

Lord's Day Worship

Sunday, November 28th, 2021

Worship Presider: Reverend Robert Schmidtberger

He who would serve God must begin by praising God, for a grateful heart is the mainspring of obedience. We must offer the salt of gratitude with the sacrifice of obedience; our lives should be anointed with the precious oil of thankfulness. As soldiers march to music, so while we walk in the paths of righteousness we should keep step to the notes of thanksgiving. Larks sing as they mount, so should we magnify the Lord for his mercies while we are winging our way to heaven.

—Charles Spurgeon

God Calls You to Believe in Christ

Call to Worship

John 3:16-18

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

Come, ye thankful people, come, raise the song of harvest home;
All is safely gathered in, ere the winter storms begin;
God, our Maker, doth provide for our wants to be supplied;
Come to God's own temple, come, raise the song of harvest home.

All the world is God's own field, fruit unto his praise to yield;
Wheat and tares together sown, unto joy or sorrow grown;
First the blade, and then the ear, then the full corn shall appear;
Lord of harvest, grant that we wholesome grain and pure may be.

For the Lord our God shall come, and shall take his harvest home;
From his field shall in that day all offenses purge away'
Give his angels charge at last in the fire the tares to cast,
But the fruitful ears to store in his garner evermore.

Even so, Lord, quickly come to thy final harvest home;
Gather thou thy people in, free from sorrow, free from sin;
There forever purified, in thy presence to abide;
Come, with all thine angels, come, raise the glorious harvest home.

Yet she on earth hath union with God the Three in One,
And mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won:
O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we,
Like them, the meek and lowly, on high may dwell with thee.

Prayer of Invocation

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

Confess Your Habitual Unbelief

Call to Confession

Hebrews 3:7-13

Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says, “Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, on the day of testing in the wilderness, where your fathers put me to the test and saw my works for forty years. Therefore I was provoked with that generation and said ‘They always go astray in their heart; they have not known my ways.’ As I swore in my wrath, ‘They shall not enter my rest.’”

Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called “today,” that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

Prayer of Confession

(adapted from *Streams of Mercy*)

Holy God,

We confess that we are people with evil and unbelieving hearts, who do not naturally trust you. We are stubborn and rebellious, habitually unwilling to hear your loving, fatherly voice. We have repeatedly provoked you, despised your words, and even despised your incarnate Word, Jesus Christ, pursuing him to death. We have wandered along our own ways, rebelling against your loving plan or treating it as second best, when that plan involves pain or not getting what we want. We have pursued our desires for physical and emotional comfort, approval from others, health, wealth, success, or intimacy. We often do not take care of ourselves, or exhort one another, and we are easily hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. Help our unbelief, Lord!

Dear Jesus, what a specific, staggering, atoning love you have shown us in the midst of our weakness. On our behalf, you flawlessly believed your Father. You relied perfectly on his Spirit and were willing to obey every element of his plan for your life. Your love for us and your trust in your Father caused you to be silent before your false accusers, and to endure torturous punishment for sins you did not commit. The sins for which you were dying were ourse, and we are eternally grateful for this inconceivable act of love. Because you took on our sin, we are now as white as snow before the judgement seat.

Help us, our Father, to trust you in the midst of this earthly life. We grow weary, and our strength is small, as we fight against the sin in our hearts and in the hearts of others. Help us to find our all in all in no less that Jesus Christ himself. Cause us to live so that others would see that the strength to trust you could never come from us. Awaken us to trust you in the midst of this prison of sinful flesh, and remind us that our freedom has fully and finally been bought by the precious blood of Jesus. Amen.

Silent Prayers of Confession

Assurance of Pardon

John 6:35-40

Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst. But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe. All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out. For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day."

I Know Whom I Have Believed

I know not why God's wondrous grace to me he has made known,
Nor why, unworthy, Christ in love redeemed me for his own.
*But "I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able
To keep that which I've committed unto him against that day."*

I know not how this saving faith to me he did impart,
Nor how believing in his Word wrought peace within my heart. *Refrain*

I know not how the Spirit moves, convincing men of sin,
Revealing Jesus through the Word, creating faith in him. *Refrain*

I know not what of good or ill may be reserved for me,
Of weary ways or golden days, before his face I see. *Refrain*

I know not when my Lord may come, at night or noonday fair,
Nor if I'll walk the vale with him, or meet him in the air. *Refrain*

Prayer for the Church and Congregation

Believe the Words of Jesus

Scripture Reading

Matthew 8:2-34

And behold, a leper came to him and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, if you will, you can make me clean.”³ And Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, saying, “I will; be clean.” And immediately his leprosy was cleansed.⁴ And Jesus said to him, “See that you say nothing to anyone, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer the gift that Moses commanded, for a proof to them.”

⁵ When he had entered Capernaum, a centurion came forward to him, appealing to him,⁶ “Lord, my servant is lying paralyzed at home, suffering terribly.”⁷ And he said to him, “I will come and heal him.”⁸ But the centurion replied, “Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof, but only say the word, and my servant will be healed.⁹ For I too am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. And I say to one, ‘Go,’ and he goes, and to another, ‘Come,’ and he comes, and to my servant, ‘Do this,’ and he does it.”¹⁰ When Jesus heard this, he marveled and said to those who followed him, “Truly, I tell you, with no one in Israel have I found such faith.¹¹ I tell you, many will come from east and west and recline at table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven,¹² while the sons of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”¹³ And to the centurion Jesus said, “Go; let it be done for you as you have believed.” And the servant was healed at that very moment.

¹⁴ And when Jesus entered Peter’s house, he saw his mother-in-law lying sick with a fever.¹⁵ He touched her hand, and the fever left her, and she rose and began to serve him.¹⁶ That evening they brought to him many who were oppressed by demons, and he cast out the spirits with a word and healed all who were sick.¹⁷ This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah: “He took our illnesses and bore our diseases.”

¹⁸ Now when Jesus saw a crowd around him, he gave orders to go over to the other side.¹⁹ And a scribe came up and said to him, “Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go.”²⁰ And Jesus said to him, “Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.”²¹ Another of the disciples said to him, “Lord, let me first go and bury my father.”²² And Jesus said to him, “Follow me, and leave the dead to bury their own dead.”

²³ And when he got into the boat, his disciples followed him.²⁴ And behold, there arose a great storm on the sea, so that the boat was being swamped by the waves; but he was asleep.²⁵ And they went and woke him, saying, “Save us, Lord; we are

perishing.”²⁶ And he said to them, “Why are you afraid, O you of little faith?” Then he rose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm.²⁷ And the men marveled, saying, “What sort of man is this, that even winds and sea obey him?”

²⁸ And when he came to the other side, to the country of the Gadarenes, two demon-possessed men met him, coming out of the tombs, so fierce that no one could pass that way.²⁹ And behold, they cried out, “What have you to do with us, O Son of God? Have you come here to torment us before the time?”³⁰ Now a herd of many pigs was feeding at some distance from them.³¹ And the demons begged him, saying, “If you cast us out, send us away into the herd of pigs.”³² And he said to them, “Go.” So they came out and went into the pigs, and behold, the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea and drowned in the waters.³³ The herdsmen fled, and going into the city they told everything, especially what had happened to the demon-possessed men.³⁴ And behold, all the city came out to meet Jesus, and when they saw him, they begged him to leave their region.

Sermon

“Even Demons Believe”

Reverend Robert Schmidtberger

Confession of Faith

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.
And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
begotten from the Father before all ages,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made; of the same essence as the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven;
he became incarnate by the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,
and was made human.
He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered and was buried.
The third day he rose again, according to the Scriptures.
He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again with glory to judge the living and the dead.
His kingdom will never end.
And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life.
He proceeds from the Father and the Son,

and with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified.
He spoke through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We affirm one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look forward to the resurrection of the dead,
and to life in the world to come. Amen.

Feed Your Faith at God's Feast

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 cups with lighter liquid contain grape juice, the darker liquid is wine. 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:

Who Is This?

Who is this, so weak and helpless, Child of lowly Hebrew maid,
Rudely in a stable sheltered, coldly in a manger laid?
'Tis the Lord of all creation, who this wondrous path has trod;
He is God from everlasting, and to everlasting God.

Who is this, a Man of Sorrows, walking humbly life's hard way,
Homeless, weary, sighing, weeping over sin and Satan's sway?
'Tis our God, our glorious Savior, who above the starry sky
Is for us a place preparing, where no tear can dim the eye.

Who is this? Behold him shedding drops of blood upon the ground!
Who is this, despised, rejected, mocked, insulted, beaten, bound?
'Tis our God, who gifts and graces on his church is pouring down;
Who shall smite in holy vengeance all his foes beneath his throne.

Who is this that hangs there dying while the rude world scoffs and scorns,
Numbered with the malefactors, torn with nails, and crowned with thorns?
'Tis our God who lives forever 'mid the shining ones on high,
In the glorious golden city, reigning everlastingly.

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Song of Response:

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

Come thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art,
Dear Desire of ev'ry nation, joy of every longing heart.

Joy to those who long to see thee, Day-spring from on high appear;
Come thou promised Rod of Jesse, of thy birth we long to hear!
O'er the hills the angel singing news, glad tidings of a birth;
"Go to him, your praises bringing; Christ the Lord has come to earth."

Come to earth to taste our sadness, he whose glories knew no end;
By his life he brings us gladness, our Redeemer, Shepherd, Friend.
Leaving riches without number, born within a cattle stall;
This the everlasting wonder, Christ was born the Lord of all.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king,
Born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
By thine all sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.

Benediction

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