

Morning Worship

Sunday, September 5, 2021

If my own righteousness is all that I am relying on, then I have no hope of finding favor in God's sight. This is perhaps the hardest part of the Christian message to get across to people – the fact that we are not automatically headed for heaven. The truth is that our sin – not just the wrong things that we have done, but the very attitudes of our hearts – drives us away from God. That's why the gospel has always been better received among the prostitutes and drug addicts and losers than among the rich and famous. These people don't find it hard to believe that they have nothing to offer God.

Iain Duguid

Let us Draw Near to God

Call to Worship

Hebrews 4:14-16

Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Oh the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus!

Oh the deep, deep love of Jesus, vast, unmeasured, boundless, free!
Rolling as a mighty ocean in its fullness over me!
Underneath me, all around me, is the current of thy love
Leading onward, leading homeward to thy glorious rest above!

Oh the deep, deep love of Jesus, spread his praise from shore to shore!
How he loveth, ever loveth, changeth never, nevermore!
How he watches o'er his loved ones, died to call them all his own;
How for them he intercedeth, watcheth o'er them from the throne!

Oh the deep, deep love of Jesus, love of every love the best!
'Tis an ocean full of blessing, 'tis a haven giving rest!
Oh the deep, deep love of Jesus, 'tis a heaven of heavens to me;
And it lifts me up to glory, for it lifts me up to thee!

Prayer of Invocation

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

We Confess Our Sins

Call to Confession:

Isaiah 53:4, 6

Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Prayer of Confession

Prone to Wander

O God our Savior,

We come before you today as foolish sheep who find it our natural inclination to wander far from you. You have set your love upon us, chosen us and saved us, but we find it hard to trust you and prefer to turn to our own wisdom and understanding. You lead us in green pastures for your own name's sake, but we reject the feast that you lay before us and try frantically to fill ourselves up with things that cannot satisfy. You lead us by still waters to restore our souls, yet we recklessly dabble with strong currents of temptation and are easily swept away by torrents of sinful cravings and lust. You call us to straight paths of righteousness, but we scorn your warnings, ignore your guidance, and rebel against your discipline. You have given us the great privilege of knowing and worshiping our Creator, the one true God, but we prefer to bow before our worthless idols day after day in search of the morsels of comfort or pleasure they offer to us. Father, we stray from you every day and turn to our own ways; forgive us for our many sins.

Jesus, you are our sacrificial lamb. You never strayed from the path of obedience to your Father, even when that path led you to a brutal cross and the mockery of those who should have worshiped and adored you. As a sheep before its shearers is dumb, you refused to argue against the charges made against you, for you knew you would become sin for us, taking on the guilt of those belonging to you. Jesus, you are the Great Shepherd who laid down your life for your beloved, silly sheep, and you are the tender shepherd who gathers us in your arms and carries us. Thank you for refusing to turn to the path of your own glory, so that we could be safely gathered into your fold. You were torn for all of our sinful and rebellious wandering, and through your wounds we find healing and peace. Thank you.

Holy Spirit, help us to see where the path of blessing lies, and give us hearts that are eager to travel that path. While we live in a fallen world with sinful hearts, we will always be prone to wander. Thank you for holding fast to us, for we cannot hold onto you. Give us strong appetites for spiritual food: the word of God and the body and blood of our precious savior. Grant us unshakable confidence in the death and life of Jesus, until his wounds cleanse our guilt and give us great joy. Make us humble followers instead of prideful leaders, so that we can find safety and delight in walking with you. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

Silent Prayers of Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Isaiah 53:5

But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed.

Gospel Doxology

Your perfect Law exposes me; I feel my sin and desperate need.
My best good works are powerless to satisfy your righteousness.

But there is One who lived for me; his life, my only victory,
His death forever sealed in time that I am his and he is mine.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below,
Praise him above, ye heavenly hosts,
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Jesus, Strong and Kind

Jesus said that if I thirst I should come to him;
No one else can satisfy I should come to him.
Jesus said if I am weak I should come to him;
No one else can be my strength I should come to him.
*For the Lord is good and faithful; he will keep us day and night.
We can always run to Jesus; Jesus, strong and kind.*

Jesus said that if I fear I should come to him;
No one else can be my shield I should come to him. *Chorus*

Jesus said if I am lost he will come to me,
And he showed me on that cross he will come to me. *Chorus*

Christian, what is your only comfort in life and in death?

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.

Confession of Faith Heidelberg Catechism 1 (1563)

Prayer for the Church and Congregation

God Reveals Himself to Us in the Reading of His Word

Scripture Reading

John 4:1 - 24

4 Now when Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard that Jesus was making and baptizing more disciples than John ² (although Jesus himself did not baptize, but only his disciples), ³ he left Judea and departed again for Galilee. ⁴ And he had to pass through Samaria. ⁵ So he came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the field that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶ Jacob's well was there; so Jesus, wearied as he was from his journey, was sitting beside the well. It was about the sixth hour.

⁷ A woman from Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." ⁸ (For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.) ⁹ The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?" (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.) ¹⁰ Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." ¹¹ The woman said to him, "Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water?" ¹² Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock." ¹³ Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴ but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." ¹⁵ The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water."

¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come here." ¹⁷ The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; ¹⁸ for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true." ¹⁹ The woman said to him, "Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet." ²⁰ Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship." ²¹ Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. ²² You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³ But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. ²⁴ God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." ²⁵ The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ). When he comes, he will tell us all things." ²⁶ Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am he."

Sermon

"Jesus' Encounter With Three Unnamed Sinful Women:
Speaking the Truth in Love"
Prof. David Ayers, Ph.D.

Christ Was Given for Us and to Us

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:* **Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed?*

Alas! and did my Savior bleed and did my Sovereign die?
Would he devote that sacred head for such a worm as I?
Was it for crimes that I had done he groaned upon the tree?
Amazing pity! grace unknown! And love beyond degree!
*My God why would you shed your blood, so pure and undefiled?
To make a sinful one like me your chosen, precious child?*

Well might the sun in darkness hide and shut his glories in,
When Christ, the mighty Maker died, for man the creature's sin.
Thus might I hide my blushing face while his dear cross appears,
Dissolve my heart in thankfulness, and melt my eyes to tears. *Chorus*

But drops of grief can ne'er repay the debt of love I owe:
Here, Lord, I give my self away 'tis all that I can do.
It was for crimes that I had done he groaned upon the tree.
Amazing pity! grace unknown! And love beyond degree!

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Rev. R. Schmidtberger

Song of Response:

Hide Away in the Love of Jesus

Come weary saints, though tired and weak, hide away in the love of Jesus;
Your strength will return by his quiet streams, hide away in the love of Jesus.
Hear him calling your name see the depths of his love
In the wounds of his grace, hide away, hide away.

Come wand'ring souls, and find your home, hide away in the love of Jesus;
He offers the rest that you yearn to know, hide away in the love of Jesus.
Refrain

Come guilty ones, weighed down with sin, hide away in the love of Jesus;
The freedom you long for is found in him, hide away in the love of Jesus.
Refrain

Come hopeless hearts, do not despair, hide away in the love of Jesus;
For ten thousand joys await you there, hide away in the love of Jesus.
Refrain

Benediction

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Gospel Doxology: words by Zac Hicks & Julie Anne Vargas (verses 1-2) © 2014 Unbudding Fig Music/Julie Anne Vargas.

Confession, Prone to Wander: by Wayne R. Houk and Barbara R. Duguid