

WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, February 14, 2021

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

1 Peter 2:9

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

ENTERING INTO WORSHIP

Greeting and Blessing*

Responsive Reading*

Psalm 65 (p. 807 in the *Trinity Hymnal*)

Praise awaits you, O God, in Zion;

to you our vows will be fulfilled.

O you who hear prayer, to you all men will come.

When we were overwhelmed by sins, you forgave our transgressions.

Blessed are those you choose and bring near to live in your courts!

We are filled with the good things of your house, of your holy temple.

You answer us with awesome deeds of righteousness, O God our Savior, the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas,

who formed the mountains by your power, having armed yourself with strength,

who stilled the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves, and the turmoil of the nations.

Those living far away fear your wonders; where morning dawns and evening fades you call forth songs of joy.

You care for the land and water it; you enrich it abundantly.

The streams of God are filled with water to provide the people with grain, for so you have ordained it.

You drench its furrows and level its ridges; you soften it with showers and bless its crops.

You crown the year with your bounty, and your carts overflow with abundance.

The grasslands of the desert overflow; the hills are clothed with gladness.

The meadows are covered with flocks and the valleys are mantled with grain; they shout for joy and sing.

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

From All That Dwell Below the Skies

From all that dwell below the skies let the Creator's praise arise;
Let the Redeemer's name be sung through every land, by every tongue.

In every land begin the song; to every land the strains belong.
In cheerful sound all voices raise and fill the world with joyful praise.

Eternal are your mercies, Lord; eternal truth attends your Word.
Your praise shall sound from shore to shore till suns shall rise and set no more. Amen.

Congregational Confession of Sin

Leader: Heavenly Father, we confess that we have erred and strayed from your ways like lost sheep, each of us going our own way and seeking our own path.

All: We confess that we have sinned against you and others. We depended on our own strength and stumbled. We leaned on our own understanding and made foolish decisions. We sought the things of this world and failed to seek first your Kingdom and your righteousness.

Leader: Forgive us, O Lord, and cause us to walk in your ways. Remove from us every worldly desire, every anxious thought, and every bitter resentment. Work in us by your Holy Spirit so that we will always seek to do what is pleasing in your sight.

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

Psalm 103:8-12

The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. He will not always chide, nor will he keep his anger forever. 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.

ADORATION AND PRAISE

First Reading*

Romans 8:18-30

Congregational Response

Hymn 524

Thy Works, Not Mine, O Christ

Thy works, not mine, O Christ,
Speak gladness to this heart;
They tell me all is done;
They bid my fear depart.
*To whom, save thee;
Who canst alone
For sin atone,
Lord, shall I flee?*

Thy pains, not mine, O Christ,
Upon the shameful tree,
Have paid the law's full price
And purchased peace for me.
*To whom, save thee;
Who canst alone
For sin atone,
Lord, shall I flee?*

Thy cross, not mine, O Christ,
Has borne the awful load
Of sins that none in heav'n
Or earth could bear but God.
*To whom, save thee;
Who canst alone
For sin atone,
Lord, shall I flee?*

Thy righteousness, O Christ,
Alone can cover me:
No righteousness avails
Save that which is of thee.
*To whom, save thee;
Who canst alone
For sin atone,
Lord, shall I flee? Amen.*

Confession of Faith

The Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 16. *Did all mankind fall in Adam's first transgression?*

A. The covenant being made with Adam, not only for himself, but for his descendants, all mankind, descending from him by ordinary generation, sinned in him, and fell with him, in his first transgression.

Q. 17. *Into what estate did the Fall bring mankind?*

A. The Fall brought mankind into an estate of sin and misery.

Q. 18. *What is the sinfulness of that estate into which man fell?*

A. The sinfulness of that estate into which man fell consists of: the guilt of Adam's first sin, the lack of original righteousness, and the corruption of his whole nature, which is commonly called original sin, together with all actual transgressions that proceed from it.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Stewardship

Gloria Patri*

Hymn 734

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 2

Congregational Response (Psalm of the Month)

Hymn 667

God Is My Strong Salvation

God is my strong salvation;
What foe have I to fear?
In darkness and temptation
My light, my help is near.

Though hosts encamp around me,
Firm to the fight I stand;
What terror can confound me,
With God at my right hand?

Place on the Lord reliance,
My soul, with courage wait;
His truth be your affiance,
When faint and desolate.

His might your heart shall strengthen,
His love your joy increase;
Mercy your days shall lengthen;
The Lord will give you peace. Amen.

Installation of Women's Ministry Leaders

Pastoral Prayer

Sermon

Pastor Clayton Willis

“Blameless In Holiness”
1 Thessalonians 3:12-13

GOD'S BLESSING ON HIS PEOPLE

Hymn of Thanksgiving*

Hymn 695

By Grace I Am an Heir of Heaven

By grace I am an heir of heaven:
Why doubt this, O my trembling heart?
If what the Scriptures promise clearly
Is true and firm in ev'ry part,
This also must be truth divine:
By grace a crown of life is mine.

By grace alone shall I inherit
That blissful home beyond the skies.
Works count for naught, the Lord incarnate
Has won for me the heav'nly prize.
Salvation by his death he wrought,
His grace alone my pardon bought.

By grace! These precious words remember
When sorely by your sins oppressed,
When Satan comes to vex your spirit,
When troubled conscience sighs for rest;
What reason cannot comprehend,
God does to you by grace extend.

By grace! Be this in death my comfort;
Despite my fears, 'tis well with me.
I know my sin in all its greatness,
But also him who sets me free.
My heart to naught but joy gives place
Since I am saved by grace, by grace. Amen.

Benediction*

Congregational Benediction Response*

(Hymn 115, verse 5)

Let all things their Creator bless,
and worship him in humbleness,
O praise him, alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father,
praise the Son,
and praise the Spirit,
three in One,
O praise him, O praise him,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Amen.

SERMON NOTES

“Blameless In Holiness”
1 Thessalonians 3:12-13

- 1. God saves and sanctifies us.
- 2. God is bringing us to glorification.
- 3. We will be blameless in holiness at the return of Jesus.

LORD'S DAY DEVOTION AND QUESTIONS

In today's passage, the Apostle Paul prays that God would continue to sanctify the Thessalonian believers. This sanctification is evidenced in an abundance of love for those within the church, as well as those outside the church. Paul's use of the term "love" is different from how it is often used today. Too often, love is equated with "warm-fuzzies"—an intense happy feeling toward someone or something. This is not the biblical conception of love, and it is not what Paul has in mind when he wrote verse 13.

The type of love that Paul is praying to abound in the life of the Thessalonian believers is the fruit of sanctification, evidence of being conformed to the image of Christ. It is love that compelled God the Father to send his Son to us while we were still sinners. That same love compelled Jesus to lay down his life for the elect, and is seen in the thoughts and actions of those who claim Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

In 1 Thessalonians 3:12-13, Paul is connecting the presence of godly love to the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit and the sure completion of our sanctification at the return of Jesus, when we will stand before the Lord with hearts blameless in holiness, fully and completely sanctified.

1. Read Romans 13:8-10. Can the kind of love described in these verses be the purely emotional, "warm-fuzzy" feeling that is often called "love"? Why or why not?
2. Read John 3:16 and then Romans 5:6-8. How did God show his love for us? What does this teach us about love? Is love a feeling, or is love seen and expressed in action? If so, what kind of actions are driven by love?
3. Jesus used his love for the disciples as an example of real love. Look up John 13:1, 34-35. How would you describe the love of Jesus for his disciples?
4. Paul's desire for the Thessalonian believers was for their salvation and sanctification. In 1 Thessalonians 3:12-13, Paul uses love as a kind of shorthand to describe the sanctification that the Holy Spirit brings about in every believer's life. How is this understanding of love seen in Paul's description of sanctification in Romans 5:1-5?
5. Every Christian struggles against sin and temptation day after day and feels the ways they fail to love others as they ought. Read 1 Thessalonians 3:12-13 again. Who is it that causes us to increase in love, and who is it that will establish our hearts blameless in holiness before God? How does this give us hope and encouragement?

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, February 15

Scripture: Exodus 39:1 - 40:38; Mark 1:1-28; Psalm 35:1-16; Proverbs 9:11-12

Catechism: The Westminster Confession of Faith: Chapter 9

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

Tuesday, February 16

Scripture: Leviticus 1:1 - 3:17; Mark 1:29 - 2:12; Psalm 35:17-28; Proverbs 9:13-18

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 16

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

Wednesday, February 17

Scripture: Leviticus 4:1 - 5:19; Mark 2:13 - 3:6; Psalm 36:1-12; Proverbs 10:1-2 Catechism:

The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 17

Pray for: Our covenant children and Christian military chaplains.

The churches in Bahrain and persecuted Christians.

Thursday, February 18

Scripture: Leviticus 6:1 - 7:27; Mark 3:7-30; Psalm 37:1-11; Proverbs 10:3-4

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 18

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

Friday, February 19

Scripture: Leviticus 7:28 - 9:6; Mark 3:31 - 4:25; Psalm 37:12-29; Proverbs 10:5

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 19

Pray for: Our members who have ongoing health needs.

Saturday, February 20

Scripture: Leviticus 9:7 - 10:20; Mark 4:26 - 5:20; Psalm 37:30-40; Proverbs 10:6-7

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 20

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

Sunday, February 21

Scripture: Leviticus 11:1 - 12:8; Mark 5:21-43; Psalm 38:1-22; Proverbs 10:8-9

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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