

WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, June 21, 2020

And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself."

Acts 2:38-39

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

ENTERING INTO WORSHIP

Greeting and Blessing

Responsive Reading

Psalm 31:15-24 (p. 795 in the *Trinity Hymnal*)

TO THE CHOIRMASTER. A PSALM OF DAVID.

My times are in your hands; deliver me from my enemies and from those who pursue me.

Let your face shine on your servant; save me in your unfailing love.

Let me not be put to shame, O LORD, for I have cried out to you; but let the wicked be put to shame and lie silent in the grave.

Let their lying lips be silenced, for with pride and contempt they speak arrogantly against the righteous.

How great is your goodness, which you have stored up for those who fear you,

which you bestow in the sight of men on those who take refuge in you.

In the shelter of your presence you hide them from the intrigues of men;

in your dwelling you keep them safe from accusing tongues.

Praise be to the LORD, for he showed his wonderful love to me when I was in a besieged city.

In my alarm I said, "I am cut off from your sight!"

Yet you heard my cry for mercy when I called to you for help.

Love the LORD, all his saints!

The LORD preserves the faithful, but the proud he pays back in full.

Be strong and take heart, all you who hope in the LORD.

Hymn of Preparation

Hymn 38

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
Almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unchanging and silent as light,
Nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;
Thy justice like mountains high soaring above
Thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.

Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,
Thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;
All praise we would render; O help us to see
'Tis only the splendor of light hideth thee! Amen.

Congregational Confession of Sin

Leader: Have mercy on us, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out our transgressions. Wash away all our iniquity and cleanse us from our sins.

All: For we know our transgressions, and our sins are always before us. Against you, you only, have we sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are right in your verdict and justified when you judge.

Leader: Surely we were sinful at birth, sinful from the time we were conceived. Cleanse us, and we will be clean; wash us, and we will be whiter than snow. Create in us clean hearts, O God, and grant us steadfast obedience.

All: Restore to us the joy of your salvation and grant to each of us a willing spirit, to sustain us. Then we will teach transgressors your ways, so that sinners will turn back to you. You are God our Savior, and we will sing of your righteousness. In Jesus' Name we pray. Amen.

Private Confession of Our Sins

Assurance of Forgiveness

Colossians 1:17-20

And Christ is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

ADORATION AND PRAISE

First Reading

John 9:1-23

Congregational Response (Hymn of the Month)

Hymn 355

We Are God's People

We are God's people, the chosen of the Lord,
Born of his Spirit, established by his Word;
Our cornerstone is Christ alone, and strong in him we stand:
O let us live transparently
And walk heart to heart and hand in hand.

We are God's loved ones, the Bride of Christ our Lord,
For we have known it, the love of God outpoured;
Now let us learn how to return the gift of love once giv'n:
O let us share each joy and care,
And live with a zeal that pleases heav'n.

We are the Body of which the Lord is Head,
Called to obey him, now risen from the dead;
He wills us be a family, diverse yet truly one:
O let us give our gifts to God,
And so shall his work on earth be done.

We are a temple, the Spirit's dwelling place,
Formed in great weakness, a cup to hold God's grace;
We die alone, for on its own each ember loses fire:
Yet joined in one the flame burns on
To give warmth and light, and to inspire. 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

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

John 9:24-41

Congregational Response (Psalm of the Month [Psalm 9:1-2, 7-11])

Hymn 48

O Lord Most High, with All My Heart

O Lord Most High, with all my heart your wondrous works I will proclaim;
I will be glad and give you thanks and sing the praises of your name.

The Lord, the everlasting King, is seated on his judgment throne;
The righteous Judge of all the world will make his perfect justice known.

Jehovah will a refuge prove, a refuge strong for all oppressed,
A safe retreat, where weary souls in troubled times may surely rest.

All they, O Lord, that know your Name their confidence in you will place,
For you have ne'er forsaken them who earnestly have sought your face.

Sing praises to the Lord Most High, to him who does in Zion dwell;
Declare his mighty deeds abroad, his deeds among the nations tell. Amen.

Reception of New Members

Sacrament of Baptism

Loving Shepherd of Thy Sheep

Loving Shepherd of thy sheep,
All thy lambs in safety keep;
Nothing can thy power withstand;
None can pluck them from thy hand.

May they praise thee every day,
Gladly all thy will obey,
Like thy blessed ones above,
Happy in thy precious love.

Loving Shepherd, ever near,
Teach thy lambs thy voice to hear;
Suffer not their steps to stray
From the straight and narrow way.

Where thou leadest may they go,
Walking in thy steps below;
Then, before thy Father's throne,
Savior, claim them for thine own. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer (based on Colossians 3:1-4)

Sermon

Pastor Ben Muresan

“The Sixth Sign: Healing the Blind”
John 9

John 20:30-31
Matthew 11:2-6
Isaiah 35:5

1. The blind man's physical condition demonstrates our spiritual condition.
Revelation 3:17
2 Corinthians 4:4, John 9:40-41
Colossians 1:13
2. His conversion reveals the way in which we come to faith in Christ.
John 9:4-7, 11, 17, 30, 33, 38
3. His conversion reveals the challenges that accompany saving faith.
Matthew 10:34-39

GOD'S BLESSING ON HIS PEOPLE

Hymn of Thanksgiving

Hymn 460

Amazing Grace!

Amazing grace!—how sweet the sound—that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!

Thro' many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come;
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me, his Word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be, as long as life endures.

And when this flesh and heart shall fail, and mortal life shall cease,
I shall possess within the veil a life of joy and peace.

When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise than when we've first begun. 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.

LORD'S DAY DEVOTION AND QUESTIONS

During his ministry, the Lord Jesus restored the sight of many blind people. This was a literal fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy of the Messianic Age, the promise that "the eyes of the blind shall be opened" (Isaiah 35:5). While extraordinary in and of themselves, these miracles all pointed to a greater reality. They revealed that Jesus, by his ministry, was bringing not just physical restoration but spiritual restoration to his people. When Jesus spoke to Nicodemus, the Pharisee who confronted Jesus at night in order to interrogate him, Jesus said to Nicodemus, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the Kingdom of God unless he is born again" (John 3:3). Those who do not have true faith are those who are spiritually blind, whose minds have been blinded by the god of this age so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ (2 Corinthians 4:4). To have true faith, then, is not a matter of being better or smarter than others, but it is a result of God's amazing grace that causes the lost to be found and the blind to see.

1. Before you begin thinking through the study questions about the sermon text, consider the baptism you saw today and the importance of improving or applying our baptism throughout our Christian lives. Consider for a moment Westminster Larger Catechism Q. 167 which asks: *How is baptism to be improved by us?* Answer: The needful but much neglected duty of improving our baptism is to be performed by us all our life long, especially in the time of temptation, and when we are present at the administration of it to others; by serious and thankful consideration of the nature of it, and of the ends for which Christ instituted it, the privileges and benefits conferred and sealed thereby, and our solemn vow made therein; by being humbled for our sinful defilement, our falling short of, and walking contrary to, the grace of baptism, and our engagements; by growing up to assurance of pardon of sin, and of all other blessings sealed to us in that sacrament; by drawing strength from the death and resurrection of Christ, into whom we are baptized, for the mortifying of sin, and quickening of grace; and by endeavoring to live by faith, to have our conversation in holiness and righteousness, as those that have therein given up their names to Christ; and to walk in brotherly love, as being baptized by the same Spirit into one body.
2. Read John 9:1-3. What were the disciples assuming by their question? What was wrong with their theology? What did Jesus explain as he corrected them?
3. Read Revelation 3:14-22. What was the spiritual problem of the church in Laodicea that Jesus identified? What did he say was the solution?
4. Read Acts 9:1-22. How does Saul's conversion illustrate sovereign grace?
5. What challenges did the healed man in John 9 face as a result of his faith in Christ? What does Jesus explain about the Christian life in Matthew 10:34-39?
6. In preparation for next week, read John 10:1-21. What does Jesus do that makes him the Good Shepherd?

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, June 22

Scripture: 2 Kings 3:1 - 4:17; Acts 14:8-28; Psalm 140:1-13; Proverbs 17:22
Catechism: The Westminster Confession of Faith: Chapter 8
Pray for: Our federal, state, and local government leaders.

Tuesday, June 23

Scripture: 2 Kings 4:18 - 5:27; Acts 15:1-35; Psalm 141:1-10; Proverbs 17:23
Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 26
Pray for: Our military, police, fire, and medical personnel.

Wednesday, June 24

Scripture: 2 Kings 6:1 - 7:20; Acts 15:36 - 16:15; Psalm 142:1-7; Proverbs 17:24-25
Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 27
Pray for: Our covenant children and Christian military chaplains.
The churches in Turkmenistan and persecuted Christians.

Thursday, June 25

Scripture: 2 Kings 8:1 - 9:13; Acts 16:16-40; Psalm 143:1-12; Proverbs 17:26
Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 28
Pray for: Our Elders, Deacons, Women's Ministry, & the PCA.

Friday, June 26

Scripture: 2 Kings 9:14 - 10:31; Acts 17:1-34; Psalm 144:1-15; Proverbs 17:27-28
Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 29
Pray for: Our members who have ongoing health needs.

Saturday, June 27

Scripture: 2 Kings 10:32 - 12:21; Acts 18:1-22; Psalm 145:1-21; Proverbs 18:1
Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 30
Pray for: The preaching and for our Sunday School teachers.

Sunday, June 28

Scripture: 2 Kings 13:1 - 14:29; Acts 18:23 - 19:12; Psalm 146:1-10; Proverbs 18:2-3
Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 31
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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