

MORNING WORSHIP CELEBRATION

The Lord's Day
October 15, 2023
10:30 a.m.

Welcome & Announcements: Travis Skillingsstad

Scholarship Recipient Update

Prelude: Amy Reber, piano

How Can I Keep from Singing?
Arranged by Tom Fettke

Call to Worship: Psalm 105:1-4

Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon his name; make known his deeds among the peoples!
² Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wondrous works! ³ Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice! ⁴ Seek the LORD and his strength; seek his presence continually!

The Invocation

Hymn of Praise 457

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Come, thou fount of ev'ry blessing,
Tune my heart to sing thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
Call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
Sung by flaming tongues above;
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,
Mount of God's unchanging love.

Here I raise my Ebenezer;
Hither by thy help I'm come;
And I hope, by thy good pleasure,
Safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
Wand'ring from the fold of God:
He, to rescue me from danger,
Interposed his precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor
Daily I'm constrained to be;
Let that grace now, like a fetter,
Bind my wand'ring heart to thee.
Prone to wander – Lord, I feel it –
Prone to leave the God I love;
Here's my heart, O take and seal it,
Seal it for thy courts above.

Confession of Sin

Need of Confession: Isaiah 6:5

⁵ And I said: "Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!"

Personal Confession of Sin

Corporate Confession of Sin (Unison)

Eternal God, our Judge and Redeemer, we confess that we have tried to hide from You, for we have done wrong. We have lived for ourselves and apart from You. We have turned from our neighbors and refused to bear the burdens of others. We have ignored the pain of the world, and passed by the hungry, the poor, and the oppressed. In Your great mercy forgive our sins and free us from selfishness, that we may choose Your will and obey Your commandments; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen. (Lift up Your Hearts: Songs for Creative Worship)

Assurance of Pardon: Isaiah 6:6-8

⁶ Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a burning coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar. ⁷ And he touched my mouth and said: "Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for."

Song of Praise 642 (vss. 1-2, 4-5)

Be Thou My Vision

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that thou art
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
Thou my great Father, I thy true son,
Thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.

Be thou my battle shield, sword for my fight;
Be thou my dignity, thou my delight,
Thou my soul's shelter, thou my high tow'r;
Raise thou me heav'n-ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,
Thou mine inheritance, now and always;
Thou and thou only, first in my heart,
High King of heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of heaven, my victory won,
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

The Lord's Prayer / Pastoral 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.

Giving of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory: Harold Parker, trombone

Jesus Paid It All/O Sacred Head Now Wounded

Arranged by Brant Adams

Doxology

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.

Sermon Series: Nehemiah: Rebuild, Restore, Renew
Rebuilding with Generosity: Nehemiah 5:1-19

Pastor Jeff Birch

5 Now there arose a great outcry of the people and of their wives against their Jewish brothers. **2** For there were those who said, "With our sons and our daughters, we are many. So let us get grain, that we may eat and keep alive." **3** There were also those who said, "We are mortgaging our fields, our vineyards, and our houses to get grain because of the famine." **4** And there were those who said, "We have borrowed money for the king's tax on our fields and our vineyards. **5** Now our flesh is as the flesh of our brothers, our children are as their children. Yet we are forcing our sons and our daughters to be slaves, and some of our daughters have already been enslaved, but it is not in our power to help it, for other men have our fields and our vineyards." **6** I was very angry when I heard their outcry and these words. **7** I took counsel with myself, and I brought charges against the nobles and the officials. I said to them, "You are exacting interest, each from his brother." And I held a great assembly against them **8** and said to them, "We, as far as we are able, have bought back our Jewish brothers who have been sold to the nations, but you even sell your brothers that they may be sold to us!" They were silent and could not find a word to say. **9** So I said, "The thing that you are doing is not good. Ought you not to walk in the fear of our God to prevent the taunts of the nations our enemies? **10** Moreover, I and my brothers and my servants are lending them money and grain. Let us abandon this exacting of interest. **11** Return to them this very day their fields, their vineyards, their olive orchards, and their houses, and the percentage of money, grain, wine, and oil that you have been exacting from them." **12** Then they said, "We will restore these and require nothing from them. We will do as you say." And I called the priests and made them swear to do as they had promised. **13** I also shook out the fold of my garment and said, "So may God shake out every man from his house and from his labor who does not keep this promise. So may he be shaken out and emptied." And all the assembly said "Amen" and praised the LORD. And the people did as they had promised. **14** Moreover, from the time that I was appointed to be their governor in the land of Judah, from the twentieth year to the thirty-second year of Artaxerxes the king, twelve years, neither I nor my brothers ate the food allowance of the governor. **15** The former governors who were before me laid heavy burdens on the people and took from them for their daily ration forty shekels of silver. Even their servants lorded it over the people. But I did not do so, because of the fear of God. **16** I also persevered in the work on this wall, and we acquired no land, and all my servants were gathered there for the work. **17** Moreover, there were at my table 150 men, Jews and officials, besides those who came to us from the nations that were around us. **18** Now what was prepared at my expense for each day was one ox and six

choice sheep and birds, and every ten days all kinds of wine in abundance. Yet for all this I did not demand the food allowance of the governor, because the service was too heavy on this people. ¹⁹ Remember for my good, O my God, all that I have done for this people.

Hymn 648

My Jesus, I Love Thee

My Jesus, I love thee; I know thou art mine;
For thee all the follies of sin I resign.
My gracious Redeemer, my Savior art thou;
If ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

I love thee because thou hast first loved me,
And purchased my pardon on Calvary's tree.
I love thee for wearing the thorns on thy brow;
If ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

I'll love thee in life, I will love thee in death;
And praise thee as long as thou lendest me breath;
And say when the death dew lies cold on my brow,
If ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

In mansions of glory and endless delight,
I'll ever adore thee in heaven so bright.
I'll sing with the glittering crown on my brow:
If ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

Benediction

Postlude

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