

**MORNING WORSHIP CELEBRATION**

*The Lord's Day*

**March 27, 2022**

**10:30 a.m.**

**Welcome & Announcements: Pastor Jeff Birch**

**Prelude: Mrs. Amy Reber**

**Call to Worship: Psalm 98:1-2**

**The Invocation**

**\*Hymn of Praise 100**

*Holy, Holy, Holy!*

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!  
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.  
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!  
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,  
Casting down their golden crowns  
Around the glassy sea;  
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,  
Who wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.

Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,  
Tho' the eye of sinful man thy glory may not see,  
Only thou art holy; there is none beside thee,  
Perfect in pow'r, in love, and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!  
All thy works shall praise thy name  
In earth and sky and sea.  
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!  
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

**Confession of Sin:**

**Need of Confession: Psalm 139:23-24**

<sup>23</sup> Search me, O God, and know my heart!

Try me and know my thoughts!

<sup>24</sup> And see if there be any grievous way in me,  
and lead me in the way everlasting!

**Personal Confession of Sin**

**Corporate Confession of Sin:**

**Unison:** Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent; for the sake of Your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in Your will, and walk in Your ways, to the glory of Your Name. Amen. (The Book of Common Prayer)

**Assurance of Pardon: Psalm 103:10-12**

- <sup>10</sup> He does not deal with us according to our sins,  
nor repay us according to our iniquities.  
<sup>11</sup> For as high as the heavens are above the earth,  
so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;  
<sup>12</sup> as far as the east is from the west,  
so far does he remove our transgressions from us.

**\*Song of Praise**

*How Great Is Our God*  
The splendor of the King,  
Clothed in majesty;  
Let all the earth rejoice,  
All the earth rejoice.  
He wraps himself in light,  
And darkness tries to hide;  
And trembles at his voice,  
And trembles at his voice.

*(Chorus)*  
How great is our God!  
Sing with me,  
“How great is our God!”  
And all will see how great,  
How great is our God!

And age to age he stands,  
And time is in his hands;  
Beginning and the End,  
Beginning and the End.  
The Godhead three in one,  
Father, Spirit, Son,  
The Lion and the Lamb,  
The Lion and the Lamb. *(Chorus)*

*(Bridge)*  
Name above all names,  
Worthy of all praise;

My heart will sing,  
“How great is our God!”

**The Lord’s Prayer / Pastoral Prayer**

**Giving of Tithes and Offerings**

**Offertory: Mrs. Lynne Fowlkes, flute**

*Let All Things Now Living*  
Arranged by Joel Raney

**\*Doxology**

**Sermon Series: Romans: Gospel Partnership**

**Sermon Text: Romans 7:7-12 (ESV)**

**Sermon Title: Is God’s Law Good?**

*<sup>7</sup> What then shall we say? That the law is sin? By no means! Yet if it had not been for the law, I would not have known sin. For I would not have known what it is to covet if the law had not said, “You shall not covet.” <sup>8</sup> But sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, produced in me all kinds of covetousness. For apart from the law, sin lies dead. <sup>9</sup> I was once alive apart from the law, but when the commandment came, sin came alive and I died. <sup>10</sup> The very commandment that promised life proved to be death to me. <sup>11</sup> For sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, deceived me and through it killed me. <sup>12</sup> So the law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good.*

What is your attitude toward the law? Is it ambivalent? Do you view it as a good thing all the time? How about its purpose? What is the purpose of the law? Paul has just finished telling the Romans that as believers in Christ they have a new relationship to the law, having been released from the law so that they can serve God in the new way of the Spirit. What does all this mean?

Paul brackets his teaching in vv.7 and 12 by declaring that the law is not to blame. The problem is our sin. Verse 7 begins the passage by asking, “is the law sin?” And, of course, he says, “By no means.” Then he closes the passage by asserting that the law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good.

So, in this passage we will see that Paul focuses his teaching on two fundamental points.

- I. The Goodness of the Law
- II. The Impotence of the Law

Paul affirms the goodness of the law, stating that the law promises life to those who keep it and death to those who break it. In doing so he is also highlighting the law’s impotence in securing our salvation because, of course, we don’t keep the law faithfully. We are all law breakers. And it is in seeing this, in coming to the end of ourselves that we can fly to Jesus Christ who died in our place. Oh, that we would see the utter impossibility of our saving ourselves and run to Jesus Christ and live.

## **Reflection**

*“We should be astonished at the goodness of God, stunned that He should bother to call us by name, our mouths wide open at His love, bewildered that at this very moment we are standing on holy ground.” (Brennan Manning)*

## **\*Hymn 642 (vs. 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.

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 Benediction**

## **Postlude**

*\*All songs covered by CCLI license #1257045*