

WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, March 5, 2023

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."

Romans 1:16-17

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

ENTERING INTO WORSHIP

Greeting and Blessing*

Responsive Reading*

Psalm 69:16-36

¹⁶ Answer me, O LORD, for your steadfast love is good; according to your abundant mercy, turn to me.

¹⁷ **Hide not your face from your servant, for I am in distress; make haste to answer me.**

¹⁸ Draw near to my soul, redeem me; ransom me because of my enemies!

¹⁹ **You know my reproach, and my shame and my dishonor; my foes are all known to you.**

²⁰ Reproaches have broken my heart, so that I am in despair.

I looked for pity, but there was none, and for comforters, but I found none.

²¹ They gave me poison for food, and for my thirst they gave me sour wine to drink.

²² **Let their own table before them become a snare; and when they are at peace, let it become a trap.**

²³ Let their eyes be darkened, so that they cannot see, and make their loins tremble continually.

²⁴ **Pour out your indignation upon them, and let your burning anger overtake them.**

²⁵ May their camp be a desolation; let no one dwell in their tents.

²⁶ **For they persecute him whom you have struck down, and they recount the pain of those you have wounded.**

²⁷ Add to them punishment upon punishment; may they have no acquittal from you.

²⁸ **Let them be blotted out of the book of the living; let them not be enrolled among the righteous.**

²⁹ But I am afflicted and in pain; let your salvation, O God, set me on high!

³⁰ **I will praise the name of God with a song; I will magnify him with thanksgiving.**

³¹ This will please the LORD more than an ox or a bull with horns and hoofs.

³² **When the humble see it they will be glad; you who seek God, let your hearts revive.**

³³ For the LORD hears the needy and does not despise his own people who are prisoners.

³⁴ **Let heaven and earth praise him, the seas and everything that moves in them.**

³⁵ For God will save Zion and build up the cities of Judah, and people shall dwell there and possess it;

³⁶ **the offspring of his servants shall inherit it, and those who love his name shall dwell in it.**

* *Congregation is requested to stand, if able.*

The pastor will read the plain text; the congregation will read the bold text.

Come, Thou Almighty King

Come, thou Almighty King, help us thy name to sing, help us to praise.
Father, all glorious, o'er all victorious, come and reign over us, Ancient of Days.

Come, thou Incarnate Word, gird on thy mighty sword, our prayer attend.
Come, and thy people bless, and give thy Word success; Spirit of holiness, on us descend.

Come, Holy Comforter, thy sacred witness bear in this glad hour.
Thou who almighty art, now rule in every heart, and ne'er from us depart, Spirit of pow'r.

To the great One in Three eternal praises be, hence evermore.
His sovereign majesty may we in glory see, and to eternity love and adore. Amen.

Congregational Confession of Sin

Leader: Our strong and faithful God, we come before you acknowledging that you are light and that in you there is no darkness at all.

All: We confess that we have walked in darkness rather than living according to what you have revealed to us in your Word. We have sinned against you and our neighbors, and we are not worthy to be called your children.

Leader: We earnestly repent and are sincerely sorry for our sins. Have mercy on us, most merciful Father, for the sake of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Enable us to receive and rest in the truth that we have been justified by faith and have peace with you through our Lord Jesus Christ.

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, forever. Amen.

Private Confession of Our Sins

Assurance of Forgiveness

Acts 10:42-43

And he commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead. To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.

ADORATION AND PRAISE

First Reading*

Deuteronomy 5:6-21; Matthew 22:34-40

Congregational Response (Hymn of the Month)

Hymn 242

Not All the Blood of Beasts

Not all the blood of beasts on Jewish altars slain,
Could give the guilty conscience peace, or wash away the stain:

But Christ, the heav'nly Lamb, takes all our sins away,
A sacrifice of nobler name and richer blood than they.

My faith would lay her hand on that dear head of thine,
While like a penitent I stand, and there confess my sin.

My soul looks back to see the burdens thou didst bear,
When hanging on the cursed tree, and knows her guilt was there.

Believing, we rejoice to see the curse remove;
We bless the Lamb with cheerful voice, and sing his bleeding love. Amen.

Confession of Faith

The Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 42. *What is the sum of the Ten Commandments?*

A. The sum of the Ten Commandments is: to love the Lord our God with all our heart, with all our soul, with all our strength, and with all our mind; and our neighbor as ourselves.

Q. 43. *What is the preface to the Ten Commandments?*

A. The preface to the Ten Commandments is in these words: “I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.”

Q. 44. *What does the preface to the Ten Commandments teach us?*

A. The preface to the Ten Commandments teaches us that because God is the Lord and our God and Redeemer, therefore we are bound to keep all his commandments.

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 17:20 - 18:14

Congregational Response (Psalm of the Month [Psalm 69:16, 17, 29, 30, 32-36])

Hymn 607

Thy Loving-Kindness, Lord, Is Good and Free

Thy lovingkindness, Lord, is good and free:
In tender mercy turn thou unto me;
Hide not thy face from me in my distress;
In mercy hear my pray'r, thy servant bless.

Needy and sorrowful, to thee I cry;
Let thy salvation set my soul on high:
Then I will sing and praise thy holy name;
My thankful song thy mercy shall proclaim.

With joy the meek shall see my soul restored;
Your heart shall live, ye saints that seek the Lord;
He helps the needy and regards their cries;
Those in distress the Lord will not despise.

Let heav'n above his grace and glory tell;
Let earth and sea and all that in them dwell:
Salvation to his people God will give,
And they that love his name with him shall live. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer

Sermon

Rudy Manrique

“Who Really Is Righteous Before God?”
Luke 18:9-14

GOD’S BLESSING ON HIS PEOPLE

Hymn of Thanksgiving*

Hymn 521

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus’ blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus’ name.
*On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand,
All other ground is sinking sand.*

When darkness veils his lovely face, I rest on his unchanging grace;
In every high and stormy gale, my anchor holds within the veil.
*On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand,
All other ground is sinking sand.*

His oath, his covenant, his blood support me in the whelming flood;
When all around my soul gives way, he then is all my hope and stay.
*On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand,
All other ground is sinking sand.*

When he shall come with trumpet sound, O may I then in him be found;
Dressed in his righteousness alone, faultless to stand before the throne.
*On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand,
All other ground is sinking sand. 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.

SERMON NOTES

“Who Really Is Righteous Before God?”
Luke 18:9-14

1. The Pride of the Righteous (vv. 9-12)
2. The Humility of the Wicked (v. 13)
3. Jesus’ Royal Declaration (v. 14)

HOME WORSHIP GUIDE

The daily reading schedule follows the One Year Bible Reading Plan.

Monday, March 6

Scripture: Numbers 6:1 - 7:89; Mark 12:38 - 13:13; Psalm 49:1-20; Proverbs 10:27-28

Catechism: The Westminster Confession of Faith: Chapter 17

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

Tuesday, March 7

Scripture: Numbers 8:1 - 9:23; Mark 13:14-37; Psalm 50:1-23; Proverbs 10:29-30

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 16

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

Wednesday, March 8

Scripture: Numbers 10:1 - 11:23; Mark 14:1-21; Psalm 51:1-19; Proverbs 10:31-32

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 17

Pray for: Our covenant children and Christian military chaplains.

The churches in Luxembourg and persecuted Christians.

Thursday, March 9

Scripture: Numbers 11:24 - 13:33; Mark 14:22-52; Psalm 52:1-9; Proverbs 11:1-3

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 18

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

Friday, March 10

Scripture: Numbers 14:1 - 15:16; Mark 14:53-72; Psalm 53:1-6; Proverbs 11:4

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 19

Pray for: Our members who have ongoing health care needs.

Saturday, March 11

Scripture: Numbers 15:17 - 16:40; Mark 15:1-47; Psalm 54:1-7; Proverbs 11:5-6

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 20

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

Sunday, March 12

Scripture: Numbers 16:41 - 18:32; Mark 16:1-20; Psalm 55:1-23; Proverbs 11:7

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 21

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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LORD'S DAY DEVOTION AND QUESTIONS

In the Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector (Luke 18:9-14), we learn who really is righteous before God. More specifically, we learn from this parable who Jesus will welcome into his Kingdom when he returns on the last day. By all appearances, it might seem that God will accept only those who are righteous in and of themselves. After all, they've earned it, right? Wrong! It's the exact opposite. Only those who trust in the finished work of Jesus Christ, and not their works, are counted righteous before him. These are the people whom God will welcome into his Kingdom. Isn't justification by faith alone such a precious doctrine?!

As you ponder the depths of God's grace in forgiving all your sins through the finished work of Christ, reflect on these words written by John Calvin. Commenting on the tax collector's prayer, Calvin writes:

Though he is a sinner, he trusts in a free pardon and hopes that God will be gracious to him. In a word, in order to obtain favor, he owns that he does not deserve it. And, certainly, since it is the forgiveness of sins that alone reconciles God to us, we must begin with this, if we desire that God would accept our prayers. He who acknowledges that he is guilty and convicted, and then proceeds to implore pardon, disavows all confidence in works; and Christ's object was to show that God will not be gracious to any but those who betake themselves with trembling to his mercy alone.

1. Read Luke 17:20-37. According to the sermon, what is the context in which Jesus told the Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector? Why is this important, and how has it changed your perception of this parable? Do believers have to fear the final judgment? If not, why not?
2. Read the Pharisee's prayer in verses 11-12. What was wrong with his prayer, and why was it rejected by God? Do you sometimes find yourself praying like the Pharisee of Jesus' parable? If so, why? How are your prayers shaped by the future coming of God's Kingdom?
3. For review, count how often the Pharisee refers to himself in the first person. Would you say you are a righteous person? Is it ever wrong to call yourself a righteous person? Why or why not? Like the Pharisee in the parable had done, what are the dangers of comparing yourself to others?
4. Read the tax collector's prayer in verse 13. Why did Jesus commend the tax collector's prayer? While we know how important prayer is for the Christian life, we must also remember that God cares more about the state of our hearts when we pray. When did you last simply say to God, "Have mercy on me, a sinner"?
5. According to the sermon, what is the relationship between the tax collector saying, "God, be merciful to me, a sinner;" and Jesus pronouncing that he went home justified? How could Jesus say that about the tax collector knowing how sinful he was? In light of these questions, read the Westminster Confession of Faith, chapter 11.1.