

Morning Worship

Sunday, August 8th, 2021

I am convinced that the first step toward attaining higher standard of holiness is to realize more fully the amazing sinfulness of sin.

— J. C. RYLE

When we understand the character of God, when we grasp something of His holiness, then we begin to understand the radical character of our sin and hopelessness. Helpless sinners can survive only by grace. Our strength is futile in itself; we are spiritually impotent without the assistance of a merciful God. We may dislike giving our attention to God's wrath and justice, but until we incline ourselves to these aspects of God's nature, we will never appreciate what has been wrought for us by grace. Even Edwards's sermon on sinners in God's hands was not designed to stress the flames of hell. The resounding accent falls not on the fiery pit but on the hands of the God who holds us and rescues us from it. The hands of God are gracious hands. They alone have the power to rescue us from certain destruction.

— R.C. Sproul, *The Holiness of God*

Worship Your Holy God

Call to Worship

1 Samuel 2:2, Psalm 95:1

There is none holy like the LORD: for there is none besides you; there is no rock like our God. Oh come, let us sing to the LORD; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

Rock of Ages

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 power.

Not the labors of my hands, can fulfill 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.

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.

Prayer of Invocation

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

Confess Your Unholiness

Call to Confession

1 Peter 1:14-16

As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, “You shall be holy for I am holy.”

Prayer of Confession

Caring Father, we come to be humbled by your mighty truth this morning, and pray that you will grant us a deeper understanding of ourselves, our sin, and our Savior. We confess now that we have often failed to wait for you to exalt us, but have instead felt sure that we must do this for ourselves. We have stewed in anxiety, quietly and secretly doubting that you care for us. When friends fail us, or we are misunderstood or purposely attacked by others, we have been left feeling empty and worthless, not made whole by your love for us. When we are tempted and tried, we often fail. When we fail, we do not look to the stunningly good news that Jesus has already won our victory over sin and death and is our present strength in weakness. When our hearts are breaking, we quickly and consistently escape to what most pleases our flesh, rather than turning to the comfort of our souls.

The depth of your mercy is truly astounding. Thank you for sending Jesus to live perfectly on the behalf of His chosen ones, including selfish, proud, and anxious people like ourselves. That He would choose to humble Himself to take on flesh is difficult for us to understand. That He would willingly, for the joy set before Him, endure the agony of crucifixion and separation from you, is beyond our comprehension. Lord, help us to be satisfied in Him alone.

Our Refuge, please cause us to cling to the cross as we continue to struggle with our remaining sin. Make us aware of our own patterns of pride and anxiety. Help us to ask for help. Grant us the humility of approachability, and the courage to speak words of loving confrontation to our fellow saints around the cross. In all things, lift our eyes to the priceless everlasting love of our wonderful Savior, in whose name we boldly come, Amen.

Silent Prayers of Confession

Assurance of Pardon

1 Timothy 2:5-6; 1 Thessalonians 3:13

For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time, so that he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

His Mercy is More

What love could remember no wrongs we have done
Omniscient, all-knowing, He counts not their sum
Thrown into a sea without bottom or shore
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more

*Praise the Lord, His mercy is more
Stronger than darkness, new every morn'
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more*

What patience would wait as we constantly roam
What Father so tender is calling us home
He welcomes the weakest, the vilest, the poor
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more *Refrain*

What riches of kindness He lavished on us
His blood was the payment His life was the cost
We stood 'neath a debt we could never afford
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more *Refrain*

Pastoral Prayer

Listen to God's Holy Word

Scripture Reading

Numbers 20:2-13

² Now there was no water for the congregation. And they assembled themselves together against Moses and against Aaron. ³ And the people quarreled with Moses and said, "Would that we had perished when our brothers perished before the LORD!" ⁴ Why have you brought the assembly of the LORD into this wilderness, that we should die here, both we and our cattle? ⁵ And why have you made us come up out of Egypt to bring us to this evil place? It is no place for grain or figs or vines or pomegranates, and there is no water to drink." ⁶ Then Moses and Aaron went from the presence of the assembly to the entrance of the tent of meeting and fell on their faces. And the glory of the LORD appeared to them, ⁷ and the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ⁸ "Take the staff, and assemble the congregation, you and Aaron your brother, and tell the rock before their eyes to yield its water. So you shall bring water out of the rock for them and give drink to the congregation and their cattle." ⁹ And Moses took the staff from before the LORD, as he commanded him.

¹⁰ Then Moses and Aaron gathered the assembly together before the rock, and he said to them, "Hear now, you rebels: shall we bring water for you out of this rock?" ¹¹ And Moses lifted up his hand and struck the rock with his staff twice, and water came out abundantly, and the congregation drank, and their livestock. ¹² And the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, "Because you did not believe in me, to uphold me as holy in the eyes of the people of Israel, therefore you shall not bring this assembly into the land that I have given them." ¹³ These are the waters of Meribah, where the people of Israel quarreled with the LORD, and through them he showed himself holy.

Sermon

"The Lord Shows Himself Holy"

Rev. David T. O'Leary

Christ Provides His Holiness in Our Place

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:

I Will Glory in My Redeemer

I will glory in my Redeemer, whose priceless blood has ransomed me,
Mine was the sin that drove the bitter nails,
and hung him on that judgment tree.

*I will glory in my Redeemer, who crushed the power of sin and death!
My only Savior before the Holy Judge,
The Lamb who is my righteousness, the Lamb who is my righteousness.*

I will glory in my Redeemer, my life he bought, my love he owns;
I want no longings for another, I'm satisfied in him alone.

*I will glory in my Redeemer, his faithfulness my standing place,
Though foes are mighty and rush upon me,
My feet are firm, held by his grace, my feet are firm, held by his grace.*

I will glory in my Redeemer, who carries me on eagle's wings;
He crowns my life with lovingkindness, his triumph song I'll ever sing!

*I will glory in my Redeemer, who waits for me at gates of gold,
And when he calls me it will be paradise,
His face forever to behold, his face forever to behold! (Repeat)*

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Song of Response:

Praise My Soul the King of Heaven

Praise my soul the King of Heaven, to his feet your tribute bring;
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, who like me his praise should sing?
Alleluia, alleluia, praise the everlasting King.

Praise him for his grace and favor to our fathers in distress;
Praise him still the same forever, slow to chide and swift to bless.
Alleluia, alleluia, glorious in his faithfulness.

Father-like he tends and spares us, well our feeble frame he knows;
In his hands he gently bears us, rescues us from all our foes.
Alleluia, alleluia, widely as his mercy goes.

Frail as summer's flow'r we flourish, blows the wind and it is gone;
But while mortals rise and perish, God endures unchanging on.
Alleluia, alleluia, praise the High Eternal One

Angels, help us to adore him, you behold him face to face.
Sun and moon bow down before him, dwellers all in time and space.
Alleluia, alleluia, praise with us the God of grace

Benediction

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