

MORNING WORSHIP CELEBRATION

The Lord's Day

September 10, 2023

10:30 a.m.

Welcome & Announcements: Travis Skillingstad

Prelude: Amy Reber, piano

Great Is Thy Faithfulness/Libestraum

By Franz Liszt, arranged by Dino Kartsonakis

Call to Worship: Psalm 48:1-2

Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised in the city of our God! His holy mountain, ² beautiful in elevation, is the joy of all the earth, Mount Zion, in the far north, the city of the great King.

The Invocation

Hymn of Praise 302

Come, Christians, Join to Sing

Come, Christians, join to sing

Alleluia! Amen!

loud praise to Christ our King;

Alleluia! Amen!

let all, with heart and voice,

before his throne rejoice;

praise is his gracious choice.

Alleluia! Amen!

Come, lift your hearts on high,

Alleluia! Amen!

let praises fill the sky;

Alleluia! Amen!

he is our Guide and Friend;

to us he'll condescend;

his love shall never end.

Alleluia! Amen!

Praise yet our Christ again,

Alleluia! Amen!

life shall not end the strain;

Alleluia! Amen!

on heaven's blissful shore,

his goodness we'll adore,

singing forevermore,

"Alleluia! Amen!"

Confession of Sin: Pastor Mike Palombo

Need of Confession: Psalm 51:1-4

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. ² Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin! ³ For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. ⁴ Against you,

you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment.

Personal Confession of Sin

Corporate Confession of Sin (Unison)

Almighty and most merciful Father, we have erred, and strayed from Thy ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against Thy holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; and we have done those things which we ought not to have done; and there is no health in us. But Thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us, miserable offenders. Spare them, O God, who confess their faults. Restore them that are penitent; according to Thy promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord. And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake, that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life, to the glory of Thy holy name. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon: Psalm 51:7,10

⁷ Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. ¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

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

How Deep the Father's Love for Us

How deep the Father's love for us,
How vast beyond all measure,
That he should give his only Son
To make a wretch his treasure.
How great the pain of searing loss;
The Father turns his face away,
As wounds which mar the Chosen One
Bring many sons to glory.

Behold the man upon a cross,
My sin upon his shoulders;
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice
Call out among the scoffers.
It was my sin that held him there
Until it was accomplished;
His dying breath has brought me life
I know that it is finished.

I will not boast in anything,

No gifts, no pow'r, no wisdom;
But I will boast in Jesus Christ,
His death and resurrection.
Why should I gain from his reward?
I cannot give an answer.
But this I know with all my heart:
His wounds have paid my ransom.

But this I know with all my heart:
His wounds have paid my ransom.

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: Lynne Fowlkes, flute

Be Thou My Vision
by Joel Raney

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
A Leader's Heart
Nehemiah 1:1-11

Pastor Jeff Birch

1 The words of Nehemiah the son of Hacaliah.

Now it happened in the month of Chisleu, in the twentieth year, as I was in Susa the citadel, ² that Hanani, one of my brothers, came with certain men from Judah. And I asked them concerning the Jews who escaped, who had survived the exile, and concerning Jerusalem. ³ And they said to me, "The remnant there in the province who had survived the exile is in great trouble and shame. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates are destroyed by fire."

⁴ As soon as I heard these words I sat down and wept and mourned for days, and I continued fasting and praying before the God of heaven. ⁵ And I said, "O LORD God of heaven, the great and awesome God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, ⁶ let your ear be attentive and your eyes open, to hear the prayer of your servant that I now pray before you day and night for the people of Israel your servants, confessing the sins of the people of Israel, which we have sinned against you. Even I and my father's house have sinned. ⁷ We have acted very corruptly against you and have not kept the commandments, the statutes, and the rules that you commanded your servant Moses. ⁸ Remember the word that you commanded your servant Moses, saying, 'If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the peoples, ⁹ but if you return to me and keep my commandments and do them, though your outcasts are in the uttermost parts of heaven, from there I will gather them and bring them to the place that

I have chosen, to make my name dwell there.’ ¹⁰ They are your servants and your people, whom you have redeemed by your great power and by your strong hand. ¹¹ O Lord, let your ear be attentive to the prayer of your servant, and to the prayer of your servants who delight to fear your name, and give success to your servant today, and grant him mercy in the sight of this man.”

Now I was cupbearer to the king.

Hymn 500 (vss. 1-2)

Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me
Rock of Ages, cleft for me
Let me hide myself in thee;
Let the water and the blood,
From thy riven side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure,
Cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.

Not the labors of my hands
Can fulfil thy law's demands;
Could my zeal no respite know,
Could my tears for ever flow,
All for sin could not atone;
Thou must save, and thou alone.

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Hymn 500 (vss. 3-4)

Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me
Nothing in my hand I bring,
Simply to thy cross I cling;
Naked, come to thee for dress;
Helpless, look to thee for grace;
Foul, I to the Fountain fly;
Wash me, Savior, or I die.

While I draw this fleeting breath,
When mine eyelids close in death,
When I soar to worlds unknown,
See thee on thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in thee.

Postlude

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