

MORNING WORSHIP CELEBRATION

The Lord's Day

October 8, 2023

10:30 a.m.

Welcome & Announcements: Travis Skillingstad

Prelude: Amy Reber, piano

It Is Well with My Soul

Arranged by Tom Fettke

Call to Worship: Psalm 84:1-2, 4

How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts! ²My soul longs, yes, faints for the courts of the LORD; my heart and flesh sing for joy to the living God. ...⁴ Blessed are those who dwell in your house, ever singing your praise!

The Invocation

Hymn of Praise 44

How Great Thou Art

O Lord, my God,
When I in awesome wonder
Consider all the worlds
Thy hands have made,
I see the stars,
I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy pow'r thro'out
The universe displayed.

Chorus

Then sings my soul,
My Savior God, to Thee;
How great Thou art!
How great Thou art!
Then sings my soul,
My Savior God, to Thee;
How great Thou art!
How great Thou art!

When thro' the woods
And forest glades I wander
And hear the birds
Sing sweetly in the trees,
When I look down
From lofty mountain grandeur,
And hear the brook
And feel the gentle breeze;

And when I think

That God, His Son not sparing,
Sent Him to die,
I scarce can take it in;
That on the cross,
My burden gladly bearing,
He bled and died
To take away my sin.

When Christ shall come
With shout of acclamation
And take me home,
What joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow
In humble adoration
And there proclaim:
My God, how great Thou art!

Confession of Sin: Pastor Mike Palombo

Need of Confession: Ephesians 4:20-24

²⁰ But that is not the way you learned Christ!— ²¹ assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, ²² to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, ²³ and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, ²⁴ and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

Personal Confession of Sin

Corporate Confession of Sin (Unison)

Dear Heavenly Father, we lower our heads before you and we confess that we have too often forgotten that we are yours. Sometimes we carry on our lives as if there was no God and we fall short of being a credible witness to You. For these things we ask your forgiveness, and we also ask for your strength. Give us clear minds and open hearts so we may witness to You in our world. Remind us to be who You would have us to be regardless of what we are doing or who we are with. Hold us to You and build our relationship with You and with those You have given us on earth. Amen (From thirdmill.org)

Assurance of Pardon: Hebrews 10:12-14

¹² But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, ¹³ waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet. ¹⁴ For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.

The Confession of Faith: Heidelberg Catechism Q&A 1,2

Pastor: What is your only comfort in life and death?

People: **That I am not my own, but belong—body and soul, in life and in death, to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood, and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil. He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven: in fact, all things must work together for my salvation. Because I belong to him, Christ,**

by his Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.

Pastor: What must you know to live and die in the joy of this comfort?

People: Three things: first, how great my sin and misery are; second, how I am set free from all my sins and misery; third, how I am to thank God for such deliverance.

Song of Praise

In Christ Alone

In Christ alone my hope is found
He is my light, my strength, my song.
This cornerstone, this solid ground,
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease.
My comforter, my all in all
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone who took on flesh,
Fullness of God in helpless babe,
This gift of love and righteousness
Scorned by the ones he came to save,
Till on that cross as Jesus died
The wrath of God was satisfied.
For every sin on him was laid
Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground his body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain.
Then bursting forth in glorious day,
Up from the grave he rose again.
And as he stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me.
For I am his and he is mine,
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death
This is the power of Christ in me.
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man
Can ever pluck me from his hand,
'Till he returns or calls me home
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

No power of hell, no scheme of man
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Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

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: Chancel Choir

Receive Your Savior/Lamb of God

Choral arrangement by Amy Reber

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

Prayer and Preparation: Nehemiah 4:1-15, 20

Pastor Jeff Birch

4 Now when Sanballat heard that we were building the wall, he was angry and greatly enraged, and he jeered at the Jews. ² And he said in the presence of his brothers and of the army of Samaria, “What are these feeble Jews doing? Will they restore it for themselves? Will they sacrifice? Will they finish up in a day? Will they revive the stones out of the heaps of rubbish, and burned ones at that?” ³ Tobiah the Ammonite was beside him, and he said, “Yes, what they are building—if a fox goes up on it he will break down their stone wall!” ⁴ Hear, O our God, for we are despised. Turn back their taunt on their own heads and give them up to be plundered in a land where they are captives. ⁵ Do not cover their guilt, and let not their sin be blotted out from your sight, for they have provoked you to anger in the presence of the builders.

⁶ So we built the wall. And all the wall was joined together to half its height, for the people had a mind to work.

⁷ But when Sanballat and Tobiah and the Arabs and the Ammonites and the Ashdodites heard that the repairing of the walls of Jerusalem was going forward and that the breaches were beginning to be closed, they were very angry. ⁸ And they all plotted together to come and fight against Jerusalem and to cause confusion in it. ⁹ And we prayed to our God and set a guard as a protection against them day and night.

¹⁰ In Judah it was said, “The strength of those who bear the burdens is failing. There is too much rubble. By ourselves we will not be able to rebuild the wall.” ¹¹ And our enemies said, “They will not know or see till we come among them and kill them and stop the work.” ¹² At that time the Jews who lived near them came from all directions and said to us ten times, “You must return to us.” ¹³ So in the lowest parts of the space behind the wall, in open places, I stationed the people by their clans, with their swords, their spears, and their bows. ¹⁴ And I looked and arose and said to the nobles and to the officials and to the rest of the people, “Do not be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your brothers, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your homes.”

¹⁵ When our enemies heard that it was known to us and that God had frustrated their plan, we all returned to the wall, each to his work.

... ²⁰ In the place where you hear the sound of the trumpet, rally to us there. Our God will fight for us.”

Hymn 254 (vss. 1-3)

Alas! and Did My Savior Bleed
Alas! and did my Savior bleed,
And did my Sovereign die!
Would he devote that sacred head
For such a worm as I!

Was it for crimes that I had done
He groaned upon the tree!
Amazing pity! Grace unknown!
And love beyond degree!

Well might the sun in darkness hide,
And shut his glories in,
When Christ, the mighty Maker, died
For man the creature's sin.

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Hymn 254 (vss. 4-5)

Alas! and Did My Savior Bleed
Thus might I hide my blushing face
While his dear cross appears;
Dissolve my heart in thankfulness,
And melt mine eyes in tears.

But drops of grief can ne'er repay
The debt of love I owe;
Here, Lord, I give myself away,
'Tis all that I can do.

Postlude

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