

Morning Worship

Sunday, October 31, 2021

Psalm 8

O LORD, our Lord,

how majestic is your name in all the earth!

You have set your glory above the heavens.

² Out of the mouth of babies and infants,
you have established strength because of your foes,
to still the enemy and the avenger.

³ When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars, which you have set in place,

⁴ what is man that you are mindful of him,
and the son of man that you care for him?

⁵ Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings
and crowned him with glory and honor.

⁶ You have given him dominion over the works of your hands;
you have put all things under his feet,

⁷ all sheep and oxen,
and also the beasts of the field,

⁸ the birds of the heavens, and the fish of the sea,
whatever passes along the paths of the seas.

⁹ O LORD, our Lord,

how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Let Us Come Together to Worship God, Our Creator

Call to Worship

Psalm 100:1-3

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth!

² Serve the LORD with gladness!

Come into his presence with singing!

³ Know that the LORD, he is God!

It is he who made us, and we are his;

we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

All Creatures of Our God and King

All creatures of our God and King,

Lift up your voice, and with us sing: Alleluia, alleluia!

Thou burning sun with golden beam, thou silver moon with softer gleam,

O praise him, O praise him, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Thou rushing wind that art so strong,

Ye clouds that sail in heaven along, O praise him, Alleluia!

Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice, ye lights of evening, find a voice, *Refrain*

Thou flowing water, pure and clear,

Make music for thy Lord to hear, Alleluia, alleluia!

Thou fire so masterful and bright, that givest man both warmth and light, *Refrain*

And all ye men of tender heart,

Forgiving others, take your part, O sing ye Alleluia!

Ye who long pain and sorrow bear, praise God and on him cast your care, *Refrain*

Let all things their Creator bless,

And worship him in humbleness, O praise him, Alleluia!

Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son, and praise the Spirit, Three in One,

Refrain

Prayer of Invocation

We ask God's presence to enable us to worship him as we ought.

We Confess Our Sins

Call to Confession

Exodus 33:18-23

¹⁸ Moses said, "Please show me your glory." ¹⁹ And he said, "I will make all my goodness pass before you and will proclaim before you my name 'The LORD.' And I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. ²⁰ But," he said, "you cannot see my face, for man shall not see me and live." ²¹ And the LORD said, "Behold, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock, ²² and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by. ²³ Then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back, but my face shall not be seen."

Prayer of Confession

(adapted from *Streams of Mercy*)

Mighty God and loving heavenly Father,

You are our glorious Creator who made all things from nothing. In the beginning, you fashioned the sun, moon, and stars, and you divided light from darkness. You gave mankind the glory of your image, crowning us with honor and blessing. You took great delight in your creation, gracing your image bearers with the light of your presence as you walked with Adam in the garden each day. But Adam fell, exchanging the glorious light of your love for the darkness of sin and rebellion. We confess that we were in Adam as he sinned, and we are just like Adam as we continue to make that same choice each day. Father, forgive us.

Lord, we thank you that our sin and darkness can never overwhelm the shining brightness of your glory and love. Though we are drawn to disobedience in many ways, you sent your Son to shine the radiant light of your love on sinners like us. We thank you for Jesus. Though he is the Light of the World, full of glory and grace, he volunteered to enter our darkness and live in our flesh and blood to destroy the power of sin over us. He lived his life in shining obedience so that he could give his goodness to us as a free gift. He chose to be slain by the darkness in order to pay our debt, and we are undone by his sacrifice.

Holy Spirit, draw our hearts from darkness to light. Show us the glory of our Redeemer; cause us to revel in his love and to bask in the joy of his great pleasure in us. Enable us to hate the darkness of our sin and flee to the brightness of his love, which welcomes us as treasured brother and sisters who are re clothed in the brightness of his obedience. Help us to live not for our own glory, but for the glory of the one who gave himself to redeem us. Prepare us for the day when we will fall at Jesus' feet and will live in the bright light of his glory in our heavenly home forever. In the beautiful name of our Savior we pray, amen.

Silent Prayers of Confession

Assurance of Pardon

2 Corinthians 3:17-18

¹⁷ Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.

¹⁸ And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

He Will Hold Me Fast

When I fear my faith will fail, Christ will hold me fast;
When the tempter would prevail, he will hold me fast.
I could never keep my hold, through life's fearful path
For my love is often cold; he must hold me fast.
*He will hold me fast, he will hold me fast;
For my Savior loves me so, he will hold me fast.*

Those he saves are his delight, Christ will hold me fast;
Precious in his holy sight, he will hold me fast.
He'll not let my soul be lost; his promises shall last;
Bought by him at such a cost, he will hold me fast.
*He will hold me fast, he will hold me fast;
For my Savior loves me so, he will hold me fast.*

For my life he bled and died, Christ will hold me fast;
Justice has been satisfied; he will hold me fast.
Raised with Him to endless life, he will hold me fast
Till our faith is turned to sight, when he comes at last!
*He will hold me fast, he will hold me fast;
For my Savior loves me so, he will hold me fast.*

Affirmation of Faith

Heidelberg Catechism, Q. 26

Leader: What believest thou when thou sayest, "I believe in God the Father, Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth"?

People: That the eternal Father of our Lord Jesus Christ (who of nothing made heaven and earth, with all that is in them; who likewise upholds and governs the same by his eternal counsel and providence) is for the sake of Christ his Son, my God and my Father; on whom I rely so entirely, that I have no doubt, but he will provide me with all things necessary for soul and body and further, that he will make whatever evils he sends upon me, in this valley of tears turn out to my advantage; for he is able to do it, being Almighty God, and willing, being a faithful Father.

Prayer for the Church and Congregation

God Reveals Himself to Us in the Reading of His Word

Scripture Reading

Genesis 1:24 - 2:25

²⁴ And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures according to their kinds—livestock and creeping things and beasts of the earth according to their kinds." And it was so. ²⁵ And God made the beasts of the earth according to their kinds and the livestock according to their kinds, and everything that creeps on the ground according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

²⁶ Then God said, "Let us make man^[a] in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

²⁷ So God created man in his own image,
in the image of God he created him;
male and female he created them.

²⁸ And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth." ²⁹ And God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food.

³⁰ And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. ³¹ And God saw everything that

he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

2 Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. ² And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done. ³ So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation.

⁴ These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens.

⁵ When no bush of the field^[b] was yet in the land^[c] and no small plant of the field had yet sprung up—for the LORD God had not caused it to rain on the land, and there was no man to work the ground, ⁶ and a mist^[d] was going up from the land and was watering the whole face of the ground—⁷ then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature. ⁸ And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. ⁹ And out of the ground the LORD God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

¹⁰ A river flowed out of Eden to water the garden, and there it divided and became four rivers. ¹¹ The name of the first is the Pishon. It is the one that flowed around the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold. ¹² And the gold of that land is good; bdellium and onyx stone are there. ¹³ The name of the second river is the Gihon. It is the one that flowed around the whole land of Cush. ¹⁴ And the name of the third river is the Tigris, which flows east of Assyria. And the fourth river is the Euphrates.

¹⁵ The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. ¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat^[e] of it you shall surely die.”

¹⁸ Then the LORD God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for^[f] him.” ¹⁹ Now out of the ground the LORD God had formed^[g] every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. ²⁰ The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam^[h] there was not

found a helper fit for him. ²¹ So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh.

²² And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made^[i] into a woman and brought her to the man. ²³ Then the man said,

“This at last is bone of my bones
and flesh of my flesh;
she shall be called Woman,
because she was taken out of Man.”^[i]

²⁴ Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. ²⁵ And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

Sermon

“God the Creator”

Reverend Robert Schmidtberger

We Celebrate the Lord's Supper

The Lord's Supper

All baptized Christians who trust in Christ alone as their Savior and Lord, who are communicant members of a Bible-believing church, and who seek strength and grace to live more faithfully to Christ are invited to participate. The darker bread in the paper cup in the center of the plate is gluten-free. While communion is being served, please feel free to join in song or meditate quietly on Christ's sacrifice.

Song of Preparation:

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of Glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the death of Christ my God:
All the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to his blood.

See from his head, his hands, his feet; sorrow and love flow mingled down:
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown?

To Christ, who won for sinners grace by bitter grief and anguish sore,
Be praise from all the ransomed race forever and forevermore.

Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were an offering far too small:
Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Song of Response:

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 power 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 powers, 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.

Benediction

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