free gift, we may receive a sufficient portion of the good things of this life, and enjoy his blessing with them.

Q. 105. *For what do we pray in the fifth petition?*

A. In the fifth petition, which is, "And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors," we pray that God, for Christ's sake, would freely pardon all our sins; which we are more encouraged to ask because by his grace we are enabled from the heart to forgive others.

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*

Hebrews 1

Congregational Response (Psalm of the Month [based on Psalm 136])

Hymn 3

Give to Our God Immortal Praise

Give to our God immortal praise;
Mercy and truth are all his ways:
Wonders of grace to God belong;
Repeat his mercies in your song.

Give to the Lord of lords renown;
The King of kings with glory crown:
His mercies ever shall endure,
When lords and kings are known no more.

He built the earth, he spread the sky,
And fixed the starry lights on high:
Wonders of grace to God belong;
Repeat his mercies in your song.

He fills the sun with morning light;
He bids the moon direct the night:
His mercies ever shall endure,
When suns and moons shall shine no more.

He sent his Son with pow'r to save
From guilt, and darkness, and the grave:
Wonders of grace to God belong;
Repeat his mercies in your song.

Through this vain world he guides our feet,
And leads us to his heav'nly seat:
His mercies ever shall endure,
When this vain world shall be no more. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer (based on Romans 8:26-27)

Sermon

“Whoever Believes in the Son Has Eternal Life”
John 3:31-36

Pastor Ben Muresan

GOD'S BLESSING ON HIS PEOPLE

Hymn of Thanksgiving*

Hymn 461

Not What My Hands Have Done

Not what my hands have done can save my guilty soul;
Not what my toiling flesh has borne can make my spirit whole.
Not what I feel or do can give me peace with God;
Not all my prayers and sighs and tears can bear my awful load.

Thy work alone, O Christ, can ease this weight of sin;
Thy blood alone, O Lamb of God, can give me peace within.
Thy love to me, O God, not mine, O Lord to thee,
Can rid me of this dark unrest, and set my spirit free.

Thy grace alone, O God, to me can pardon speak;
Thy pow'r alone, O Son of God, can this sore bondage break.
No other work, save thine, no other blood will do;
No strength, save that which is divine, can bear me safely through.

I bless the Christ of God; I rest on love divine;
And with unfalt'ring lip and heart I call this Savior mine.
His cross dispels each doubt; I bury in his tomb
Each thought of unbelief and fear, each ling'ring shade of gloom.

I praise the God of grace; I trust his truth and might;
He calls me his, I call him mine, my God, my joy, my light.
'Tis he who saveth me, and freely pardon gives;
I love because he loveth me, I live because he lives. Amen.

LORD'S DAY DEVOTION AND QUESTIONS

The Apostle John states the purpose of his writing in John 20:30-31, "Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name." While John explicitly states his purpose at the end of his gospel, he nonetheless weaves this theme throughout, such as in our sermon text. John, as he is writing under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, wants us to embrace Christ by a living and abiding faith so that we may have eternal life (John 3:36). Charles Spurgeon writes about this verse:

The whole gospel lies in this nutshell. Come, thou guilty one, just as thou art, and rest thyself upon the finished work of the Savior, and take him to be thine for ever. Trust Jesus now. In your present position it may be done. God's Holy Spirit blessing your mind, you may at this moment say, "Lord, I believe, help thou mine unbelief."

1. For review, read John 3:22-30. What were John the Baptist's disciples concerned about? How did John respond to their concerns, and what does his response teach you about the Christian life?
2. Read John 3:31; Ephesians 1:20-23; and review our second reading from Hebrews 1. What do these passages reveal about Jesus' divinity and glory?
3. Read John 3:32-34. How do these verses connect with John 1:1-5, 14-18 and John 14:6-14? What do you learn about the Trinity from these passages?
4. What was the relationship between Jesus and the Holy Spirit according to John 3:34?
5. What is the relationship between "belief" and "obedience" according to John 3:36?
6. In preparation for our next study through this gospel, read John 4:1-45. Why do you think it's important that this woman is identified as a Samaritan? What did she learn about Jesus during the course of their conversation?