

WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, January 24, 2021

“And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he said to them, ‘If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel’s will save it.’”

Mark 8:34-35

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

ENTERING INTO WORSHIP

Greeting and Blessing*

Responsive Reading*

Psalm 62 (p. 806 in the *Trinity Hymnal*)

My soul finds rest in God alone; my salvation comes from him.

He alone is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I will never be shaken.

How long will you assault a man?

Would all of you throw him down—this leaning wall, this tottering fence?

They fully intend to topple him from his lofty place; they take delight in lies.

With their mouths they bless, but in their hearts they curse.

Find rest, O my soul, in God alone; my hope comes from him.

He alone is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I will not be shaken.

My salvation and my honor depend on God; he is my mighty rock, my refuge.

Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your hearts to him, for God is our refuge.

Lowborn men are but a breath, the highborn are but a lie;

if weighed on a balance, they are nothing; together they are only a breath.

Do not trust in extortion or take pride in stolen goods;

though your riches increase, do not set your heart on them.

One thing God has spoken, two things have I heard: that you, O God, are strong, and that you, O Lord, are loving.

Surely you will reward each person according to what he has done.

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

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.

Congregational Confession of Sin

Leader: Most holy and merciful Father, we confess that we have broken your commandments and sinned against you.

All: We confess that we have preferred the ways of this world to your ways. We have rebelled against your wisdom and sought after foolishness. We have rejected your fatherly commands and have done what is right in our own eyes.

Leader: Forgive us, we pray. 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: 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

Romans 5:1-2

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

ADORATION AND PRAISE

First Reading*

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Congregational Response

Hymn 57

Hallelujah, Praise Jehovah, O My Soul

Hallelujah, praise Jehovah,
O my soul, Jehovah praise;
I will sing the glorious praises
Of my God through all my days.
Put no confidence in princes,
Nor for help on man depend;
He shall die, to dust returning,
And his purposes shall end.

Happy is the man that chooses
Israel's God to be his aid;
He is blessed whose hope of blessing
On the Lord his God is stayed.
Heav'n and earth the Lord created,
Seas and all that they contain;
He delivers from oppression,
Righteousness he will maintain.

Food he daily gives the hungry,
Sets the mourning pris'ner free,
Raises those bowed down with anguish,
Makes the sightless eyes to see.
Well Jehovah loves the righteous,
And the stranger he befriends,
Helps the fatherless and widow,
Judgment on the wicked sends.

Hallelujah, praise Jehovah,
O my soul, Jehovah praise;
I will sing the glorious praises
Of my God through all my days.
Over all God reigns forever,
Through all ages he is King;
Unto him, your God, O Zion,
Joyful hallelujahs sing. Amen.

Confession of Faith

The Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 10. *How did God create man?*

A. God created man male and female, after his own image, in knowledge, righteousness, and holiness, with dominion over the creatures.

Q. 11. *What are God's works of providence?*

A. God's works of providence are, his most holy, wise, and powerful preserving and governing all his creatures, and all their actions.

Q. 12. *What special act of providence did God exercise towards man in the estate in which he was created?*

A. When God created man, he entered into a covenant of life with him, upon condition of perfect obedience; forbidding him to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, on the pain of death.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Stewardship

Gloria Patri*

Hymn 735

Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son,
and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, 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 5:7-14

Congregational Response (Psalm of the Month)

Hymn 684

My Times Are in Thy Hand

My times are in thy hand;
My God, I wish them there;
My life, my friends, my soul, I leave
Entirely to thy care.

My times are in thy hand,
Whatever they may be;
Pleasing or painful, dark or bright,
As best may seem to thee.

My times are in thy hand;
Why should I doubt or fear?
My Father's hand will never cause
His child a needless tear.

My times are in thy hand,
Jesus the Crucified;
Those hands my cruel sins had pierced
Are now my guard and guide. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer

Sermon

Pastor Clayton Willis

“Faith and Love”
1 Thessalonians 3:6-10

GOD’S BLESSING ON HIS PEOPLE

Hymn of Thanksgiving*

Hymn 359

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

Blest be the tie that binds
Our hearts in Christian love:
The fellowship of kindred minds
Is like to that above.

Before our Father’s throne
We pour our ardent prayers;
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,
Our comforts and our cares.

We share our mutual woes,
Our mutual burdens bear,
And often for each other flows
The sympathizing tear.

When we asunder part,
It gives us inward pain;
But we shall still be joined in heart,
And hope to meet again.

This glorious hope revives
Our courage by the way,
While each in expectation lives,
And longs to see the day.

From sorrow, toil and pain,
And sin, we shall be free;
And perfect love and friendship reign
Through all eternity. Amen.

Benediction*

Congregational Benediction Response*

(Sung to STUTTGART [Hymn 5])

May the grace of Christ our Savior
and the Father's boundless love,
with the Holy Spirit's favor,
rest upon us from above.

Thus may we abide in union
with each other and the Lord,
and possess, in sweet communion,
joys which earth cannot afford. Amen.

LORD'S DAY DEVOTION AND QUESTIONS

Though Paul was forced to leave the Thessalonian believers, his thoughts, concerns, and prayers were always with them. He knew that they were suffering terrible afflictions for their faith, and he was afraid that these afflictions would cause them to abandon Christ. We can hear Paul's joy in hearing that these beloved brothers and sisters in Christ had remained steadfast in their faith. But even with this joyful relief, Paul knew that they needed to continue to grow and mature in their faith. Consider what G.K. Beale says about the ongoing work of the gospel in the life of believers in his commentary on 1 Thessalonians:

These verses report that Paul's anxious concern about the viability of the readers' faith (3:1–5) was joyously alleviated by Timothy's report. Consequently, Paul's thought moves on to focus on his response to that good report. Paul uses the [phrase 'good news'] to characterize Timothy's account, a word commonly rendered "announce the gospel" elsewhere in the New Testament. The word has the same meaning in the other twenty-one times Paul uses it.

It may sound strange to describe the continuing faith of Christians by a term that normally refers to the announcement of the gospel, but the Christian "gospel" sense of the verb is appropriate here because the gospel has an effect throughout Christians' lives, not merely when they initially accept it. This effect includes, at least, an increasingly deeper faith and robust Christian lifestyle that has the potential to influence unbelievers favorably on behalf of the gospel.

1. Read 1 Thessalonians 3:10. If the Thessalonian believers were saved, how could Paul say that there was something lacking in their faith? Could the same be said for present-day believers who have the completed Scriptures?
2. Compare 1 Corinthians 3:1-2 and Hebrews 5:11-14. What do these passages teach us about growing in our faith?
3. In verse 7, Paul says that the Thessalonians' faith brought comfort to him in the midst of his own affliction. How does hearing about the faith of others under affliction bring us comfort?
4. How does your faith and love encourage other believers? How can knowing this encourage you to live faithfully?
5. What are some ways you see the ongoing effect of the gospel in your 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, January 25

Scripture: Genesis 50:1 - Exodus 2:10; Matthew 16:13 - 17:9; Ps. 21:1-13; Prov. 5:1-6

Catechism: The Westminster Confession of Faith: Chapter 6

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

Tuesday, January 26

Scripture: Exodus 2:11 - 3:22; Matthew 17:10-27; Psalm 22:1-18; Proverbs 5:7-14

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 105

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

Wednesday, January 27

Scripture: Exodus 4:1 - 5:21; Matthew 18:1-20; Psalm 22:19-31; Proverbs 5:15-21

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 106

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

Thursday, January 28

Scripture: Exodus 5:22 - 7:25; Matthew 18:21 - 19:12; Psalm 23:1-6; Proverbs 5:22-23

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 107

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

Friday, January 29

Scripture: Exodus 8:1 - 9:35; Matthew 19:13-30; Psalm 24:1-10; Proverbs 6:1-5

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 1

Pray for: Our members who have ongoing health needs.

Saturday, January 30

Scripture: Exodus 10:1 - 12:13; Matthew 20:1-28; Psalm 25:1-15; Proverbs 6:6-11

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 2

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

Sunday, January 31

Scripture: Exodus 12:14 - 13:16; Matthew 20:29 - 21:22; Ps. 25:16-22; Prov. 6:12-15

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 3

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.*

Ray & Michele Call | Presbyterian Church in Belize

rcall@mtwsa.org; mcall@mtwsa.org

Karl & Sun Dahlfred | OMF International in Thailand

dahlfred@gmail.com

Dave & Darlene Eby | Africa Reformation Theol. Seminary Uganda

ebyuganda@gmail.com

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

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You are all one in Christ Jesus. Gal. 3:28

Capo 3: ♮ (D) (A⁷) (D) ♮ (G) (D) (A)

1. Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Chris - tian love:
2. Be - fore the Fa - ther's throne we pour our ar - dent prayers;
3. We share our mu - tual woes, our mu - tual bur - dens bear,
4. When we a - sun - der part, it gives us in - ward pain;

(A⁷) (D) (A) (D) ♮ (G) (D) (G) (D/A) (A⁷) (D) ♮

the fel - low - ship of kin - dred minds is like to that a - bove.
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our com - forts and our cares.
and of - ten for each oth - er flows the sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.
but we shall still be joined in heart, and hope to meet a - gain.

5. This glorious hope revives
our courage by the way,
while each in expectation lives,
and longs to see the day.

6. From sorrow, toil and pain,
and sin, we shall be free;
and perfect love and friendship reign
through all eternity.

John Fawcett, 1782

DENNIS S.M.
Hans G. Nägeli, 1773-1836
Arr. by Lowell Mason, 1845