

EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, October 31, 2021

Praise the LORD, O my soul;
all my inmost being, praise his holy name.

Psalm 103:1

Prelude

Greeting and Call to Worship*

Psalm 89:1-5

Leader: I will sing of the steadfast love of the LORD, forever; with my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to all generations. For I said, “Steadfast love will be built up forever; in the heavens you will establish your faithfulness.”

All: You have said, “I have made a covenant with my chosen one; I have sworn to David my servant: ‘I will establish your offspring forever, and build your throne for all generations.’” Let the heavens praise your wonders, O LORD, your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones!

Hymn*

Hymn 92

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;
Our helper he amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe;
His craft and pow’r are great; and armed with cruel hate, on earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing;
Were not the right man on our side, the man of God’s own choosing.
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is he,
Lord Sabaoth his name, from age to age the same, and he must win the battle.

And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us,
We will not fear, for God hath willed his truth to triumph through us.
The prince of darkness grim, we tremble not for him;
His rage we can endure, for lo! his doom is sure; one little word shall fell him.

That Word above all earthly pow’rs, no thanks to them, abideth;
The Spirit and the gifts are ours through him who with us sideth.
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also;
The body they may kill: God’s truth abideth still; his kingdom is forever. Amen.

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

Congregational Confession of Sin

Heavenly Father, we humble ourselves before you this evening and confess our many sins. We have not loved you with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. Our sins weigh heavy on our hearts, and we are ashamed of our disobedience. Forgive us, O God, for the sake of your only-begotten Son, the Lord Jesus, who died to free us from both the penalty and power of sin. In his strong Name we pray. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Isaiah 1:18

Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD: though your sins are like scarlet, they will be white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool.

Hymn

Hymn 465

Marvelous Grace of Our Loving Lord

Marvelous grace of our loving Lord, grace that exceeds our sin and our guilt,
Yonder on Calvary's mount outpoured, there where the blood of the Lamb was spilt.

Grace, grace, God's grace, grace that will pardon and cleanse within;

Grace, grace, God's grace, grace that is greater than all our sin.

Sin and despair like the sea waves cold, threaten the soul with infinite loss;
Grace that is greater, yes, grace untold, points to the Refuge, the mighty cross.

Grace, grace, God's grace, grace that will pardon and cleanse within;

Grace, grace, God's grace, grace that is greater than all our sin.

Dark is the stain that we cannot hide, what can avail to wash it away?
Look! there is flowing a crimson tide; whiter than snow you may be today.

Grace, grace, God's grace, grace that will pardon and cleanse within;

Grace, grace, God's grace, grace that is greater than all our sin. Amen.

The Church's One Foundation

The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
She is his new creation by water and the Word:
From heav'n he came and sought her to be his holy bride;
With his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.

Elect from ev'ry nation, yet one o'er all the earth,
Her charter of salvation one Lord, one faith, one birth;
One holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food,
And to one hope she presses, with ev'ry grace endued.

Though with a scornful wonder men see her sore oppressed,
By schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed,
Yet saints their watch are keeping, their cry goes up, "How long?"
And soon the night of weeping shall be the morn of song.

The church shall never perish! Her dear Lord to defend,
To guide, sustain, and cherish, is with her to the end;
Though there be those that hate her, and false sons in her pale,
Against or foe or traitor she ever shall prevail.

'Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of her war,
She waits the consummation of peace forevermore;
Till with the vision glorious her longing eyes are blest,
And the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.

Yet she on earth hath union with God the Three in One,
And mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won:
O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we,
Like them, the meek and lowly, on high may dwell with thee. Amen.

Prayer

Sermon

The Gift of Justification:
The Heart of the Reformation
Romans 3:21-26

Rev. Dr. A. Craig Troxel

Sermon Outline

1. Grace (*sola gratia*) - vv. 21-24
 - A. Justified
 - B. Justified Graciously
 - C. Justified Freely
2. Faith (*sola fide*) - vv. 22, 25-26
 - A. Only to Those Who Believe
 - B. But to All Who Believe
3. Faith in Christ (*solus Christus*)

Hymn*

Hymn 520

Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness

Jesus, thy blood and righteousness my beauty are, my glorious dress;
'Midst flaming worlds, in these arrayed, with joy shall I lift up my head.

Bold shall I stand in thy great day; for who aught to my charge shall lay?
Fully absolved through these I am from sin and fear, from guilt and shame.

When from the dust of death I rise to claim my mansion in the skies,
Ev'n then this shall be all my plea, Jesus hath lived, hath died, for me.

Jesus, be endless praise to thee, whose boundless mercy hath for me—
For me a full atonement made, an everlasting ransom paid.

O let the dead now hear thy voice; now bid thy banished ones rejoice;
Their beauty this, their glorious dress, Jesus, thy blood and righteousness. 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.