

Lord's Day Worship

Sunday, December 18th, 2022

Sing Praise to the Lord

***Call to Worship**

Psalm 133

Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity! It is like the precious oil on the head, running down on the beard, on the beard of Aaron, running down on the collar of his robes! It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion! For there the LORD has commanded the blessing, life forevermore.

***O Come, All Ye Faithful**

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant;
O come, ye, o come ye to Bethlehem.
Come and behold him, born the King of angels.

*O come, let us adore him; o come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*

God of God, Light from Light Eternal,
Lo, he abhors not the virgin's womb;
Very God, begotten, not created: *Refrain*

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;
Sing, all ye citizens of Heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest! *Refrain*

Child, for us sinners, poor and in the manger,
We would embrace thee with love and awe.
Who would not love thee, loving us so dearly? *Refrain*

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father now in flesh appearing! *Refrain*

***Prayer of Invocation**

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

Recount the Wonders of His Mercy

Call to Confession

1 Corinthians 12:12-20; Psalm 133:1

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body – Jews or Greeks, slaves or free – and all were made to drink of one Spirit. For the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, yet one body.

Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity!

Prayer of Confession

(from *Prone to Wander*)

Triune God,

You are one God in three persons, a diverse unity in whom there is neither division nor contention. You call us also to be one body made up of many different members, with different gifts and abilities, as well as different needs and failings. We confess that we often take pride in our own gifts and look down on those who lack them, while thinking little about our need for the gifts of others in the body. We form factions and cliques that promote and support our own interests, desperately trying to attract the favor of those whom we think strong, while despising and shunning those whom we see as weak, unattractive or broken. Father, forgive us.

Jesus, thank you for your willingness to allow your physical body to be shattered and broken to establish the unity of your spiritual body, the church. Thank you that in you, we have a unity that transcends all earthly boundaries: in you, there is neither Jew nor Gentile, male nor female, slave or free. Thank you for the particular love and care that you bestowed on the weakest and most ignored members of your community, especially women, children and outcasts. By your gracious attention, you gave honor to those who lacked it. As the only mediator between us and the Father, you unite all of your people in yourself.

Holy Spirit, you are the one who gives each of us our various gifts and callings. Help us to see and appreciate your work in other Christians, honoring them more highly than ourselves. Remove our stony, self-centered hearts and give us hearts of

flesh that love our brothers and sisters in Christ and value them just as they are. Teach us to love them with all of their weaknesses and sins, as beloved children of our own Heavenly Father and servants of the same Master. Bind us firmly together into one new people, united by Christ's work on the cross and your continuing work in each of our hearts. Amen.

Silent Prayers of Confession

***Assurance of Pardon**

John 17:20-24

I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me. Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

***Joy to the World**

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare him room,
And heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow
Far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as, the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness,
And wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,
And wonders, wonders, of his love.

Prayer for the Church and Congregation

Give Attention to His Powerful Word

Children's Message

Scripture Reading

Acts 2:37-47

³⁷ Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" ³⁸ And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself." ⁴⁰ And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, "Save yourselves from this crooked generation." ⁴¹ So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

⁴² And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³ And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴ And all who believed were together and had all things in common. ⁴⁵ And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need.

⁴⁶ And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

Sermon

"The Early Church: A Gospel Vibrant Community"

Reverend Seob Kim

Sermon Outline

I. A Gospel _____ Community.

II. A Gospel_____ Community.

III. A Gospel_____ Community.

***Confession of Faith**

Belgic Confession Article 27

We believe and confess one single catholic or universal church—
a holy congregation and gathering of true Christian believers,
awaiting their entire salvation in Jesus Christ,
being washed by his blood,
and sanctified and sealed by the Holy Spirit.

This church has existed from the beginning of the world and will last until the end,
as appears from the fact that Christ is eternal King who cannot be without subjects.

And this holy church is preserved by God against the rage of the whole world,
even though for a time it may appear very small to human eyes—as though it were
snuffed out.

For example, during the very dangerous time of Ahab the Lord preserved for
himself seven thousand who did not bend their knees to Baal.

And so this holy church is not confined, bound, or limited to a certain place or
certain people.

But it is spread and dispersed throughout the entire world,
though still joined and united
in heart and will,
in one and the same Spirit,
by the power of faith.

(We will receive our gifts and offerings for the Lord's work during the singing of this song.)

***By Faith**

By faith we see the hand of God
In the light of creation's grand design;
In the lives of those who prove his faithfulness,
Who walk by faith and not by sight.

By faith our fathers roamed the earth
With the power of his promise in their hearts:
Of a holy city built by God's own hand,
A place where peace and justice reign.

*We will stand as children of the promise.
We will fix our eyes on him, our soul's reward.
Till the race is finished and the work is done,
We'll walk by faith and not by sight.*

By faith the prophets saw a day
When the longed-for Messiah would appear
With the power to break the chains of sin and death
And rise triumphant from the grave.

By faith the church was called to go
In the power of the Spirit to the lost:
To deliver captives and to preach good news,
In every corner of the earth. *Chorus*

By faith this mountain shall be moved
And the power of the gospel shall prevail! carried
For we know in Christ all things are possible,
For all who call upon his name. *Chorus*

Receive the Gifts of His Grace

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. While communion is being served, please feel free to join in song or meditate quietly on Christ's sacrifice.

Amazing Grace

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found; was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils and snares, I have already come;
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow the sun forbear to shine
But God, who called me here below will be forever mine.

When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first begun.

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*

***Benediction**

***Agnus Dei**

Alleluia, alleluia, for the Lord God Almighty reigns!

Alleluia, alleluia, for the Lord God Almighty reigns! Alleluia!

Holy, holy are you Lord God Almighty!

Worthy is the Lamb, worthy is the Lamb!

You are holy, holy are you Lord God Almighty

Worthy is the Lamb, worthy is the Lamb! Amen. (*Repeat*)

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*** Congregation stands**